



Canada's oldest college newspaper. Member of Canadian University Press. Opinions expressed editorially are not the official opinion of the Council of Students. Official publication of Students of Dalhousie University, Halifax, N. S.

Editor-in-chief IAN MacKENZIE
 Managing Editor MICKY McEWEN Sports Editor JERRY LEVITZ
 Business Manager BRUCE PETRIE Review Editor JEFFREY SACK
 News Editor SHEILA RUSSELL Photographer BRIAN PURDY

A message from the President

I am happy to avail myself of the opportunity offered me by the Editors of The Gazette to greet all former students who have returned to the University this fall, and to express the hope that they have had an enjoyable summer. It is always a delightful experience to meet one's classmates, with whom one has formed a lasting bond of friendship. Every spring I have seen classrooms in which a common loyalty to the University and to one another has provided a basis of fellowship that has continued for the remainder of one's life.

I am pleased also to welcome the new students who have registered for the first time in Dalhousie and to assure them of our interest in their welfare and progress. I trust that they have found suitable living quarters where they will enjoy a reasonable share of what a former generation used to call "creature comforts", and be encouraged to apply themselves to their work. Perhaps the day may not be far distant when we can provide this accommodation for a much larger proportion of our students.

The Council of Students has planned a great variety of interests that all members of the University would do well to consider. The courses of study should come first — there should be no doubt about that. I have told successive generations of students that we expect them to manage their affairs so that these will not be crowded into the interstices of their programme. But it is quite possible to do justice to one's courses and still enjoy the lighter side of life and the incidental student activities that make up for the total University experience. The one we ought to do, and not leave the other undone.

Nothing brings your teachers greater satisfaction than to see you derive the utmost benefit from their classes. Do not hesitate to come to see us if we can help you.

A. E. Kerr,
President

TO OUR READERS

The Gazette would like to extend a welcome to all students for the coming year, whether they be returning, or entering the University for the first time. To the latter we would say work hard, but don't forget that extra-curricular activities also play an important part in your education. To students and faculty alike we would say "good luck" in the coming year.

A NEW LOOK

Those students who remember past years of The Gazette will, we hope, have noticed some changes in this first issue for 1962-63 — and they will be followed by further changes in the weeks to come as we find our feet.

It is inevitable that a new editor approaches his job with trepidation. Having worked with The Gazette off and on for the past three years, we realize that the life of an editor is not all roses — in fact it is more likely to be brickbats. We have watched former editors disappear into the hallowed confines of faculty rooms to face the Administration, and seen irate students storm into the unholy confines of the Gazette office demanding satisfaction for some seemingly innocent remark.

We don't doubt that the process will be repeated again this year.

However, we are endeavoring to give The Gazette a "new look". The two major changes this year are a rearrangement of the pages and the use of newsprint instead of magazine paper.

The pages have been changed around to allow more space for news and sport without our readers having to flip through the paper after reading one story to find where the other news has been hidden. The first three pages are being devoted to news with what we hope will be better coverage all round — including increased coverage of the Med campus, a sadly neglected part of the University in past years. With the blossoming of the Athletic Department, we also feel sport should be given more space and the Sports Editor is running wild with an extra page.

As for the different newsprint, we were always unhappy with the appearance and feel of The Gazette in previous issues, and hope that the new style will both help the appearance of the paper itself and will also prove easier to read.

A completely new project will be the publication of a six or eight page monthly supplement devoted to more intellectual pursuits than the regular issues. But never fear, we intend to retain a certain degree of sensationalism in the weekly Gazette.

So if anyone feels the urge to express him or herself in writing, have a good time and get into plenty of hot water while doing so, drop into the Gazette office situated — until we get a SUB — in the Old Men's Residence and we can always find you something to do.

INITIATION

A Graduate Student has condemned some aspects of the present Freshman initiation program at Dalhousie. (See "letters" column). We agree that there is something radically wrong in the present approach to initiations.

Instead of Freshmen being subjected to the indignity of bowing to sophomores and playing with yo-yo's, we feel they should be welcomed into the University community and

A HALIFAX WINTER CARNIVAL?

Winter carnivals have been a topic of conversation around Dalhousie for a number of years now, but little has been done to make them a reality on this campus.

This year's Student Council, however, has shown more interest than usual in the idea of holding a carnival at Dalhousie, so, taking into consideration the planning that such a project would need, it is perhaps not inappropriate to bring up the subject so early in the year.

The City of Halifax is blessed with five more-or-less degree granting institutions within its bounds. With a potential such as this, it seems to us that the logical step in starting an annual winter carnival is to get representatives of all the colleges together and plan the week — or however long the carnival would last — as a combined effort.

There are three points which might be brought up to support such a suggestion: 1. The cost of the carnival would not pose such a problem to individual colleges if they all pooled their resources — it might even be possible to bring in two or three groups of top flight entertainers without putting the Student Councils in the red for years to come; 2. Such an undertaking would help to foster a sense of student unity in the city, something that is sadly lacking at present; 3. A carnival in which all the colleges participated would forcibly remind the City of Halifax of the presence of a large student body which plays an important part in the economy of the area.

If such a carnival became an annual event, with the large student population and a certain amount of spirit it could conceivably become the major student attraction in the Maritimes during the spring term — and might one day rival such a well established and renowned festival as the one held annually at McGill.

given some idea of what faces them over the next three or four years.

Admittedly, not all of the initiation program is wrong. The dances and wiener roast present an excellent opportunity for Freshmen to get to know each other — but they are not meeting the upperclassmen other than a restricted number of sophomores. Consequently, when the end of the week comes and organized activities stop, they are left on their own. When so many Freshmen have to take lodgings in the city due to lack of Residence space, this can be a serious matter.

We suggest that initiation should be taken out of the hands of the sophomores and placed in the more experienced hands of the Senior Class and in the hands of the various Societies who could hold receptions and special orientation programs for their new members. This would also help the University itself by strengthening the individual societies.

We feel in this way a Freshman will get a true introduction to University life, and will also find himself making friends who can help him in the trying days ahead.

LETTERS

Sir:
Rumor has it that all the listed accommodation to be found in the Dalhousie Business Office is University approved. If this rumor is wrong, then why has there been no investigation of premises and rents by delegated University staff and student representatives? Surely there is room for interest in the welfare of students who live in the city. Cambridge University, which has a somewhat larger student population, finds time for this most important factor in student life which obviously can affect academic performance as well as health and pocket.

If on the other hand the University has shown this interest in the accommodation and rents offered to students, then a blatant cynicism for students living conditions and finance is apparent. The worst apartment I saw was an attic of three tiny, low-ceilinged cubicles into which fresh air had not penetrated for at least two years and 97 days. Dust lay so thick that the quarters looked like a soil erosion demonstration. The kitchen was a cupboard thick with grease and vibrant with last year's curry odor. The bed consisted of a chipped tubular steel frame sans springs, sans everything but the relationship in space of its parts. But to be fair, a few rooms and apartments are civilized. The same cannot be said for the rents. The students have no choice. As one observed drily: "If you have an empty cupboard in Halifax, rent it".

Sincerely,
NORMAN MACKENZIE

Sir:
Having just visited the Dalhousie Record Library and been thoroughly shocked by the chaos therein, I felt compelled to write and demand that something be done to rectify this wretched situation.

The collection of records is unfortunately very meagre indeed and to a serious student of music can offer no satisfactory refuge from the academic turmoil. The collection seems to have been thrown together at some distant period and many of the recordings are no longer worth retaining.

The worst aspect of the record library is the fact that even good recordings are left lying around without their jackets to become covered with dust and scratches. Beethoven — even on a record — deserves better treatment than this!

Are Dalhousie music lovers such clods that they are unable to replace a record on its shelf? And does the University itself care so little about the cultural welfare of

its students that it neglects to provide an adequate collection of decent recordings and supervise the use of the music room? This is an alarming state of affairs.

Sincerely,
DISGUSTED

Sir:
I think I would be expressing the opinion of many of the students around campus, particularly the older and, I hope, more mature ones, when I say how childish is the present Freshman initiation.

I came to Dalhousie last year as a Graduate Student and was extremely surprised and rather disgusted with the way in which the Freshmen and Freshettes were treated. Is this really an introduction to University life? Perhaps it may be said that Freshmen are young and enjoy the type of treatment they receive. Probably most of them are too embarrassed to admit they do not enjoy their initiation.

We owe much to Dr. Kerr for stopping the hazing last year. Comments from Halifax Freshmen before registration on Monday were to the effect of "Thank God the initiation will not be the same as last year."

Perhaps the time has come to dispense with the ridiculous black and gold headgear, which is even worn in the Residence Dining Room in fear of some self-important Sophomore trying to throw his weight around. Is it not time for the committee to give the Freshmen a true and friendly welcome, to entertain them and show them around, but not to ridicule them?

Freshmen should feel that they have left the High School classroom and entered a University, at which one should expect to find men and women but not Yo-Yo's.

When is Dalhousie going to grow up?

Sincerely,
St. John H. Blakeley.

