

Student Government History: No. 26

After spending two weeks on the Murray Homestead disturbance trial, the Students' Council was able, in April 1920, to turn to routine and academic business. Salaries were paid and meetings arranged to get students involved in the university's fund raising. Council refused the university's offer to transfer responsibility for B.A. hoods, no doubt seeing much trouble and little advantage in the proposal.

Problems with timetables, or their non-existence, led to a request that classes start at 8:00 a.m. and that on at least three days there be a two hour break from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Finally, Council took steps to have a reporter hired who would write GAZETTE articles about the meetings. At the time the newspaper staff concentrated on appearance and finances, leaving the actual writing up to individuals and organizations that were so inclined.

A special meeting of Council with the class and society presidents about the fund campaign led to a decision to delay it in Arts and Science. Council continued to make the decisions about, and to pay for, varsity teams uniforms. It also regulated the year-end photographs of teams and organizations, sometimes showing favoritism when giving permissions.

On April 10 the Council showed how valuable its time was by meeting at the photographers' while the annual group photograph was being taken. It was the first time that all the members attended. The meeting recommended to the new Council that the number of dances be strictly limited and that only Dalhousians be allowed to attend. It recommended closing the Murray Homestead and agreed to pay for the damage to that building and its furnishings. The university's fund raising campaign was finally endorsed for student support and involvement. In the next few weeks many students gave their spare time to the

Campaign Committee.

In 1920-21 Council subsidized the football team by \$203.94, although there was over \$600.00 in gate receipts. On May 4 the final meeting completed authorization of salaries and wages, adopted the annual reports of the societies and appointed the GAZETTE Business Manager so that he could start work over the summer.

With the opening of the 1920-21 year Dalhousie had two new residences — The Birchdale for men and Marlborough House for women. On October 1 the Students' Council moved quickly to establish a Birchdale House Committee and to pass the residence rules. All of these decisions went to Senate for its approval. As part of the debate it was decided, "that no action be taken by this council in regard to lady visitors." The new Council reaffirmed several policies of its predecessor, but decided to give the Murray Homestead another try. A new House Committee was appointed and told to look after care and heating especially. One of the new members was a Mr. A. L. MacDonald, but there is nothing to show whether he was the future Premier of Nova Scotia.

During the summer of 1920 Dalhousie's fund campaign went well. There was \$400,000.00 from the citizens of Halifax, \$300,000.00 from Mrs. Eddy for a women's residence plus \$1,000,000.00 for Medicine from the Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations. The total in pledges was \$2,200,000.00, and the campaign was not yet finished. Unfortunately, President Emeritus John Forrest died during that same summer.

On October 7 the Council decided to participate in the city's Carnival parade, leaving details to the class and society presidents. It was also decided that pay phones should be installed in the Forrest Building and the Murray Homestead, so that both camps would be served. The Pharmacy department

eventually paid for the former phone.

A week later signs of the Council settling in came in the form of amendments to the Birchdale rules. Sports on Sunday were forbidden and lady visitors were not permitted without the House Committee's consent.

In mid-October Mrs. Eddy and her sister visited Dalhousie, setting off a round of teas, receptions and dinners. She rented the major Halifax theatre for a Theatre Night on October 15, as a gift to the students. On the 14th the Council dealt with the logistics of this event. Much attention went to a complicated system for the fairest possible distribution of tickets among all classes, faculties and both sexes. A large bouquet for Mrs. Eddy was ordered and plans made for the yelling and singing. The routine business almost got lost, but the Theatre Night was a successful tribute to "Dalhousie's benefactress and friend". Girls were already planning their move into Shirreff Hall.

When Council tackled the annual budget it decided at once to withhold 10% of all items until revenue was in on the particular item. After cutting some budgets the Council moved to provide daily newspapers in the Girls' Waiting Room. Dalhousie's second newspaper, the Alumni News, had first appeared in September 1920.

Late in October the past Council was blasted in GAZETTE for publishing financial statements which were not sufficiently informative. The author felt that detailed financial reporting was better than having every student examine the books. In the same issue the university was criticized for increasing tuition for returning veterans, especially those in the professional schools, rather than letting them go through at the pre-war rates or for free, as other universities were doing. There was still no plan for a Dalhousie War Memorial.

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If interested, call 24-2081 or come up to the 4th floor of the SUB.

Grad Students to get new Social Facility

by J. Neils

The Graduate Students' Building has been a dream and a plan of graduate students for years. Their present one, located on South Street, does little to meet their needs. It has turned into a type of Fraternity House for those living in the upstairs and their friends.

The new house, to be situated in the grey house beside the S.U.B., is to be remodelled extensively and its rear and side walls torn down and then extended towards the S.U.B. The back three stories of this building is to be one continuous lounge, encased by a 3-storey glass window. Very impressive. Each lounge is to be built so that you can see the lounge below; that is, from the 3rd floor you can look down and see the 2nd and 1st floor lounges, etc. The bar will be situated in the bottom floor lounge.

There will also be an association room, a small games room, and a full-time manager. Maintenance will be taken care of by a Board of Managers.

Construction will begin as soon as a Building Permit can be obtained from the city. This was expected to be granted in July, but due to some delay in the city offices,



Photo by Tom Mooney

was not. Friday was to be the day, but nobody to whom I spoke was sure if it was granted or not. Once a permit is granted, construction will start and it is hoped to be finished by early spring, perhaps January.

The cost — between 65 and 70 thousand dollars. The University will pay 40 thousand for the structural changes. The Student Union is loaning 5 thousand on lenient conditions. The graduate students will pay the balance — about 20 thousand.

The main purpose of the Graduate Students' Building — to provide a place to go and gather for the graduate

students. A lot of graduate students are involved in individual and small group studies and need a place to meet: to get feedback on their ideas and to socialize, and they deserve it.

Most other factions of the University already have some facilities. All this year Graduate Students have been paying high society fees to raise money for this project and the Graduate Students have been at Dal for enough years to earn something. Also, the Graduate Students Building will be there (for those of you who are now undergrads) when your graduate years come.