

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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, Nova Scotia.

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A GUILTY CONSCIENCE

"...NFCUS may have to abandon (its) international program for lack of funds... 'no, you can't', my negro friend pleaded... 'Maybe we could help you in some way; we need your neutral western leadership.'" So NFCUS past president Bruce Rawson wrote in an article which appeared in the Jan. 10th issue of The Gazette under the headline: 'The Congo -- or our coffee'.

Mr. Rawson went on to point out the irony apparent in the offer made by the Congolese student to help support the international program of the national Canadian student body.

That it should be necessary for an African student to beg Canadian students to interest themselves in international affairs is a grave reflection on the way in which we are shouldering our responsibilities in the world today. But when the point is reached where a Congolese student has to offer financial assistance to our national student organization to enable us to shoulder those responsibilities, then the time has come for us to take an immediate, searching, and critical look at ourselves.

The geographical location of Canada, cutting us off to a certain extent from the currents of life and thought flowing through Europe, Asia and Africa, has given rise to a tendency towards isolationism, understandable, perhaps, in the 1930's. However, in the present age of television, jet travel, and space flights, this attitude is no longer either pardonable or permissible.

Canadians have long prided themselves on having one of the highest standards of living in the world. Despite the pleas of Canadian students for greater income tax rebates and more financial aid from the government, we have yet to see a student attending university here who is emancipated from lack of food, who habitually sleeps in the gutter, and who studies under a street lamp, yet there are students in the world who do live thus.

The conscience of a nation is not easily aroused. It usually takes some major catastrophe to awaken the man in the street, and, unfortunately, the man on the campus also, to the reality of life outside his own immediate sphere of interest. This state of affairs cannot continue if the world as we know it is to survive. We call upon you all to consider carefully with us the words of that student from the strife-torn Congo, and to take up those responsibilities that we, the students of Canada, have so miserably neglected.

THOUGHTS ON GRADUATION

Although it is not yet the end of January and graduation is still four months away, it is not too early for the life class officers to begin organizing this year's graduation activities. With respect to these activities the Gazette would like to suggest several improvements on the programme of previous years.

First, we would like to see the banquet which is normally held on the night before graduation moved to the Monday or Tuesday of graduation week in order that medical graduates would be able to attend. In past years there has been a continual conflict between the Medical banquet and the Graduates banquet, with the result that most medical graduates have not attended any graduation functions other than the ball. Surely this situation needs to be remedied.

Second, we urge that the administration be asked to consider the prospect of the valedictory speech being given at the exercises rather than at the banquet. At present, ridiculous as it may seem, students play no role in the graduation exercises. Surely the man elected as valedictorian of his class should have

the privilege of delivering his remarks to all members of the university staff and administration who attend the exercises and not just of the select few who are present at the banquet. A Valedictory is after all a thank-you to the university from its graduates and as such deserves more publicity than is currently given.

Third we feel that the university should be asked to pay for some part of the graduation activities. It seems unreasonable that students, many of whom after leaving Dalhousie will do much towards spreading her fame and reputation, should have to pay for everything including their gowns and degrees. On the other hand it seems equally unreasonable that the university, while not paying for anything, should consider itself in a position to dictate what should be done at these activities, as for example they did last year regarding the beverage which was to be served at the banquet.

It is the Gazette's opinion that these changes would do much to improve graduation week, and would also foster a lot of goodwill among the new alumni, who, after all, are going to be asked to give financial support to the university in the years to come.

UNFAIR GRANTS

It was with a considerable interest The Gazette learned last week of the proposed increase in federal aid to Canadian universities. The interest, it must be said, was mingled with not a little surprise, as Dalhousie students had been told by one of Halifax's two members of parliament not one week before the increase was announced that it would be "unlikely" the federal government would boost student aid.

All students and university officials will, of course, rejoice at the prospect of more aid to universities already faced with severe financial difficulties. Numbers of students attending universities have been steadily swelling and universities are faced with the problems of constructing more buildings and residences to house the students and obtaining professors of quality to teach them.

It is therefore a good thing that the federal government has recognized these problems and has taken at least a modest step to help universities to meet them. But Nova Scotia universities and students must take a long look at any new government proposal.

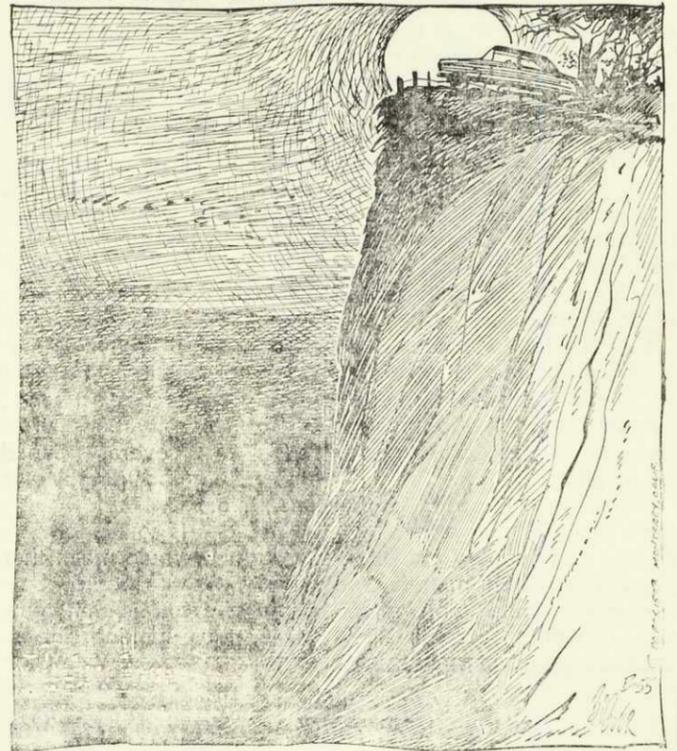
Nova Scotia has long suffered the unique position of having the highest number of university students per capita of any other province in Canada. For although at first it seems laudable that Nova Scotia should bear this honor, an examination of the basis on which present federal government grants are made shows that the federal government, rather than rewarding a province which sends so many to university, in fact places a penalty upon it.

Government grants are awarded to provinces on the basis of their total populations, rather than on the numbers of students attending universities in the provinces. This means that Nova Scotia, which has a relatively small provincial population, receives a far smaller share of federal grant money than is its logical due.

It is noteworthy that both the administration and students of Dalhousie have taken action on this question. The student council was one of four Halifax colleges which asked the federal government in a telegram to change its system of grants. And the university's president has said that he will wait until the federal government alters its present system before he congratulates the new plan.

It is to be hoped that the students and administration of Dalhousie will work close in conjunction on this question so that a more equitable system of grants may be achieved.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY HIGHER EDUCATION?"

The Critical Eye

THE INDIANS FELL, WILL WE?

There is constant controversy over our use of natural resources. By 1970 the coal supplies from the Nova Scotia mines will be almost depleted. By 1980 much of the wealth in our Alberta oil fields will have been consumed. By the year 2000 a large part of what is now hill forest, and stream will have been turned into the concrete jungles of modern cities.

During all these changes, we continue to complain about the loss of natural resources and beauty here in North America, but we do little to combat the problem. This is particularly true in the one region where the plea of the common man would have great effect, namely on women.

Fifty years ago our grandmothers wore dresses which came down to their ankles. Their clothing was loose, displaying none of the figure beneath. Above all, they wore little or no make-up. Still, like the Mounties, they always got their man.

Today we have shifted to the opposite extreme. Men are permitted to see all that is anywhere within the bounds of decency and these bounds eliminate very little. Indeed as one noted American humourist put it. "Today's dresses are like fences; they protect the property without obstructing the view."

Such outstanding changes have many points in their favour. But what has marred the changing scene is that in addition to this new philosophy of dress we are also

forced to gaze upon purple nail polish, green eyeshadow, dyed hair, false eyelashes, and false... To make matters worse we are supposed to think that such things make a woman beautiful... or at least attractive.

It is indeed surprising that in an age when women are receiving greater rights in the fields of education, politics, and industry that they should consider it necessary to put up such obviously false fronts. It would appear that their heightened position in society has also heightened their insecurity.

We are not advocating a return to the days when it was hard to tell a woman from a well dressed mummy. But, despite what the modern female thinks, there are men who like to look at a beautiful face unmarred by the inventions of the twentieth century chemist. There are men who like the picture of their dreams to look the way she naturally is, and not like a copy of some movie star. Yes, ridiculous as it may seem, there are men--and many of them who much prefer to date ladies. Especially those who have faith enough in their own charms that they can attract men without any of these false impressions.

Let's face it men; it's got to the stage where the modern man has become as gullible as the Indians who once ruled this land. They too gave away freedom and fortunes for trinkets whose sole value was exterior beauty.