

# Council loses fervor

## Student Government History #49

When the 1930-31 budget was passed the Council received praise for instituting a policy of rejecting budget requests that were not itemized. However, almost all of the requests were granted ultimately. The previous year's audit revealed that 1929-30, the last year of the \$7.00 fee, had been another in the series of deficits, but some of the large 1928 surplus remained.

The Glee and Drama Society was due for success since Ronald Hays was back from his studies in Europe and would again be directing productions. The first Dalhousie memorial of World War I came when Norman A. MacKenzie bought a tablet to commemorate the Dalhousie athletes who fought in the war. MacKenzie was a two time student President who was given the money by the class of '23 to purchase athletic awards under a scheme that was never put into effect. He finally decided to purchase the tablet, probably regretting support in the early 1920's of the university's good faith in commemorating the Dalhousie war effort.

The influential *Gazette* editorial page called in early November for hiring a permanent Secretary-Treasurer of Council. It was felt that this would end the problems with organizations' poor book-keeping; problems that were opening the door for dishonesty.

The plaque from Class of '23 was presented to the university at the 1930 Armistice Day service. This was still a large event, and one thousand persons crowded into the temporary gymnasium to mark the day. Warming up to its latest theme, the newspaper suggested that the Amateur Athletic Club resume control of athletic funds because a dual control financial system could be operated if there was a permanent Secretary-Treasurer.

A fairly sudden change in student attitudes appeared in the coverage of an Imperial team/Dalhousie team debate - half a column on the back page. Athletics now received most of the

attention, pushing news off much of the paper. The desire for a more professional student government grew, leading the late November proposal for a professional football (rugby) coach. The common opinion was that Dalhousie had the material to be champions, but reliance upon volunteer alumni for coaching was the cause of poor showings.

The first international fraternity at Dalhousie, Phi Delta Theta, was founded in November 1930 by a team of American members who sold it as the most popular fraternity in Canada. Victor Oland was a founding member. As exams approached a fine old issue raised its head - why was the library closed on Saturday evenings when people wanted to study. There is no record of an administrative response to the question.

The Council's fervor in rooting out financial ineptness had cooled. The past *Gazette* Business Manager was given extra time to "square up his accounts". Council gave its approval to a Founders' Day programme prepared by the alumni and student executives. Members of the year book staff offered explanation of the "real causes" of financial trouble while requesting more Council funds in vain. The discussion did lead to establishment of \$50 honoraria for the book's Editor and Business Manager, subject to staying within budget and maintaining standards. Council refused to pay on a commission basis. A flood of requests for money from women's athletic teams saw the Council hastily point out that Girls' Athletic Club was the proper agency to deal with such items.

Meanwhile the newspaper was gearing up its campaign in favour of a professional football coach. Each issue featured interviews with university notables and "many prominent people" on the question. Most assured the students that it was worthwhile. Preoccupation with the coach question pushed the resignation of A. Stanley MacKenzie as University President onto page 4 of the paper. He had been the first alumnus to be President, and was leaving after 20

years in that position, 30 years at Dalhousie. The Dalhousie University Store (as the students originated books and tuck shop operation was called) announced that it had resulted in a saving of about 30 percent on text books. It was the first time that C.N.I.B. operated a concession on a university campus. Outgoing student President John Denoon won a special I.O.D.E. Overseas Post Graduate Scholarship while another Dalhousie student, Ralph Morton, won the regular scholarship. Denoon had missed the age limit.

Both awards were big news at the university. The Dalhousie campus got its latest addition in January, 1931 when the Nova Scotia Archives were opened. The new archivist, Mr. Harvey, was a Dalhousie graduate who also assumed teaching responsibilities at the university.

One of the most important Council meetings, that of January 22, 1931, had first to choose a Vice-President to fill Mary Crocket's term, since the President was absent and a chairman is essential. Helen Williams took the position without opposition. The routine business included refusal to pay an Orpheus Theatre bill for students' damage, discovery that GAZETTE broke even in 1929-30 but the books were in poor shape and extra funding for DGAC, especially ice hockey, due to the unexpected growth of women's athletics.

The important business was acceptance in principle of a new financial control system and of having a permanent Secretary-Treasurer. Now that financial questions were cleared up the constitution revision would soon be completed. Attempts to reduce the 1930 Pharos deficit had yielded little. In response to the university's suggestion that Council buy convocation gowns the Council decided that if churches would not loan gowns the university should buy them. The DAAC was brought back into the planning of skating nights. In a rare show of true financial control Council ordered the University Players to clean up its debts.

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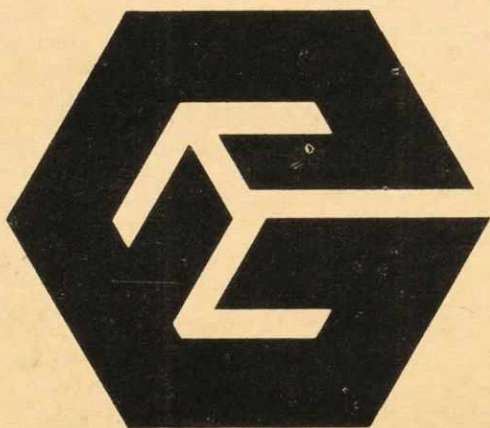
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