

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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the wooden horse

By FEC

WILL RETURN AFTER XMAS

Editorial **THE UBYSSSEY** Nov. 19, 1963

Block that cobweb

The essence of the university today is a cult of mutual unintelligibility.

Dr. Northrup Frye, one of Canada's outstanding men of letters, made that statement the other day in Kingston.

It is also the conclusion that has been reached by hundreds of puzzled undergraduates after three sleepy months in the ivy-covered halls of learning.

Like the sociology students who complained last week in The Ubysssey about a dry, aimless course, which they are forced to swallow on TV, yet.

Unfortunately, the sociology class is not the only one suffering from the blight of the academic supermarket, indeed, it's probably better off than some.

In class after class, undergraduates are, faced by teachers who can't teach. They don't inspire one to learn, or to think. The most they do is inspire 10:30 a.m. yawns, and coffee-shop discussions about who is really UBC's worst.

These profs read from the textbook, which is usually even duller, take whole periods to explain a "simple" concept which is just too simple for words, and dash from the room precisely 10 seconds before the buzzer. They are irritating, humorless, condescending. They are nit-picking, cynical and anti-social.

And they're encouraged to withdraw even more by a strange custom which decrees that the best professors are the ones who hide the most in their office, reading the oldest books, and writing the most academic papers. You must be able to publish, not teach, at university.

We must have it all wrong, but, to us, this tradition is the classic example of the cobwebby, complacent, conventional academic mind at work.

The only solution we can see is to memorize your crib sheets, snatch your BA from the chancellor, and get the hell out of here.

And, oh—if you hear a rustle up at the front of the class while you're reading this, don't worry. It's just your professor scratching his cobwebs.

QUESTION: Could the above criticisms be leveled at Dalhousie?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

While your editorial (Nov. 27) concerning the assassination of John F. Kennedy possibly reflects the sentiments of most Dal students and, indeed, most Canadians, one must be wary of thoughtless reiteration of the comments made on the American radio and TV networks. In the second paragraph you say, "A remarkable illustration of our system of government accompanied this tragedy." Albeit "remarkable" it is NOT "ours". Despite the sometimes overwhelming evidence to

contrary, we Canadians have not yet been annexed to the United States.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Schaub

Ed's note: the system is democracy, the mechanics differ, but the results are similar.

Nossal WUSC Speaker

Frederick Nossal, Far East correspondent of the Toronto Globe and Mail, will speak in room 232 of the Arts and Administration Building on Thursday, December 5, 4:30 p.m. This lecture is sponsored by the WUSC Committee. Mr. Nossal's topic will be "Why China is feared".

We extend our deepest sympathy to Leslie Grant (Sc. 1) and her family on the loss of her father, Commander Kenneth E. Grant, R.C.N. in the recent air crash at Montreal.

"Plan ahead the man said"

"Plan ahead the man said For much too soon, We'll all be dead"

The above quotation sounds like a combination of the thoughts of a corporation executive and a morbid philosopher.

With some slight adaptation they can be applied to a continuing problem we have at Dalhousie University. It is becoming more frequent in student activities that we reach out into the world around us for entertainment and information. Renowned folk singing groups, and speakers well-known in their fields are supplying us with food for thought as well as relaxation. Those of us who only partake, are not aware of the frantic behind-the-scenes last minute scramble that occurs every year at Dalhousie in arranging appearances of these sought after personalities on campus. These people we bring to our campus book dates up to a

year in advance and when two months before winter carnival we go seeking top-notch entertainment selections are extremely limited.

Many of the speakers we have had on campus this year have been excellent and have proved that Dalhousie students are interested in the world outside our ivory tower. However, we have not had a Barry Goldwater, an Adlai Stevenson, a Real Caouette, a Lester Pearson at Dal for a long time. To engage personalities of this caliber we must plan at least a year in advance.

We urge our student council to consider the problems they are having this year and evaluate what can be arranged in the school term of 1963-64 for the year 1964-65. Examples are many.

1. Entertainment for Winter Carnival.
2. A major attraction for the fall

term — now lacking because it is too late in October to plan for November.

3. Dates hotel reservations for the school formal.

4. Place and orchestra for D.G.D.S.; it appears they need the help.

5. The dates of the mid-term break, this should be fixed permanently.

6. Guest speakers of world prominence.

One of the major reasons for so-called student ability on this campus is our inability to see any farther into the future than the present school year. Lack of tradition at this school is the result of this short-sightedness. The slowness of general improvements can also be traced to this fault, evidenced by an article in the Dalhousie Gazette titled "The case for a student union building", published 1910. Then we must plan ahead as the man said!

DALHOUSIE NEXT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Not only can our students be accused of not thinking one year into the future we can see lack of foresight even extending into what will happen next February. That is only two months away. At that time we will once again elect a group of individuals who will spend \$60,000 of our money, who will govern all student activities on campus, and who will probably not be the best people to handle these tremendous responsibilities. In eight short weeks we go to the polls to elect our student council for the year 1964-65. It has generally been true that these elections generate about as much interest as a snow storm in the Northwest Territories in December. At society meetings the week before elections which one tenth of our student population attend candidates are nominated for Student Council positions. Elections are set for the first week in February then postponed till some opposition can be found for the only pair in the field for the president and vice-president's jobs. Finally

election day arrives and about 50 per cent of the students vote. All it requires to win a seat on council is a large number of friends.

If the students are not interested in this annual circus because having evaluated what it produces, they have decided that it is not important, then why have a student council at all, a dictatorship would be sufficient, then we can turn our efforts to seeking a benevolent despot to run our campus affairs.

If, however, this method of government of ours is worthy of perpetuation then it must be worthy of greater participation. We must start thinking now of who will be best suited to handle the responsibilities of government. Do you think you can handle the president's job? If so, do something about it, the vice-president's job is also available, so are the various faculty representatives slots. There should be at least three candidates in the field for the president's job. While many of our presidents have been in graduate school,

undergraduates have done good jobs in the past. We must start thinking now. People who want positions on campus should start campaigning very shortly so we can find out what their thoughts are, and if we agree with them.

The pairing of presidential and vice-presidential candidates as one team should be abolished. What we require in our council's leadership is people who have different ideas, and are willing to fight for them. Council this year has become sluggish through too much agreement and not enough argument.

Faculty presidents, the present council and all individuals on campus should be looking around for the best material available to us for our government. These people once discovered should be convinced to offer for election. If you do not want a student council say so, if you do think a council is necessary accept the responsibility to seek out the men best qualified for it.

THE GOOD OLD WAYS ARE GONE

Last year when Christmas exams were suspended, chaos reigned during the first term. This year there has been an attempt to tighten up the two one hour test system. It has not been completely successful, students find themselves writing at least one test a week between the middle of November and the end of the term. The continual pressure of exams makes

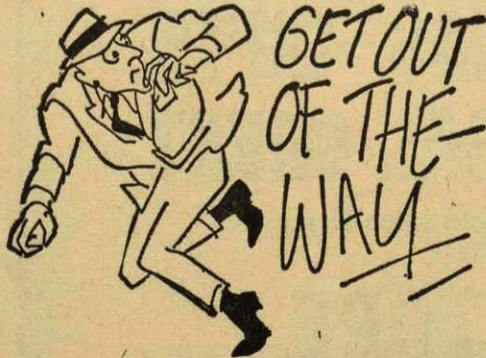
it difficult to keep up-to-date in all our courses. If these one hour tests were confined to two periods for example from the tenth of November to the 21 and the 10th of December to the end of the term they would better serve the purpose. It is slightly ridiculous to write a mid-term test Nov. 30th and a final one Dec. 7th.

This examination system has

had an excellent effect, students are continually working rather than cramming for one set of exams. Freshmen are immediately initiated into college exams, and upper classmen who have developed the ability to cram are being forced to abandon their old ways and concentrate on their work for the whole term.



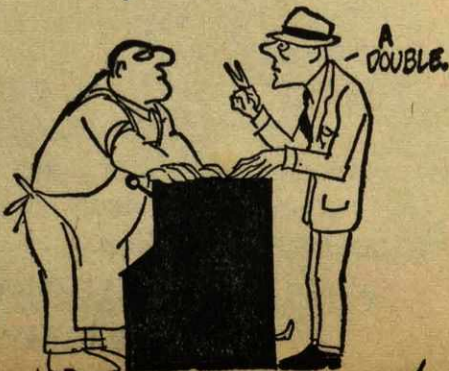
MOVE OVER THERE



GET OUT OF THE WAY



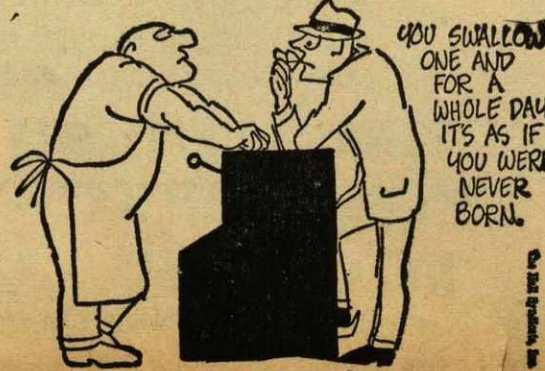
WILL YOU WATCH YOUR STEP BUDDY



A DOUBLE



IM GOING TO INVENT A NEW BIRTH CONTROL PILL.



YOU SWALLOW ONE AND FOR A WHOLE DAY IT'S AS IF YOU WERE NEVER BORN.