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The Canteen Change - More to Come

After many years of exhorting, pleading and petitioning the administration of Dalhousie has given in to the will of the student body.

The canteen will be under new management by the summer recess. The new management of the canteen will be the company that is now handling the food services in the Men's Residence. While events of the past week may make it appear that this is not going to be a change for the better, it is a change we have all clamoured for. Possibly now that the men's residence and the canteen are under the same management, the type of food served will change. It was previously thought that the canteen did not serve any hot items simply because it would thereby compete

with the residence dining hall which was having financial difficulties, as it was. Maybe now lunch will not be peanut butter, tomato and egg sandwich.

This change is not the last important one that must come. It is the bookstore that desperately requires new management, larger facilities, and better service. This is a subject that has been much debated on this campus and it appears the solution lies with the erection of our SUB.

When David Jenkins, the president of CUS, visited our campus he said the we had the worst student building facilities in the country. From our visits to other campuses we find this to be a statement of fact.

The administration of the university is, at present, deciding

priorities in our building program. With all things considered we feel that the SUB should be given top priority. President Hicks has supported this sentiment and we quote from a previous statement issued to this paper: "I have been keenly aware of the need for a SUB and have felt its construction should be given high priority".

It has been the work and possibly the best work of this year's council that they have continually made the administration aware of our need for the SUB. It will be the primary task of the incoming council to continue these efforts and to ask for a voice in planning what will go into the new building.

On Anonymous Hall -

THE DUMPLINGS

Last week we published an article from a resident in Paradise, or the Dal Men's Residence. From the description it appeared that we were truly blessed with a Garden of Eden in our midst. This week it appeared that the apple (or dumpling) was eaten, and Paradise was lost.

What resulted has been reported, but it is for this writer to comment. Publicity for Dalhousie was bad as the incident made the front page of both of the Halifax papers. However this is not the real problem in this situation. Food problems are common in residences of all kinds. The meals can hardly ever match Mother's best. It is impossible to please the delicate, pampered palates of all the people all the time. But this is not the first

incident this year, earlier in the term there was a minor disturbance over some rotten apples that were served. According to some residents, food service improved after this occasion, but then started a steady decline that culminated with the rubber dumplings. It was also felt by some residents that the channels set up for food complaints were not producing the proper results.

The people who participated in the dumpling throwing can only be boors who have absolutely no manners or sense of propriety. The people who participated in the boycott of the meal following the Dumpling Disaster are to be congratulated for taking a positive step to register what they thought to be a legitimate complaint. When channels do not operate, other more direct means

should be employed, a boycott, yes, bad manners, no.

This incident should serve notice to the Administration that some students at this University will protest properly at what they consider to be injustice. It appears that the Administration is placing much of the food service on campus with the group handling the Men's Residence, and possibly they should keep a closer check on the quality of the food being served.

It should be noted that while residents complain about food, they all realize that they are living in one of the better residence facilities in the country.

It is all too common that criticism is specific; overlooking and, unfortunately, overshadowing the many good points about a situation or circumstance.

LETTERS

Dear Sir:

The reporting of the Judo tournament which took place at Dalhousie University on February 15 was, in general, accurate but left out some names which I feel should be mentioned in connection with the event.

Jim Saddington of Dalhousie won the Yellow Belt Division fighting very well throughout and receiving an Orange Belt promotion from Dr. Swanzy as a result.

John Micallef did indeed show up well in the blue belt division but lest any confusion arise from your report the finalists were Donald Barr and David Wires of Shearwater with Wires winning a very close match.

Finally, I don't think the criticism of the Orange belt winner, Wayne Tuck of Shearwater, is justified; he won out over two very heavy opponents and went down in the final bouts to an experienced fighter who outweighed him considerably and who won promotion to Blue Belt rank through his showing in the meet.

I support and endorse your comment that the quality of Judo was generally good. The standards are rising year by year and our men are on a par, grade for grade, with the finest clubs in Canada.

Dr. Swanzy's private comment on his own showing is one of typical generosity and sportsmanship; while admitting that he was off-his-stride, he also paid tribute to his opponents and the great improvement in their calibre during recent months.

The tournament was highly

successful and reflects great credit upon the University and the Dalhousie Judo Club.

Yours faithfully,
 Perry W. Teale 2nd Dan
 President, N.S.B.A.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Last week's installment of The Wooden Horse by FEC ("The Nova Scotia That Isn't") carried this extra byline: by Bernard Kumau. This was a printer's error. Mr. Kumau had absolutely nothing to do with that column - it was written by FEC who has written every installment of The Wooden Horse. We offer our apologies to Mr. Kumau for any embarrassment this may have caused him; and our printer apologizes to FEC.

The Editor
 Dal Gazette

(I certainly hope you will have the courage and fairness to print all the letters you receive for your last two issues. I know of several others who are planning to write. Please do not incorrectly abbreviate New Democratic Party to NDP's or NDP party. If brevity is necessary, New Dem's or New Democrats is sufficiently short.)

Dear Sir:

This letter is long overdue. Having read faithfully each issue of the Gazette for the past two years, I have been repeatedly disappointed by its slipshod and biased reporting, poorly written, out of date and inconsequential articles, and its mercilessly over-edited features. The Gaz-

ette has a singular ability to avoid the issues of the day and to distort the news. I for one am sick and tired of being fed such pap. However, the Gazette has not only failed in its responsibility to the students to present the issues intelligently, but it has also chosen to misrepresent the facts. This is a much more serious offence. A case in point is the front page article in the February 26 issue. In three paragraphs, no fewer than FIVE factual errors were made. It is dubious whether or not this was intentional since each 'mistake' coincidentally supported the position of the Gazette-backed Liberal party:

1) "a Liberal private member's bill, to lower the voting age to eighteen. . ." This bill was introduced by the leader of the New Democrats, Terry Morley. The Liberal bill, on National Lotteries, was defeated. This fact, of course, was not included in the article, no doubt due to "lack of space".

2) "A motion of Non-Confidence was on the floor". This is completely false. No such motion was made during the Model Parliament.

3) "Terry Morley . . . rose on a point of Information." He did not. Mr. Morley raised a point of ORDER, which is quite a different thing altogether.

4) "Notice (of a Non-confidence motion) was given by Liberal John Goldberg." This is completely untrue. Mr. Morley announced that the New Democrats would place a non-confidence motion before the House in 24 hours. Mr. Goldberg, probably saving his vote for the next evening's attack on the Conservatives as "fascistic communists", said nothing.

Letters

An Angry Young Man

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letters are all from John Cleveland, a second-year Arts student at King's. They are actual letters received in the Gazette office. We spoke personally with Mr. Cleveland, who freely acknowledges all of them.)

The Editor,
 Dal Gazette.

(If you do not intend to print this letter, please notify me at 422-4016. I would appreciate it if you would not "edit" it - I have a verbatim copy.)

Dear Sir:

I have already expressed my disappointment with the quality of the Gazette in another letter to your paper. Lest I be accused of merely attacking without offering constructive proposals to remedy the ills, I put forward these concrete suggestions for reform:

- 1) The entire format of the newspaper should be reorganized so that it looks a little less like the filler-packed editions of the Halifax Chronic Hodge-podge.
- 2) More columns and regular features should be presented. A regular Literary section is imperative in order to bring the intellectual level of the Gazette up to a point where both staff members and students will not be ashamed to contribute articles.
- 3) Interviews with interesting on and off campus personalities are entertaining and informative. They should be made a regular feature. My own experience editing a high-school newspaper has taught me that interviews are perhaps the most eagerly read articles in a paper.
- 4) Polls and surveys on controversial issues, accompanied by an interpretation of the results are an excellent way of stimulating interest in current issues. This has been done successfully elsewhere, notably in the Acadia campus publication.
- 5) ALL articles should be signed so that the reader is able to take the writer's bias into account while reading the article. Furthermore this would encourage contributors to be more careful with their documentation and handling of the facts.
- 6) Editorial comment is sadly lacking. This year's comments have been limited to death and appointment notices, reprints and verbiage concerning Mr. Levitz' personal feud with the Student's Council. Ad hominem smears and inappropriate, ineffectual attempts at sarcasm in reply to critical letters should be replaced with reasoned editorials arguing the editors' point of view.
- 7) Editing of articles has been atrocious. More care must be taken to preserve the sentence structure and thought pattern of the original.
- 8) Fuller and better coverage of campus club activities is essential. One change I might suggest is that fewer photos be taken of the Gazette staff and the hockey team in various uninteresting positions. Pictorial and verbal justice must be done to the Campus organizations.
- 9) More articles should be printed informing Dal students of events of interest occurring on other University campuses. Students in Halifax must not remain isolated from the intellectual main stream of the country. It is the Gazette's duty to enable Dalhousie students to keep in contact with student affairs and activities all over Canada.

I certainly hope that you, the Editor, will seriously consider these proposals and others which other students may make. If you do not, I submit that the Gazette will continue in its decline and the student body will gradually withdraw their support for what could be a decent newspaper.

Yours respectfully,

John W. Cleveland,
 Supporter of CRDKU.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you, William Randolph Hurst.

5) "Barry Oland. . . moved adjournment, catching a number of NDP'ers (sic) outside." The 'number' was one. If the Speaker counted correctly, at least TWO Liberals were absent from their seats during the crucial vote. The Liberals (and the Gazette) have no one to blame for the result of this vote but themselves. Indeed, one Liberal MP (reportedly a Conservative who found herself equally at home on the Liberal benches) abstained from voting.

Besides all this, the number of important and relevant facts LEFT OUT of the article was positively shocking. There was no mention of the fact that both the Conservative and New Democratic bills were passed, whereas the Liberal one was defeated. There was no mention of the content of ANY of the speeches (some worthwhile ones were heard from ALL sides of the House) of the Throne Speech, nor of the other motions introduced. Such writing bypasses the latitude normally given for human error and oversight. It is also only typical of the biased, inarticulate and unsubtle trash which the Dalhousie student body has been confronted with in the past year. I look forward to a change in STAFF, ATTITUDES and METHODS in next year's Gazette.

Yours sincerely,
 John W. Cleveland
 President of the Dal-
 King's New Democratic
 Party

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you,
 Lord Baden-Powell.

Dal Gazette.
 (Might I suggest that you set aside a page or two for letters in the next issue of the Gazette. The students' voices must be truly expressed.)

I draw your attention to the recent recommendation made by a Parliamentary committee that the voting age be lowered to eighteen. For this reason, it is doubly important that students be aroused from their political apathy. I feel that a thorough rethinking of the concept of a campus Model Parliament is in order. Too many students regard this institution as a farce unworthy of their attention. Unfortunately, this probably encourages a similar attitude towards the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa.

In the past the two-night Mock Parliament has been a feeble excuse for a lot of ostentatious flag-waving, pointless spouting of hot air and gaudy poster displays. The student body has been spoon fed platitudes far too long. The function of politics is to put forth the real issues.

It is not a game, but a serious activity in which all conscientious students should participate. It's time to stop complaining about the state our country is in and do something about it.

I put forward these proposals to correct the faults of the present setup:

- Parliamentary elections should be held either within the first month or towards the end of the academic year.

- Parliament should meet regularly, either by-weekly or monthly at first.