

University bookstore under pressure

Student Government History #52.

After only one year of operation the student-managed University Book Store was forced to defend itself publicly. Books were not coming in on time because of publishers' delays, and books were not held indefinitely for those who ordered them because many were never picked up at all. Second-hand books were still the major source for students, and the store felt that until it built up reserve capital dissatisfaction was to be expected. Students were urged to continue criticizing so that service could be improved.

Carleton Stanley moved directly into controversial issues at the cornerstone ceremony for the new gymnasium. He opposed the idea of a professional football coach and praised the common sense of Dalhousie students for having only the barest athletic facilities for health purposes. Attitudes towards the movies, highlighted in the article "Are the Movies a Menace?", were similar to those that are now held towards television. Indeed, if television was inserted for the movies in the article it would not seem much out of place in the 1970's. The defenders of officer training began to respond to the anti-COTC editorial, claiming that military training instilled discipline and made the world safe for peace.

The recently defeated prime minister, W.L. MacKenzie King, spoke at Dalhousie late in November 1931. His visit touched off a round of Liberal publicity praising the qualities of Angus L. MacDonald, the former Dalhousie professor who was then the Liberal

Leader of the Opposition in Nova Scotia.

Oblivious to economic conditions, a group of students won their fellows admiration for founding the Dalhousie Flying Club and gaining Council recognition for this futuristic move. J.L. Dubinsky gave the strongest defence of the COTC, using Machuria and the League of Nations' non-response to that war as an example of why all military activity should not cease. He stressed that while no veterans of the Great War could ever want another one, they realized that if war was inevitable it would save Canadian lives to have well-trained officers ready.

When the audit of the 1930-31 Council's books was published it indicated that it had been the first \$10,000 year for the organization - another reason to support the recent hiring of a permanent Secretary-Treasurer. Students returning in January 1932 from vacation heard that A. Gordon Cooper had won a Rhodes scholarship and that for the second time the NFCUS Vice-President (Donald Grant) was from Dalhousie. A regular student columnist felt that the failure of the Bruening dictatorship in Germany would lead to Hitlerism or anarchy.

News from the NFCUS meeting was that it had succeeded in forming the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union, and was awaiting regional approval for the new organization. Reduced railway fares were still being worked on, and the NFCUS European travel programme was being hindered by those "economic conditions."

The dance question was raised by Council president Gerald Stewart when on January 13 he wrote the GAZETTE to criticize the "hotel dances" which many could not afford to attend and which were expensive to operate. He hoped that the opening of the new gym would revive the practice of campus facilities being used exclusively for Dalhousie dances. There was some suggestion that use of campus facilities should be compulsory, although years earlier when the university suggested this the Council had led the opposition.

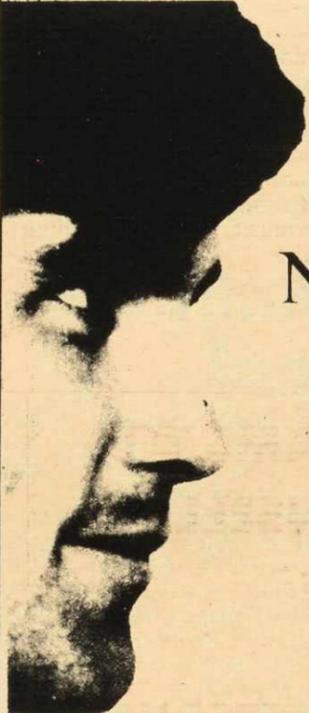
Under the increased financial control many bills and claims for money were being dealt with by the Council. Previously they would be paid without question or not discovered until too late. Now a formal decision was required. The year book was the first media to suggest paying an ad commission, although they saw an agency doing the work rather than individual students. Nothing firm was done, and later the Council refused to act on a suggestion that the compulsory fee should be increased to pay for yearbooks for all students. The Dalhousie ring and pin design, incorporating the university crest, was approved by Council. It had been designed by the freshman class executive.

By 1932 it was clear that the 30's were the first decade in which Dalhousie students took an active interest in international affairs. This was probably the result of poverty and fear cause by the international economic and military situation. A large crowd of students heard

Abdullah Yusuf Ali, a former Indian civil servant, explain that Hindus were mystic and impractical while Muslims were open-handed and democratic.

Response to Gerald Stewart's letter on dances, which had been an expression of his personal opinions, was mixed. Meanwhile large hotel dances were advertised by the student societies, with a standard price of \$3.00 per couple, \$2.00 single. The Students' Council was the authority responsible for the gym opening ceremonies, and preparations were well under way a month before the event. Somewhat out of the blue came a unanimous decision by representatives of all Atlantic university governments that radios should be banned in university residences. The decision was to inspire one of the GAZETTE's more peculiar campaigns.

Despite the growing interest in foreign affairs the Council decided that its policies would not permit financial assistance to the International Student Service, the organization that had succeeded the post-war European Student Relief. However, the Council did form a student-faculty committee to assist I.S.S. A proposal for a Dalhousie Theatre Night was accepted only on the grounds that Council would have no financial responsibility for it. This was wise in view of a past history where Council either got stuck with a damages bill or else unavoidably hindered such efforts through lack of support. It might be a sign of the usefulness of having a permanent Secretary-Treasurer.



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