

DAL. GAZETTE

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EDITORIAL

A Way Can Be Found

No danger exists at Dalhousie University apparently of ever running short of "coffee-time topics." Not, that is, as long as the well-worn subject of Authority and Administration of Authority remains to be kicked around; and that item has received more than its due share of the toe-treatment lately.

Within the past several weeks we have seen two instances of the Presidential guiding-finger pointed in an advisory capacity that suggested more than mere advice. Recipients of the suggestions were the President of the Dalhousie Commerce Company (one Society) and the Dalhousie Engineers' Society, and the words of advice centered on their respectively proposed Maritime Campus Queen Contest and Lady Godiva theme of the Engineers' ball. In both cases, the "pressure" from above resulted in changes—in the first instance, a cancellation of the contest and in latter, Miss Godiva made an almost belated appearance with a feather-bob, a drape-sheet and an armless torso which to the patrons of Greek culture could be interpreted only as Venus herself.

The reason, in each case, of the thumbs-down attitude by President A. E. Kerr was that the themes of the two projects were "in bad taste" and would generally reflect detrimentally on the University. Theme selection, of course, is always debatable.

At this moment we are not primarily interested with the question of good or bad taste; but rather with causes and effects. There is no doubt that university-level students as adults are resentful and indignant of presidential interference in student-sponsored activities. In the case of the Dal Commerce Co. we feel that they boobed badly in not having their project endorsed by the Council of Students inasmuch as they intended to use Dalhousie persons, prestige and reputation to put across an enterprise basically commercial in character. Even the Commerce Company executive admit this although strongly defending the beneficial facets of their scheme—one, which incidentally, has received strong support from other Maritime universities. The Godiva theme of the Engineers' ball, on the other hand, falls into that class of matter which is generally confined to decisions reached by the concerned society members themselves, particularly as it is related to an off-campus undertaking.

Should the President of the University be directly concerned with these matters? Should various campus societies and organizations clear their projects first with responsible parties? Should the Council of Students or the Council Executive attempt to impose more or greater control on such projects and what is the purpose of the Senate Student Advisory Committee? All of these questions may bear on the problem of authority and administration of authority.

By turning first to the Students' Council Constitution we are able to find authority for many of the aforementioned decisions. Sec. 7 (b) stated that the "President is the chief Executive Officer of the University with . . . general supervision over extra curricular activities of the Student Body." Further, sub-sections (g) and (h) read: "Similarly, the President as the Chief Executive Officer having general supervision over the extra curricular activities of the Student Body has power to investigate any matter of individual or organization concerned; and to take such action as he deems necessary to secure observance of regulations made by the Senate for the maintenance of the interests of the University as a whole; provided that he shall forthwith report any such action to the Senate together with his reasons for same.

And further: "In short, the Senate has authority and responsibility for the proper conduct of all students and all student organizations, and all student organizations deriving authority from it, directly or indirectly, are responsible to it for the proper exercise of that authority, and the Senate and the President have the right and duty to intervene in and investigate any student activity and to take whatever measures are deemed necessary to protect the interests of the University."

Stated in black and white, the President has not exceeded his authority. The question remains whether he should exercise this authority individually to the detriment of good student-administration feelings. Wherever one man exercises authority, he leaves himself open to criticism. There are times when this one-man decision must be made,

Letters To The Editor

The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir:

If Miss Sally Roper knows "relatively nothing" (to use the expression of your correspondent, Miss Conrad) about the admission policies and spiritual activities of the ladies' fraternities at Dalhousie, I must admit at the outset that I, an elderly, bearded member of Faculty, know even relatively less than nothing, although I am most anxious to learn more.

Miss Conrad's position, with which I find myself in complete accord, may be summarized, or at least paraphrased, as follows:

1—The ladies' fraternities, although deceptively giving the impression of being but social clubs, are in truth really spiritual bodies, dedicated to the pursuit of "Christian principles." Doubtless, Miss Conrad could have made a much stronger case for this, were she free to divulge the cabalistic secrets of her Society, but since, as she puts it with great delicacy, she "unfortunately, perhaps, cannot go into great details and explanations of what exactly we do stand for," I am sure we are all prepared to take her word for it.

2—Jews (please excuse the expression), not accepting Christian principles, are not invited to join her organization "because of the mere fact that we do respect their religious beliefs and to rush them would be to ask them to accept ours." Such magnanimity of outlook is not so mere as Miss Conrad modestly avers.

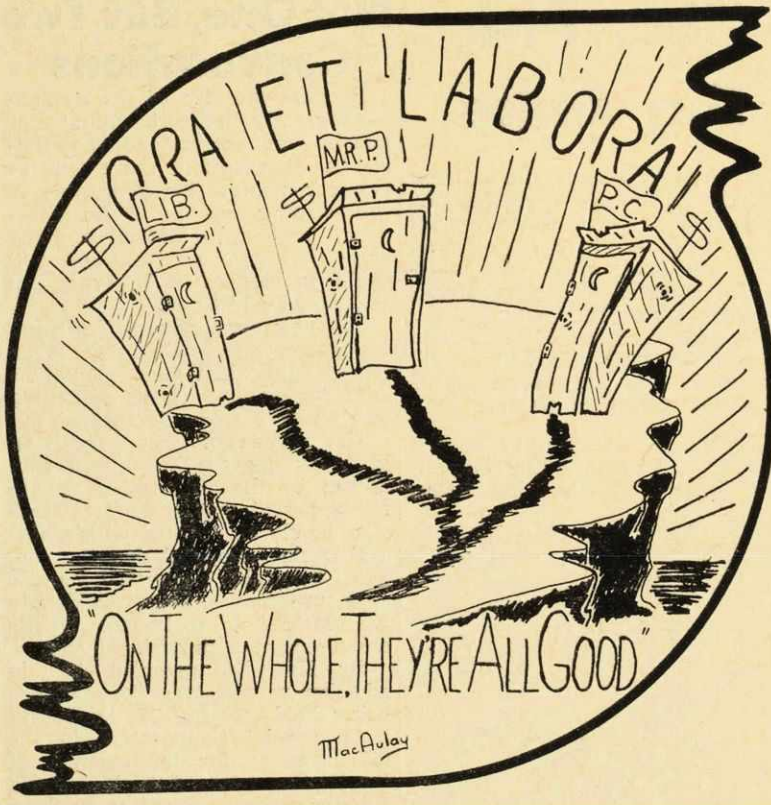
3—Negroes, while definitely not excluded, as Miss Roper incorrectly asserted, are nevertheless not included either, (a) out

of consideration for "the feelings our Southern chapters hold on the matter," and (b), in order to "avoid any unpleasantness should a Negro member of either of our fraternities happen to come into contact with a Southerner" (Heaven forbid!). In short, "we assure you we are thinking very much about the feelings of the Negroes in this matter." All Negroes, I am quite sure, will feel properly grateful for such pre-occupation with their feelings and well-being. Since the avoidance of unpleasantness is doubtless one of the main Christian principles which Miss Conrad and her fraternity sisters (brothers?) are sworn to uphold at all costs, we easily appreciate her explanation of why Negroes, while not included, are not included. (One has the impression that it is Miss Conrad who should be the brilliant law student, rather than Miss Roper, who seems to have missed the point entirely.)

Finally, may I, on behalf of us Jews, express the hope that one day we shall have elevated ourselves to the point where we too shall practice the same Christian principles as do the Southern members of Miss Conrad's deliciously devout fraternity and thus become eligible for membership?

Trusting that Miss Conrad and her sisters will one day achieve that world free of unpleasantness to which they aspire, and in which hypocrisy, with which some are already familiar, will be raised to the status of the fine art which it is, I am,

Yours faithfully,
J. Gordin Kaplan,
Dept. of Physiology.



The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Gazette Staff and all those who contributed in making our Blood Drive this year a success.

Not only would I like to thank all those who donated, in particular the Pharmacy Society and the Alpha Gamma Delta, the Pi Beta Phi, and the Tau Epsilon Phi fraternities who turned out a 100%, but I would like to add an extra thank you to Ann Rayworth and the Publicity Committee, to Carolyn Flemming and to all who helped in organizing the drive, in telephoning prospective

donors, in helping to record the results and to tabulate these at the end of the drive.

It is doubtful if our standing this year will place us either at the top or the bottom of the Intercollegiate Competition, but by exceeding last year's total we have made a step in the right direction and we can hope for even better things next year.

No matter where we stand in the Intercollegiate fight, I am sure that those who gave will feel satisfied that they have done their part to help the Red Cross and fellow man in their fight to save lives.

—ELISE LANE, Chairman,
Dalhousie Blood Drive.

but we feel that the subject matter must be sufficiently vital to warrant this type of decision.

The demands on the time and energies of the president of a university such as Dal which lacks both religious affiliation and a long list of endowing donors, are very heavy. The interests of both university, and its student body suffer when its president feels required to divert his efforts to relatively unimportant matters when compared with the problem of raising \$1,400,000 annually to keep Dalhousie in the field.

Possibly our own bias in favour of proper channeling of authority is influencing our opinions, but this paper feels that negative views of the university re student projects should, in all but exceptional cases, be reached and relayed by the Student Advisory Committee of the Senate. Similarly, we feel also that the Executive Committee of the Students' Council could serve a more useful purpose by forming a much-needed bridge between the students and the administration. More foresight, less hindsight, and the use of common sense relative to the respective positions and difficulties of all the parties concerned, ever mindful that Dalhousie must not only lead our Maritime Universities but also keep pace with student and administration thinking in the rest of the nation, are vital factors in any plan for student-administration harmony at Dal.

NEWS OF THE U'S

by Garry K. C. Braund



QUEEN'S (Journal):

Scholarship action postponed by Commons . . . Was moved to a long list of private resolutions. Part of NFCUS Scholarship Campaign.

ED: Why not pass the buck. This is the most efficient way the government can encourage higher education . . . further, in ten years the number of students will bounce from 60,000 to 135,000.

U.N.B. (Brunswickian):

Winter Carnival . . . Candidates for Winter Carnival Queen. (front page photo).

ED: If they're the best . . .
How said the rest . . .
But look at Dal . . .
All gone to hell . . .
We've gone whing-ding . . .

U OF T (Varsity):

Marjorie Chepeswick . . . of Dalhousie is exchange student under NFCUS. Enjoys Toronto while picking up "Moments to Remember."

ED: Dear Marge: Beware of Platonic types. What's play to you is tonic to them.

U. OF ALBERTA (Gateway):

UBC's President, Dr. Norman MacKenzie, addresses students. The first Dalhousie man to head Students' Council two years in a row and now President of Canada's second largest university.

ED: Save me a seat, Normie!

U. of MANITOBA (Manitobian):

Glee Club hold "Finian's Rainbow" to run for one week . . . Musical opened on Broadway in 1947 with songs such as "How are Things in Glocca Morra" . . . "Old Devil Moon," etc.

ED: Retrospection: on "It's a Steal" (Ran over time at Dal.)

UBC (Ubysses):

Queen's won't have Christine for rival . . . Mardi Gras Committee toss Christine Jorgenson from slate of Candidates as Queen.

ED: Tossed from Stomach Club—forced to turn in belly button.

Good-night, Carolyn—Must turn in!

Interfac Debating

February

13—Geoffrey Steele and David Walker vs. David Pigot and Peter Jones
Chairman—
Joan Oberholtzer

15—Mike Farrell and Fred Arsenault vs. Richard Hatfield and Ralph Keith
Chairman, D. Merlin Nunn

17—Gary Watson and Richard Vogel vs. Barry Wilson

and Lou Matheson
Chairman—
Garry K. C. Braund
Place—Moot Court Room
Time—1:30 p.m.

Regulations—One side submits three topics to other. The side receiving the topics must choose one topic PLUS the affirmative or the negative.

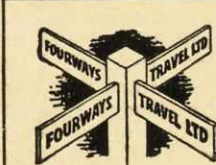
Speaking time—Seven minutes
Rebuttal time—Three minutes

Sociale A La Mode

The monthly meeting of Le Cercle Francais took place last Monday evening in the Engineering Building. The presiding officer was Colleen Ashworth, vice president, in the absence of President Murray Fraser. Films of France narrated in French were

shown. A film of the history and evolution of the Cinematographie and a vivid account of its showing at the Paris Exposition.

Following the films a quiz on France was held and refreshments were served to the group.



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The 20's Regurgitated Or Lest We Forget

The padded chair of the Gazette editor has played host to many men whose success stories today only confirm the wisdom of their fellow students in their selection of the "guiding and driving" force to head those responsible for the publication of Canada's oldest college newspaper.

We noted with gratification that not all of our "brains had been exported" as we took time out to thumb through the stacks in MacDonald Library of Gazettes of yesteryear. Our interest was particularly pinpointed on the year 1924 when the present Dean of one of Dalhousie's most famed faculties had both hands securely on the reins.

Naturally, our interest was concentrated mostly on editorials, letters to the editor and the humor-of-the-day. The timeliness of the editorial of 1924 with situations as they exist even today was most impressive. To one who has only recently been "licensed" to deal with such a diversity of topics, better described as "everything but the kitchen sink" we think that you too will enjoy, as we did, a look into Dalhousie in the 20's.