

NATIONAL EXPERIMENTATION

Student guinea pigs at Dal



By JEAN KRYSZEK
Gazette News Writer

Dalhousie freshmen were guinea pigs in a nation-wide experiment on Tuesday, October 6. Dalhousie was one of the six major Canadian Universities taking part. The experiment, consisting of aptitude and achievement tests, was sponsored by the National Conference of Colleges and Universities of Canada. Some similar experiments had already been carried on at McGill. The universities were sel-

ected because they provided the best available cross section of Canadian students.

Roger H. Black, Dalhousie Professor of Education, said that the tests began in the United States. In 1947, he said, three American groups (the American Council on Education, the Carnegie Institute for the Advancement of Teaching, and the College Entrance Board) joined, to form a non-profit organization, the Educational Testing Service. A number of objective tests designed to test both the student's aptitude and achievement were developed, tested, and found effective.

Now Canada finds herself in a position similar to that of the United States in 1947; her universities are faced with the same rapidly expanding enrollment. This means that an effective

method of screening prospective students must be found. Up until now, entrance requirements have generally been based on marks. However, matriculation standards vary considerably from province to province. The introduction of Student Aptitude and Achievement Tests will provide an effective and uniform method of screening students across Canada.

Dalhousie students were confronted in the morning with three hours of multiple choice questions in an aptitude test. During the afternoon, all students wrote

multiple choice questions and two achievement tests: the English compulsory, and the other chosen from several foreign languages, several sciences, and mathematics.

Writing the tests is only the beginning. Careful note is made of the individual student's scores on the tests, and his actual progress through college is carefully watched. If students who make below a certain score on the tests also do poorly in university, that score will be made the minimum entrance requirements to college. Then prospective students will probably write tests similar to the American ones used in the experiments, but adapted to Canadian needs. However, if the experiment shows that student's test scores seldom indicate their college achievements, or the tests are found financially unfeasible, then another standard or requirement for college entrance will have to be found.

Some may think that such tests will make college entrance "impersonal". Professor Black insists that the tests are no more impersonal than the hundreds of forms that the registrar has to sort out. He said they at least provide an efficient and uniform standard for all students.

Graduate students in Canada who want to attend university in the US, must take the U S Admission Tests. While these tests are available at the Dalhousie Education Department, they are not necessary for students intending to take post-graduate courses at Dalhousie. The graduate admission tests are not connected with the experimental freshman tests.

It looks as though North Americans will soon be among the most tried and tested people in the world.

Sometimes a man can do in a minute what in other circumstances would take a year.

- William Feather

Promote Science spirit.

Over 150 Science students attended the first meeting of the Science Society, September 29th.

Khoi Teng Lek, President of the society, spoke of the objectives which he hoped would promote "science spirit" - sponsorship of social activities, and the provision for a framework of scientific extracurricular activities. The society will establish and finance clubs, open to all students, in the Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics Departments.

The annual Science party was on October the 2nd. Preparations are now underway for the Science Ball to be held on November 13th. Throughout the term there will be seminars, panel discussions and speakers. The society will publish a magazine and newsletter, make tours of local industries and continue to participate in athletic activities on campus. It will also present several films at the next meeting.

Koo said that he hoped there would be programs to satisfy the interests of all the students.

"Of course", said the President, "the success or failure of the society's programs depends on the co-operation of its members, and upon their making their interests known to the Executive. A successful year is assured if the present spirit prevails during the coming seven months".

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EXAMINATION PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 21, 7 p.m. - ALL CANDIDATES - Objective Test

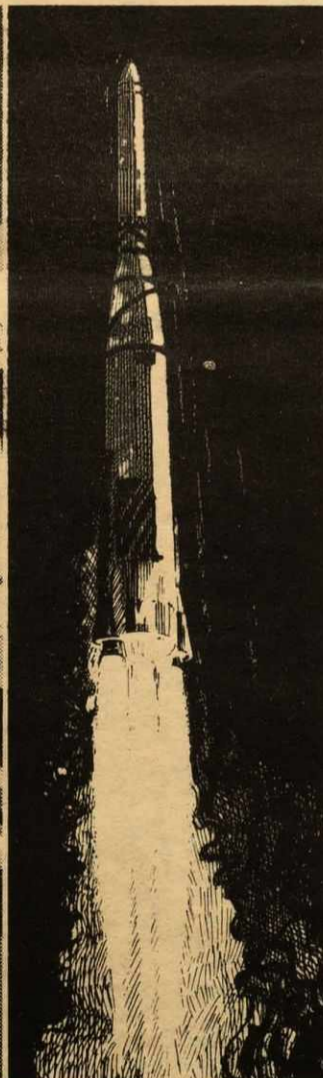
OCTOBER 22, 7 p.m. -

FOREIGN SERVICE CANDIDATES - Essay paper and, for those with a knowledge of French, a written language test.

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low-temperature steel. Inco research developed the 9% nickel steel to answer this requirement. This development was another example of Inco's continuing research contribution which, for some sixty years, has led to improved techniques and products.

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