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Student Union Building- Myth or Reality?

Hyde Park, London, was no farther away than the Hall of the Men's Residence one noon hour last week. For Dalhousie students, the soap box oratory which took place as they rushed to eat lunch represented another step in their fight for a Students' Union Building or SUB, as it is more frequently called.

Some have said little was accomplished by the students who stood on the box, one after another, telling why they felt Dalhousie needs a SUB, but the fact remains that these views were expressed and now cannot possibly escape the eye of the administration.

For a long time students and their councils have been talking about a SUB but little has been done. Now the first positive steps have been taken and there can be little doubt that within the next few years our SUB will be a reality.

Much remains to be done, however, and the burden will lie heavily on the students themselves. Money must be raised and students should expect and welcome, in fact, a raise in their Council fees in order to meet some of the cost. Once the students show that they are willing to work hard and to sacrifice some of their spending money, the administration and the alumnae will be persuaded to join in the campaign.

In these initial stages the administration too can play its part. With the completion of the new Men's Residence, the question arises as to what to do with the old one. Last year's Council understood that it would be turned over to the students as a temporary SUB. This idea was dispelled this year when the administration announced that the old residence might be used as an overflow. Surely the plans cannot be so near-sighted as to allow the administration to contemplate an overflow from the residence before the first sod is turned? We can hardly believe the veracity of this.

We ask the administration, therefore, to clarify its position immediately, and we tell them that the students demand the old residence as a SUB and are willing to take on the responsibility. Of the students we ask that they unite together to force their will upon the administration and to begin the building fund to make our SUB a reality.

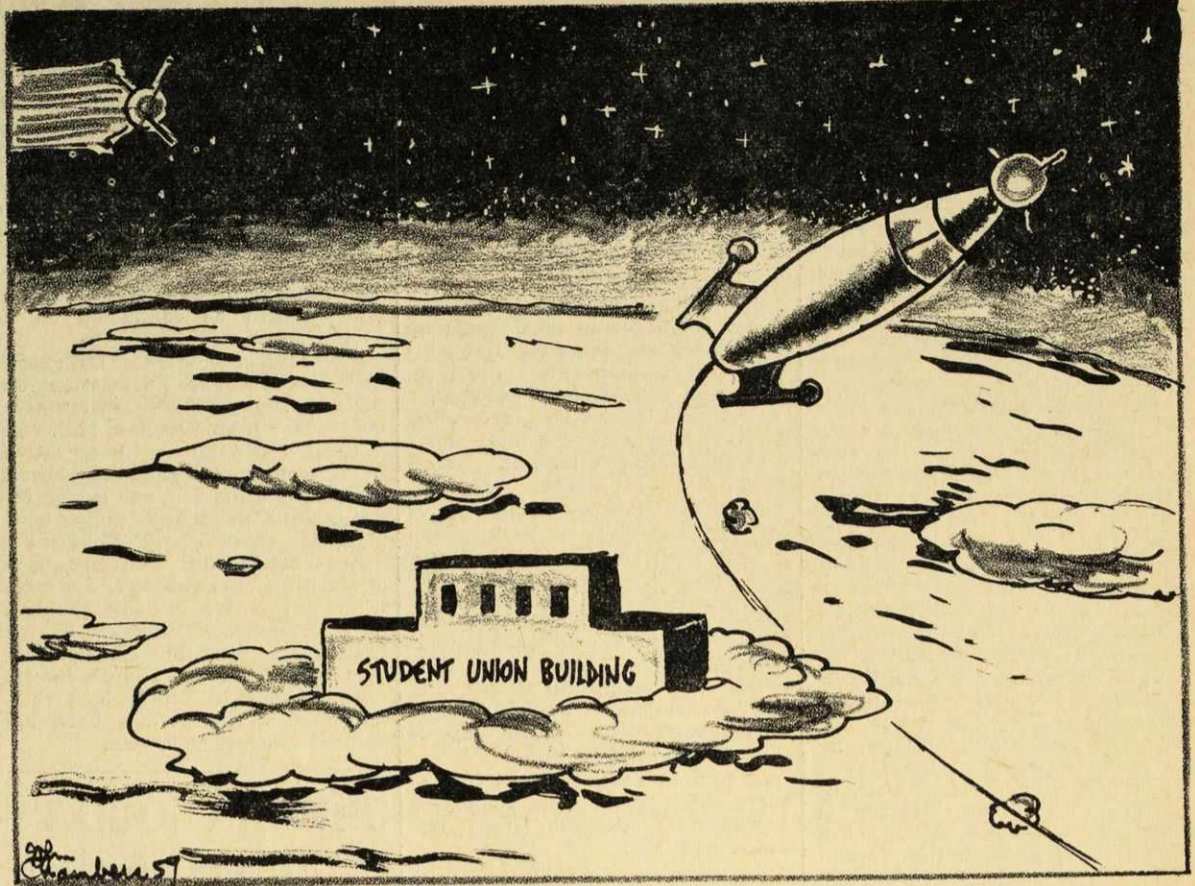
The Hospital Plan

If George Orwell had been influenced by Canadian rather than east European conditions when he wrote his book "1984," he might have hit upon the phrase "Big Brother is looking after you". There is a real danger in Canada that, within a few more generations, Big Brother might be doing just that.

Hardly anyone takes issue with social welfare measures. It is simply assumed that the government's responsibility for meeting our needs is very great, and that our own responsibility, whether we act individually or as a group of like-minded individuals, is very slight. It is dangerous to take this attitude toward social legislation. Not too many years hence we may find ourselves living in a state of true paternalism.

It cannot be denied that the national hospital plan, which went into effect in Nova Scotia this month, is a forward step. Few people can afford hospital care out of private means, but sickness plays no favorites. There may be better ways of financing the plan than the sales tax, but this revenue arrangement has at least been made with a sense of justice.

However, the plan also represents a point of no return. Nothing short of cataclysmic change in the social order is likely to see its withdrawal. People capable of creative thinking on political and social problems ought therefore to suggest how the areas of governmental and individual responsibility for personal needs are ultimately to be defined.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Other Side

Madam:

In today's issue, under the title "CANTEEN CRITICIZED", all six comments reported are derogatory in tone. I know that in this poll at least one non-derogatory comment was recorded, namely mine. Some non-derogatory comment, not necessarily mine, should have been published; on a controversial issue both sides should be heard, even when one opinion predominates.

The substance of my comment is as follows:

"I think it has become the custom to criticize more than may really be deserved. What do you expect for the prices we pay? I'm for the investigation, because I'd like to see this matter cleared up."

I might add that it must be hard to give good service to customers who bear one ill will. We could at least return to used trays to the counter, as the management has requested.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A WRIGHT,
Arts junior.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It must be pointed out that although Mr. Wright's comment was not printed, other remarks of an even more "derogatory" nature were also not printed. We tried to include as much meaningful criticism as possible.

Staff This Week

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Cartoonist: John Chambers.

In the Clouds



The announcement that Dal students will have the use of the Memorial Rink for a couple of hours each Sunday, caught almost everyone by surprise. The immediate reaction was one of amazement.

The decision of the administration on this matter follows last year's decision to open the libraries on Sunday afternoons. It is now up to the students to make proper use of the facilities provided and, especially in the Rink, to be very careful to follow the regulations agreed upon. The possibility of creating enough noise to irritate neighbours is there. It is up to us to ensure that it does not develop.

The University is to be congratulated on making this decision—a decision which shows a modern and broadminded policy.

* * *

Each year several deserving young ladies are nominated by the faculties for the Campus Queen Contest. Undoubtedly the gals in question are the finest specimens of femininity at our fair college. The amazing fact about the contest is that nowhere are there laid down any rules for the judges. These judges, by the way, are members of the faculty selected by the Munro Day committee. (One advantage of being a prof.)!

There is always a rush for the most active females on the campus. Each faculty wants to be sure of a worthwhile contender. Yet, no where are there qualifications, such as contributions to campus activity, the number of years the candidate has been at Dal, or the part that her natural talents will play in the selection. Perhaps it would be wise to draw up some guiding principles.

A final thought—when our Campus Queen is selected, what use is made of her? None! She does not appear officially until the following year when she gently places the crown on her successor's cranium. I'd like to see an active Campus Queen—opening various athletic contests, appearing at public functions, at college dances, and generally performing duties which would enhance the position.

* * *

Morty Bistrisky, National President of NFCUS, has been in Halifax this week. He visited the four universities in the area, meeting with University officials and many students. The major NFCUS project in the next few weeks will be the National University Student Day which will be held on March 5.

(Continued on page eight)