

# DALGAZETTE

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## An Open Letter

Student Body,  
Dalhousie University, Halifax, N. S.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today's edition of the Dal Gazette brings to an end our regular normal publication for the college year, but the college weekly plans to hit the campus at least twice more, next Tuesday and Friday, in final special editions for Munro Day and a super Review Edition. We hope you like them!

After looking over the rest of the content of today's editorial page and realizing that it contained nothing but "Letters to the Editor", we felt that nothing remained but to make it complete. Herewith:-

"From our corner in rooms 7 and 8 of the Men's Residence we have been privileged to watch every phase of Dalhousie at work over the past year. In fact, this is the third year that we have watched from this vantage point, and on this basis, we don't overly hesitate to offer suggestions and advice, but at the same time, shall avail ourselves of a privilege to hop-skip-and-jump as the thoughts pulse in and out.

To the new Students' Council elected yesterday, we urge an immediate revision of the Constitution; the appointment of various members to be responsible for and liaison between major campus organizations and the Council; a policy of advising various societies when their council representatives are failing to appear at meetings consistently; the insurance of all Council property, including Gazette Radio Club, Athletic equipment, Glee Club stagings, etcetera.

We commend the Students' Christian Movement as the keenest religious group on the Dal campus during the past year. They worked steadily, quietly, effectively, and were the most publicly-conscious outfit of its type.

We recommend that the Dal Athletic organizations, in co-operation with the Physical Education Departments, set up a coordinated publicity section. Their almost complete failure to promote and sponsor this much-needed publicity has been partly responsible for the poor support and attendance at many of their undertakings. They can't afford to depend on others to do this work for them.

The musical facet of the Dal Glee and Dramatic Society has impressed us as one of the most sincere and hard-working groups of individuals on campus. The dramatic facet of this group, equally sincere and hard-working, has lost sight of what the students wanted in their own zeal to do what they themselves wanted. There is a medium. We regret that the latter group failed to realize the value of good relations as well as good productions.

Debating on the interfac level at Dal has been extremely well handled by Sodales executive. They did not, however, look too good in their handling and timing of teams for the Maritime and National meets. Too much chaos and late action. Generally, their efforts were much appreciated.

The political pot, both in the Law School and on the general campus, was well worth tasting and all parties played well. The leaders of the parties in the latter group must be careful to avoid "hogging the show".

The student body erred in not supporting its Council with the two-thirds required vote in passing the constitutional amendments proposed at the Feb. 28 Student Forum. They were of a minor but necessary nature. While we feel that the proposed revised point system still is not what it should be, we think the student body erred further in not allowing the constitutional amendment which would allow the Awards Committee to take off points where it deemed proper. As it is, the number of points certain organization executive members recommend for themselves is phenomenal, and the Awards Committee has little choice but to accept them.

N.F.C.U.S. has maintained its high calibre of operation this year and seems assured of another banner year under another able leader. Similarly, W.U.S.C. also reported a good year, but failed to build a strong foundation under itself for future operations, and failed further to keep itself in the public eye as much as it needed and warranted.

Faculty and Administration interest in campus and student interest seemed to be on the upsurge this year. A good sign. Student-administration relations had their ups and downs but did emerge on the credit side of the ledger. We believe both groups are beginning to realize the others needs, feelings and requirements.

Culture did not get smothered at Dal during the year and the various art exhibits were appreciated by many. The music lovers are also to benefit greatly during the forthcoming year if all current plans materialize. We believe the theme of the student-faculty art exhibit might be broadened to include a photography exhibit.

The Arts and Science Faculty showed the greatest progress of any student society, and we believe this is due to the decision to levy a society fee. The present amount of fifty cents is too low and should be raised to one dollar. Arts and Science may yet play the role that is expected of them.

Failure of groups to work with the campus coordinator made his job virtually impossible. This problem must be straightened out to avoid serious conflicts in the future.

A Council Bookstore-Canteen committee turned out to be nothing more than a farce and the blame lies squarely on the committee who approached the entire problem in a negative manner and on the Council which allowed this. The University stated itself willing to give full consideration to any feasible plan brought up . . . the Council failed to come up with one.

"Pharos", the Year Book, continues to work under mountainous difficulties. A solution must be found to put out a good book at a cheaper price and one which everyone will buy . . . not just gradu-

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

26 Mt. Royal Ave.,  
St. John's, Nfld.  
February 14, 1956.

Dear Sir:

Here is a Valentine, a Valentine of love for Dalhousie Med School from the only living member of the class of 1900, to show what the hardships were for staff and members previous to the year I began, and for a few months after, I started the study of medicine at the Halifax Medical College in the year 1896.

After registering one day early in September before the keen eye of that genial and kind elderly gentleman, Dr. A. W. H. Lindsay, who for 20 years previously was the Med Registrar for the college as well as for the Med practitioners of Nova Scotia—we 21 members of the freshman class assembled the next morning for our first lecture in anatomy, the same Dr. Lindsay. At the end of that lecture we were instructed to attend our first lesson in practical anatomy in the dissection room on the top floor of the Halifax Medical College, through which we had to pass previously to reach Dr. Lindsay's room to register and receive his first lecture.

After arriving there at 2 p.m. Dr. Lindsay sat us at empty zinc covered dissection tables, then from his office brought a number of human bones which he instructed us to study with the help of our anatomy books. He told us he had no cadaver "stiff" for us to work upon and we must do as we were doing until such time as one arrived.

Over across the room on a table there was a body covered with a canvass. Soon the second year class came to work on it. The next day whilst both classes were there, Dr. Lindsay came, patting me on the shoulder telling me to go over to the body and work dissecting the arm with (unnamed) as Cook, his partner had been absent two days I went and worked whilst the rest of the class continued reading bones, as, for some time, still no bodies for dissection came. The law was that any body unclaimed by a relative could be claimed by the clergy of any religion. Whilst that law remained on the statutes we saw a poor chance of ever learning dissection in Nova Scotia. Nothing however could be done until the Nova Scotia legislature sat. Thus it was the law of 1897 after class one evening, we, of the freshman class remained in our class room trying to decide what to do. The old school teacher, the late Dr. Nelson Pratt better known to his classmates as "Avagrado" took the chair. At that time in the Provincial Legislation were two M.D.'s, Dr. Arthur Kendall of Sydney, and another Doctor, whose name I cannot now recall, of Halifax. Thus it was decided that the members of the class belonging to these two constituencies should interview these members. The late Dr. L. Braine, then a student belonging to Halifax city and I belonging to Cape Breton (Morien to be exact) volunteered and next day went off to see our members at the Parliament House on Hollis Street. Arriving there we found only Dr. Kendall was present

and I was ushered into the chamber to see him. I explained our trouble. He promised to go to work at it to have it rescinded at once. One week later, Scully, the janitor was carrying a dead Negro preacher up the elevator, as I, a little before class time 7 p.m. peeped into the dissection room. I assisted him as he was doing a grunt with every pull of the rope—no electric hoists 60 years ago. In the coffin was a colored gentleman dressed in a Prince Albert coat, a clergyman's celluloid collar and a bible for a pillow. So it looked like Dr. Kendall not only got the law rescinded; he sent us along one of the perpetrators all in the space of a week.

I do not know what kind of a Valentine this may be. But if you care to use the contents of it for an article in your magazine, it's all right with me; I have not written it for publication as it is. I am no artist with a typewriter and age has taken much from my penmanship, rhetoric and grammar. I am,

Sincerely yours,  
Louis J. Giovannetti.

148 Preston St.,  
Halifax, N. S.

Editor,  
Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir:

With each succeeding edition of your paper published since Christmas I have become more and more irked until it has reached a point where I must tell my troubles to someone. I would like to register an overwhelmingly protest with you against your sports department.

In the Feb. 22 edition of the "Gazette" I found the headline of the Dal-Tech hockey game as follows: "Engineers Students Top". Underneath this I can count about twenty-five, four letter lines. Do you consider this as deserving of a Varsity sport? If this had been the extent of my observations I probably would have licked my wounds and retired once again into the background, but such is not the case. If you care to look on the sports page of the Halifax Herald (Feb. 15) YOU will find an exact replica of the insert in the Gazette written by Jim Keizer. Try as I may I cannot see his name listed under the sports reporters of your papers. So exact was the copy that the Gazette even went so far as to make the same error the Herald did by referring to the Dalhousie coach as "Gargie" instead of Dargie. After all these months surely your sport department should know the correct name of its athletic director. Likewise in your paper dated the 8th Feb. and not received until the ninth you have so boldly stated Dal-St. Mary's Tuesday night, but alas, the Tuesday night was the 7th, one day before you came to press.

I would also like to denounce your coverage of the Invitational Hockey tournament held in Boston over the holiday. My criticism here extended from the fact that before we went to Boston we secured several players to bolster our roster and in your writeup of the tournament you fail to mention any of these players. I can sincerely state here that without these players we certainly wouldn't have done as well as we did. These

ates who are forced to. Part of the answer lies in greater utilization of Gazette pictures and cuts in the Pharos, thus greatly lowering costs. But this is just part of the answer.

Dates for the Blood Drive at Forrest and Studley campi must be changed to the fall months when much better results can be assured. If the recent drive's results were matched by the tremendous efforts of its chairlady, Dal would have headed the nation. Unfortunately efforts alone are not sufficient. The drive needs to be given a "new look" plus some shrewd propaganda to turn it into a Broadway production. You'd be surprised but it works!

With the costs of a university education spiralling, the Council cannot expect student support to boost fees. To the contrary, the Council, like any well run business, may attempt to earn a profit on its undertakings, or undertake more projects on which a profit can be earned. We again suggest the bookstore and canteen and point to the huge profits garnered annually at St. F. X. by the Student-Cooperative.

The value of the University in sending representatives to other countries is hard to evaluate in good will and good publicity. Yet, the applications for this year's W.U.S.C. Scholarship were few indeed. Few students can afford to lose their summer earnings, and a decision by the Administration to waive the tuition fee for one year of the Dal delegate is worthy of much thought — unless we are to find the Scholarship going unsought soon.

Dalhousie's W.U.S.C. and N.F.C.U.S. chairmen should push for the centralization and combination of these two groups under one roof in either Toronto or Ottawa to cut a goodly portion off the annual operational expenses.

Sports at this college dipped badly by our necessary withdrawal from M.I.A.U. track and field meets . . . a first rate, inexpensive and beautiful-to-watch sport. We must make some attempt to alter the spring date to a fall date so that we may re-enter or participate in other competitions along this line.

The Rink-Rats, a loose-knit organization on the Campus, should be placed under the direct control of the Council as one of its permanent committees and the position of W.U.S.C. with regard to the Council should be clarified as well.

Efficiency at the Student Health Service seems to have picked up a good deal since the official lodging of various complaints. A medical checkup of all students, not just freshmen, should take place each year and the checkup should be compulsory and enforced, not voluntary and at the request of the student.

At this point, we stop, not from the lack of topics, but from the lack of space and energy. You may have noted that we have not broached the topic of the "Dal Gazette" whatsoever, but we are saving this for our final salvo.

Respectfully,  
The Editor.

players were not obligated in any way to make the trip since they are not members of the Intercollegiate League team, but in so doing enabled us to return victorious. I believe that any accomplishment worthy of public recognition by the City of Halifax should certainly warrant a little more consideration than was given by your paper. You may think that this is what is called crowing but I can assure you that in the past few years Dalhousie's hockey achievements have been extremely rare, nor do they look extremely bright for the future. At the present time approximately ten Dal Varsity hockey players are ex-Q.E.H. players and this year Q.E.H. was thinking of leaving the local High School League because of inadequate player material. Thus the hockey future at Dalhousie looks very bleak.

Solution? I don't know of any directly but I do know that efficient sports writing makes for better fan interest and greater fan interest makes for better sports.

Yours sincerely,  
Roland A. Perry,  
Varsity Hockey 1956.

Note: The players referred to in the above are:

- Alex MacSween
- Don MacDonald
- Murray Dewis
- Dick Snow
- Rod Fraser

The Editor,  
Dal Gazette.

Dear Sir:

In view of the correspondence which has been appearing in your columns of late with regard to my editorial on the D.G.D.S., I feel that it is necessary to reiterate and clarify certain of the opinions expressed in that editorial.

Firstly, for the benefit of those of your readers who appear to be unable to comprehend plain, unembellished language, I should like to make it clear that I did not say, or in any way imply by the unmodified word "comedies" that I meant "bedroom comedies", "the latest slick piece from Broadway", "modern comedy", or "frothy Broadway comedy", and I really do not think that it is quite logical nor entirely ethical to take a particular meaning from a general statement to serve one's own critical purposes.

Secondly, I should like to indicate that in view of the fact that less than three hundred people witnessed "The Little Foxes", my opinion of the D.G.D.S. dramatic productions is tacitly supported by well over a thousand Dalhousie students who did not consider the dramatic efforts of the D.G.D.S. worth going to see. I therefore feel that any "whim or prejudice" exhibited in my editorial was not entirely "personal". I might add that this indifference to D.G.D.S. productions by the student body does not appear to be general as the turn-out to the D.G.D.S. musical production "The Mikado" appears to have been almost twice as great as the first night as the total attendance during the entire three-night run of "The Little Foxes". This is hardly indicative that the dramatic production was popular among the Dalhousie students, and I really do not think that it is unreasonable to expect the D.G.D.S. to modify its choice of dramatic productions to comply with the taste of the majority of a group of fifteen hundred university students, who cannot justifiably be ignored considering that they support the D.G.D.S. financially, and, since the majority of them are preparing to enter the professional class of society, they cannot be discounted as cultural morons by any reasonable standard.

In conclusion, I should like to say, that the undeniably poor reception given the D.G.D.S. drama-

tic productions by the Dalhousie student body provides me with reasonable assurance that the opinions expressed in my editorial concur generally with those of the majority of Dalhousie students and to express the opinion of the majority is, in my esteem, the purpose of an editorial in student-supported university journal. I therefore feel no obligation to enter into controversy, public or private, with any of the dozen or so individuals commonly known on this campus as "the Bohemian group". If any one or several of this aggregation of self elected guardians of culture at Dalhousie wishes to take issue with me on the topic of my editorial opinions let him or her or them, as the case may be, do so through the Student Council which is the only organization officially qualified to represent the majority of the student body and therefore the only organization to which I feel any responsibility for opinions expressed in the editorial columns of the official student journal.

Yours truly,  
"E.T.B."  
Evelyn T. Bennett.

Dalhousie Law School  
March 1st, 1956

The Editor,  
The Gazette.

Dear Sir,

It seems hardly cricket to attack such a frail and vulnerable thing as amateur dramatics and only the contemptuous courage of the Glee Club confronting the barbaric hordes makes it possible.

Dr. Grant and Professor Waite seem to be of the opinion that such plays as "The Little Foxes" are ends in themselves. If that were so their purpose could be as easily served by distributing mimeographed copies of them. But it is another axiom of the theatre that productions must live across the footlights. Two plays of equal significance may vary immensely in the demands they make on the cast, and if some plays demand a certain effort on the part of the audience, so much greater is the demand on the cast.

In my days as a drama critic I was once called upon to review performances of "The Messiah" on consecutive days by the Liverpool Philharmonic and the Warrington and District Cooperative Consumers Association Amateur Dramatic and Operatic League. I was close to tears on both occasions.

But the major criticism of the Glee Club's choice of plays this year is that it is a reflection of the same mentality which in insisting on Latin as a compulsory arts course ignores the sweeping changes in the challenge and emphasis of society brought about in the last 50 yrs. by practically universal social, cultural and economic emancipation coupled with the increase in knowledge gained by the sciences, and particularly the social sciences.

If, as Dr. Grant, says "all civilizations have found release of the spirit in the theatre" then it is high time that the theatre of universities, of all places, in North America, of all Continents began reflecting the spirit of our perplexed, challenging and revolutionary Twentieth Century. In so far as the theatre fails to live up to that challenge then it is Art for Art's sake, an opium of the intelligensia, and will go to its grave — as surely will go — like Bernard Shaw, crying that it is the peer of Shakespeare, forgetting that it lacks the essential element of Shakespeare, the humanity. All the art in the world has ever been too high a price for the wretched lot of humanity, and unless it is capable

(Continued on Page Five)

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