

# Action taken regarding gambling

Student Government History #53

On February 3, 1932, the Students' Council was informed that university president Carleton W. Stanley had taken action regarding the gambling on Studley campus. Through being used as tables 10 class photos had been broken, and Stanley took the popular decision of charging the individuals rather than drawing upon the compulsory caution fee funds. Council reacted to this as it had to GAZETTE editorials on gambling - it did nothing. At the same meeting came the welcome news that the 1931 Pharos lost \$75.97, a deficit almost \$400 less than that in 1930.

Sparked by the Atlantic universities' intention to bar radios from residences, the newspaper printed three consecutive front page editorials on the subject of radio broadcasting. The first urged the Council to push for renewal of the university's interest in radio show's preparation. The second editorial praised radio as a means of making the public "university conscious". The third pointed out that resumed university broadcasting would improve the quality being provided by commercial stations, something necessary at least until the government finally established its own network.

The newspaper had traditionally led the way for the Council on many issues, both influencing student opinion and being a forum for student leaders. By 1932, however, it had become much less credible to the observer. It backed almost every proposal for change, not matter how much or how little support a proposal had. The latest proposal to

be endorsed was compulsory yearbook fees to permit publication of the book despite students' refusal to buy.

The Canadian Intercollegiate Press Union, another offspring of the early NFCUS work (as the CIAU had been), was founded in 1932 with the McGill Daily, Toronto Varsity, U. of Western Ontario Gazette and Queen's Journal as the founding members. The Varsity editor went on a western tour that successfully won new members for the press union. It was at this time that the GAZETTE began to run the week in parliament as a regular commentary. The inspiration was probably a combination of interest in the prime minister as a Dal graduate and interest in Ottawa's attempts to fight the Depression.

The gymnasium was opened at the beginning of March, with permanent users to be men's and women's athletics, the alumni association and the COTC. The opening was the first occasion for Carleton Stanley to address the assembled student body. There was glee with the short five-month construction period and cost within the estimates but disappointment that a common room for student meetings had not been included. When planning began for a permanent gymnasium students had suggested that a larger complex, including a student union building, be constructed but the haste brought on by the destruction of the temporary gym seems to have ended these hopes.

In its first year with a permanent Secretary-Treasurer the Council was establishing funding policies as

well as dealing with many more doubtful bills. On March 13, 1932, it paid for the Girls' Badminton Club refreshments but stated that such expenses would not be paid in the future. Permission was refused for the holding of an official Fraternity Night because "Council does not care to deal with organizing fraternity social life." The interested groups were told to organize it themselves.

It was at the March 13 meeting that the year became disastrous for student government. A few days earlier President Stanley had refused permission for the Glee and Dramatic Society to have a dance in the gym after the first glee show in the new facility. Stanley fell ill before the matter could be negotiated, but Glee president Doug Gibbon felt that the objections about mud on the floor and possible damage to chairs could be overcome. There had been informal dances after glee shows for eight years.

Council was informed a day before the show was to be presented, and it decided that the Nelson Hall would be rented so the show could be held with dancing while the Council officials tried to discover why permission had been refused by Stanley. It was thought that Stanley had banned all Glee show dances. As a gesture of solidarity it was decided that the dance in Nelson Hall would officially be a Council dance.

Stanley sent a further refusal shortly after the dance, then claimed that his only intention had been to encourage monthly hops in the gym instead of hotel dances,

and that regarding the particular show the problem had been the Glee group's failure to reserve the gymnasium properly. The final word came in a letter to the GAZETTE from Doug Gibbon stating the belief that due to "misunderstandings" Stanley's account of events did not resemble what happened. Editorially it was pointed out that a restriction on dances in the gym would only increase the number of unsupervised hotel dances, while ending the pleasant and informal glee show dances. Looking back some of those involved feel that Carleton Stanley missed an opportunity to apologize for his misunderstandings and thereby win the respect of the students. The end of term ended the latest in a decades-long series of dance controversies.

The second problem that the Council hit was irregularities in the annual elections. The newspaper had given a great deal of publicity to the election and each candidate had space in the paper. There was a high turnout, but voting had to be reheld in Arts and Science because the numbers of ballots cast and voters did not tally. There was a lower turnout in the second balloting, but eventually the new Council was elected. For President it chose W.C. MacKenzie, a Medicine student who had been active in student affairs for several years. He and Margaret Sadler both got elected to the top positions by a 7/3 split. Murray Rankin was confirmed as permanent Secretary-Treasurer.

## Pierre Berton and Dal

by M.P. MacKenzie

Pierre Berton, probably Canada's best known nationalist, spoke at the Dalhousie Law school to a packed audience Friday October 10. Mr. Berton is making the rounds of radio, television and speaking engagements these days promoting his new book. Though his reasons for appearing at the Law School may be purely commercial he was nonetheless entertaining and opinionated (not meant in a derogatory sense) on the subjects of Canadian nationalism, the media, education and the Canadian identity.

Most of his actual talk centered around his book which deals with the treatment of Canada in films, notably Hollywood films. Mr. Berton pointed out that the American image of Canada is based totally on the movies made in Hollywood in the first half of the

century. Americans, however are not the only ones who formed an image of Canada from Hollywood's distorted vision. Before the emergence of any kind of Canadian film or television industry Canadians had only the American version to build their own image on. It is only now with a Canadian media that Canadians are beginning to understand their own country.

After his brief talk Mr. Berton answered questions from the audience. Most of the questions dealt in some way or another with the media in this country and its affect on the Canadian identity. According to Mr. Berton Canadian television must compete with U.S. television even, as one questioner asked him, at the pap level. "Your pap may be someone else's stimulus" said Berton.

Berton also said that U.S. expertise in some areas of television should not be discounted. Canadians make good documentaries and Americans make good situation comedies and both areas of

expertise should be followed through by the people who do them best.

When asked what the major identifying points of the Canadian

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### THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR STUDENT UNION POSITIONS:

1. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER
2. COURSE EVALUATION CHAIRPERSON
3. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN ROOM 222.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE 5 p.m. ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7th.

