## Skirt Lengths Burning Question

Student Government History \# 47
The crusading spirit of the Gazette bloomed in 1930, starting with the publication of a "programme"" for the year. This was a list of objectives that the newspaper devoted itself towards achieving. The list revived several issues that had been forgotten. One of these was construction of a SUB, for which $\$ 10,000$ had been collected in 1914. Free admission to sports events and a $\$ 10.00$ Council fee were two more goals. There was nothing in the newspaper to indicate that a great depression had begun. Indeed, the New Years editorial said, "Let 1930 be anothe wonderful year of progress!'
In the same month the Students' Council received the good news that society heads and team managers welcomed better financial reporting. The boxing team finally got some funds, and the King's Council was asked to reply by February 4 to the latest suggestion for
settlement of the students' dispute. As the swing settlement of the students' dispute. As the swing
towards strong support of athletics continued, the Council approved a programme of Pep Rallies, to replace the sporadic pep meetings that it had held. However, the Basketball team was not allowed to hold dances following home games. In line with the newspaper's suggestion, a fee and Angus L. MacDonald (still a Law professor were asked to revise the Council constitution.

A few days after losing their attempt to hold dances the basketball team got the front-page treatement from the newspaper. The same issue carried strong support for an increase in the fees Money problems were accused of being the
source of poor co-operation between the team managers and the Council. As January 1930 ended the Gazette polled Dalhousie students on a burning question of the day - how long women's skirts should be. In a

Dalhousie students, predictably, voted for the Dalhousie students, predictably, voted for the retention of shortness. The newspaper's publicity made it apparent that the success of Hart House of U . of T . Was the source of new agitation for a
Dalhousie SUB. A further impetus was that the Dalhousie SUB. A further impetus was that the Carnegie $\$ 400,000$ was probably going to pay for a permanent gymnasium, and students felt that a SUB could be built at the same time.
The fee increase became a topic of much discussion when Council members began to discuss the topic with their constituents. The newspaper made its inclination even clearer by using the front page to list the advantages of increased income. The athletic manager wrote to the newspaper expressing their support for an increase. The basketball manager, Gordon MacOdrum, went so far as to claim that his sport's general decline was due to the low
funding, only one third of that given by Acadia. funding, only one third of that given by Acadia. Council President Jennings pointed out that the Dalhousie Council fee was the lowest in the country, and only one half the Maritime average. increase. The co-ed's support was promised for an increase although some felt that they were not getting a fair share of the $\$ 7.00$ benefits.
The impact of radio on communications continued, with the Sodales Debating Club holding series at the Lord Nelson which was broadcast by CHNS. A 14 year old controversy was settled when the newspaper asked the former Dean of Law, John Read, to interpret a clause of the Council constitution. Read said that although in the chair, the President could vote on all issues twice. That particular clause remained unchanged until November 1973. The newspaper's concern was that due to the parliamentary style of government, Presidents not voting had deprived their constituents of representation.

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