

GAZETTE plea to alumni

Student Government History No. 44

The December 12, 1928 issue of the **GAZETTE** carried a plea to alumni for assistance in having the back issues of the newspaper bound. The author feared that unless this was done this issue would soon be lost or unreadable. Thanks to this and other efforts every issue of the newspaper since 1869 has been saved, and they have been a major source of material for this series of articles.

When students returned from vacation in January 1929 the first major item before them was the report of the latest NFCUS meeting. Dalhousie's past President, J. Gerald Godsoe, had been re-elected as the national Vice-President. NFCUS was beginning work towards creation of a Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union. The undergraduate student exchange was ready to begin operation in 1929-30, but there was a great deal of trouble convincing the railways to institute student fares.

The Faculty of Law continued its turnover of full-time staff when John E. Read resigned in 28-29 as Dean. He left Dalhousie to join External Affairs in Ottawa as Canada began to assume full independence in international affairs. Later in his career Dean Read became a member of the International Court of Justice at the Hague. In the same month that Read resigned Dalhousie began a series of extension lectures on C.H.N.S. Both university and student organizations were making much use of the station.

Preparations were underway for the second Imperial Students' Conference. It was to be held at the Université de Montreal in September of 1929. These conferences were held every five years, and were hosted by the national students' organization of a British possession. Dalhousie had been represented at the 1924 conference in London.

NFCUS was already promoting travel in Europe, paving the way for establishment of a

travel programme which in 1969 became AOSC (Association of Student Councils). The original programme was arranged through the National Union of Students in Britain. The Glee and Drama Society continued to be successful, with Arthur L. Murphy now providing the major input as both an author and a director. Part of the D.G.D.S. publicity was a front page photo of a star with the caption, "Minnie Black, Songbird of Dalhousie". It was a year in which future stars of the legal community were contributing to the **GAZETTE**, among them A. Gordon Cooper and J. Louis Dubinsky.

At the beginning of February the Council moved to establish continuity in its NFCUS representation. The delegate, Dr. C.M. MacKenzie, was given an assistant, Fred Jennings, who in turn would become the delegate. At the same time approval was given to the latest amendments of the NFCUS constitution. Council agreed that Dalhousie would contribute \$100 to the costs of hosting the Imperial Students' Conference.

During the February meeting President Murray Rankin pleaded with the Council members to do all in their power to maintain law and order at the coming Theatre Night. The management of the Majestic Theatre had insisted upon a guarantee that there would be no more throwing of flour, etc. onto the audience. It turned out that for the first time in many years the Dalhousie students were subdued during the Theatre Night, so much so that the press complained about the unusual lack of spirit.

Like many of its predecessors the 28-29 Council authorized an investigation into establishing a Dalhousie bookstore. The university still relied on the downtown merchants to provide texts. The lumber from the open-air rink was still on the Council's hands, with no buyer coming forward. The Council agreed to a proposal that the executive of the Glee and Drama Society be elected at large. This went into effect that March,

and continued into the late 1960's. After a report to Council that the Badminton Club allotment had been spent "unwisely but completely" the Club members wrote the **GAZETTE** to point out how inadequate the allotment had been.

Late in February students were asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the costs of the Imperial conference. It is not clear whether this was to be the source of the \$100, or an addition to it. That year the Smith Shield competition among third year Law students received good publicity. One of the winners, Frank Covert, as now a member of the Board of Governors and a leading Halifax lawyer-businessman.

A 1929 "first" was use of the newspaper to print the "manifestos" of candidates in the Council elections. It was only a few years since there had been no publicity for the elections. Then the **GAZETTE** began to print the names of candidates and to urge the students to find out what the candidates were like. Suggestions were starting to come forward for having an all-candidates forum before the voting.

Just before the election the outgoing Council approved payment of salary to people who would "guard" the athletic equipment. In the election one of the issues was a controversy about the Canadian Officers' Training Corps on campus. The Student Christian Association, now concentrating on pacifism, was a focal point of opposition to COTC.

On March 18 the newspaper celebrated its 60th anniversary by presenting an outline of its early development as well as brief histories of the Sodales Debating Society, Students' Council and Faculties of Law, Medicine and Dentistry. R.A. Donohoe was elected as Glee and Drama president. For the first time it was revealed that Donohoe was "Dippy as he is familiarly known to all his friends". As we have mentioned, Dippy became Nova Scotia Attorney General. A further sign of growing pacifism was the meeting of the first Maritime Universities Model League of Nations, at Mount Allison.

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Not enough baboons

by Michael Greenfield

Despite the overabundance of apes on campus, the people at the Animal Care Center in the Tupper building plan to add a few more (this time caged of course). Since the fall the Center has been undergoing many advancements and changes under the able guidance of Dr. Love, and the planned primate section will perhaps be the most important change.

No one can dispute the need for experimentation with animals for scientific research. From the genetics courses that breed thousands of flies to the advanced researchers who need to study the habits of whales. Such research, aside from the direct information - pertinent to the specific creature involved, this type of research provides much needed information concerning man. However, there are many things **Drosophilla** cannot tell us about man. For much research the man-like primates are invaluable. The primates close physiological proximity to humans makes them a necessary research tool. One doctor here is eagerly awaiting the establishment of the primate section because the bile of the baboon is exactly like that of man.

It is along this line of reasoning that Dr. Love has decided the need for a special primate sector of

the Animal Care Center outweighs the drawbacks of dealing with primates. And the troubles concerning the establishment of the section are many. Certain types of monkeys are becoming scarce as the demand for them increases. Many countries, such as India, have sharply cut back on the exportation of the animals, Squirrel Monkeys from South America are extremely difficult to obtain. This puts severe limitation on many research centers. Many centers will have to turn to the breeding of primates. However, this task is a difficult one and usually very costly. In captivity most primates have only approximately 30% conception rate. Exceptions to this are colonies that can be established in a warm, natural environment. In Puerto Rico successful primate colonies have been established. In Canada, however, establishing successful colonies is nearly impossible because of the obvious environmental limitations.

A more serious problem with a primate center is the extreme danger involved in dealing with primates. Many diseases which affect primates can also affect man. Tuberculosis is the most well known, but Dr. Love is more worried about what is called B-virus infection that causes fatal encephalitis in man. There are also many unknown dangers connected with

primates. In Marburgh, Germany 7 people died from a strange disease obviously contracted from primates, the disease is now called Marburgh's disease.

To deal with these dangers Dr. Love is taking special precautions. Handlers must change into special clothing, upon finishing their task they will be disinfected, and at all times will actually touch the animals as little as possible.

Both the problems of disease and scarcity are far outweighed by the need for such a primate center, not only for Halifax, but for the Maritimes. Dr. Love is working on a project that will eventually need primates. He is investigating the absorption of cerebral spinal fluid. The build up of this fluid causes hydrocephalus in humans. The present way to treat this disease is by a shunt draining the fluid, however, these shunts are only 25% effective. Dr. Love has possibly hit on an alternate much more successful method of treating hydrocephalus. And in the final stages of his research testing the method on primates is of crucial importance.

Still it must be admitted that much testing on animals is wasteful. The Animal Care Center has come a long way toward the elimination of such waste.

(cont'd on pge. 7)