

Dalhousie Gazette

Vol. 102

Halifax, NS.

Number 3



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2179 Gottingen St.
Halifax, N. S.

OVERCROWDING POSES PROBLEMS

Though they knew it was coming, they did nothing. The record freshmen enrollment at Dalhousie University this fall was expected, according to Deputy Registrar P. G. Griffiths, who told the Gazette, "We expected 1300 freshman and we received 1300 freshmen." Figures from the university's Information Office back up Griffiths' claim. According to the figures, about 1250 new students were expected to register and when the count was made about 1300 had trekked by the registration desk.

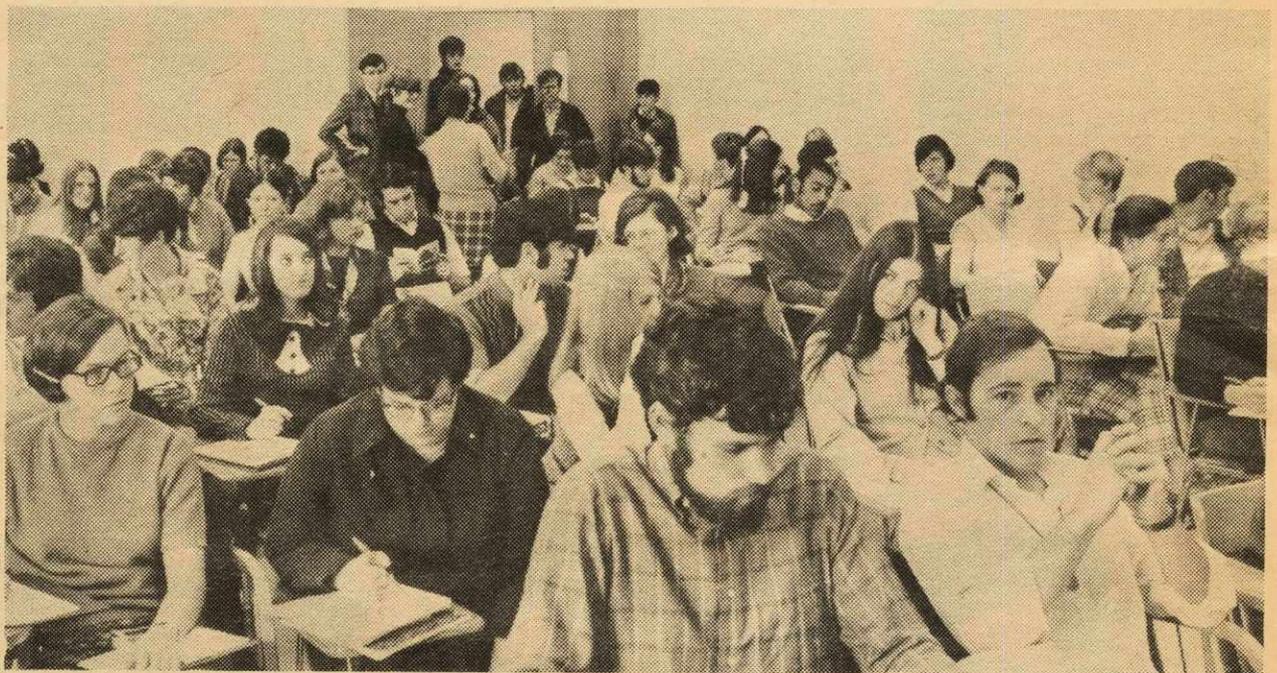
Mr. Griffiths told the Gazette that overcrowding in classes other than first year courses were still a result of the high freshmen enrollment this year. With almost twice as many freshmen, as last year, more classroom space has had to be allocated to freshmen classes, forcing overcrowding in classes at the 200 and 300 level.

Though the Deputy Registrar stated that it wasn't his place to discuss policy, other officials, though wishing to remain anonymous, were willing to talk about the situation. They were unanimous in condemning the university for its open-ended admissions policy, which allowed more students to enter the university than could be competently handled. It was, as one official put it, mostly a question of \$600 that each student paid in tuition.

"They seemed more interested in getting the money than they were in ensuring that each student received adequate education while here at the university," he told the Gazette. "Sooner or later they will have to look at the situation and decide that there must be a cut off point when no more students can be accommodated."

Besides the obvious problems of overcrowded classrooms, there are less obvious difficulties caused by the ballooning freshmen enrollment this year.

The city's critical housing shortage has been strained beyond the breaking point as more and more students are looking for a place to stay. At the moment it's still too early to tell how many students are without a roof over their heads, and even harder to say how many have left the university in frustration over high rents and a lack of available accommodation. The Housing Office during registration week was talking in terms of up to 500 students and, though the figure should now be less than that, no one is hinting the problem has been solved.



Though figures were not available at press time, the Gazette has also been reliably informed that the student-faculty ratio has also increased this year.

For professors and students, that will mean less time for individual consultation and consideration of problems that come up. Some professors, particularly those in the French Department have expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the size of the classes they were forced to teach.

The French professors reached an agreement with the Dean of Arts and Science last Friday, after threatening to strike over conditions in the French conversational

class, French 105. The new deal included an agreement by the university to hire additional teaching staff and classes were expected to be back to normal by the middle of the week.

Still, nobody is expecting great improvements in the overall situation at the university for a while yet.

The expansion programme, to include 11 new buildings will not be complete in time to prevent the same situation from happening again next year. As well, little provision has been made in the expansion programme for student accommodations, and even if there were such provisions as one official put it: "the projection of 8000 students by 1975 when these are already more than 6000 in 1969, makes the figures look pretty ridiculous..."

Two Views
of a meeting...

Maybe As You Like It

by Dave Kwiatt

Denunciations of everything from the Canadian Union of Students to the Dalhousie Gazette, from Ed Schreyer to Bruce Gillis, highlighted an organizational meeting of the Dalhousie Student Movement last Friday evening. The meeting, held in the Student Union Building drew about a dozen persons.

According to its proponents the movement is reminiscent of the Sir George Student Movement of computer centre fame and is designed to help Dalhousie students "smash U.S. Imperialism and neo-fascist, neo-colonialist, capitalist, militarist, racist aggression against the peace-loving, freedom-loving, working peoples of the world..."

The two main speakers at the organizational meeting were Sheldon Glick and Subin Roy, who led off the discussion with a thirty minute sermon on "class struggle in the classroom" and defeating the bourgeois line in education.

He told the assemblage Dalhousie practices cultural oppression at the expense of the masses, adding the university was nothing but a tool of bourgeois fascism. Culture, he said, is the reflection of politics and economics and so we are taught "degenerate culture" to disguise our repressive economic imperialism.

When questioned on exactly what he meant by class struggle in the classroom and the bourgeois line in education, he explained that English Literature is anti-people, that students must raise the class struggle against the corporate monopoly and stop the culturally oppressed from serving imperialist ideals, and declared that students must rise up against such anti-people, repressive institutions as the "bloody fascist rag - the Dalhousie Gazette" which he termed the "major sedative on campus" because it represses the progressive spirit of the students at the university.

The Dalhousie Student Movement, those in attendance were told, will propagandize among the masses of students and the working class in Halifax through a newspaper it will put out entitled the Dalhousie Student.

A potpourri of slogans and opinions, which may be a sneak preview of what will appear in the newspaper, then followed.

The New Left are anti-revolutionary, degenerates, and anarchists who prevent the progress of revolutionary, anti-imperialist forces. The revolution can only succeed if there is an alliance between workers and peasants.

The Canadian Union of Students is a "dirty, reactionary, Imperialist front" and CUS's enemy, Bruce Gillis is a "reactionary student hack". And the whole controversy over CUS here at Dalhousie is nothing but "bloody Imperialist shit", according to the representatives of the DSM at the meeting.

Turning their attention to the "glorious struggles of the peoples of Quebec to achieve self-determination and relieve themselves of the evils of Yankee Imperialist aggression and Anglo-Canadian Neo-fascist Imperialist oppression", the subject of the Dalhousie Gazette once again came up for discussion. However the Gazette reporter was asked to leave before the discussion continued.

Last week the Dal Student Movement held its first meeting. From its name on might expect an amateurish group of student 'radicals' prepared to discuss endlessly among themselves the contradictions in our society and universities, however, this is not the case with the D.S.M. They are involved in scientifically analyzing the situation and have planned a course of action based on this analysis - in other words, they use a truly dialectic approach.

From the points of view expressed in the meeting it

was clear that D.S.M. defines the enemy as U.S. imperialism and monopoly capitalism, and follow a rather more dogmatic Maoist approach on how to defeat it. Following this approach they can see many contradictions of Western 'democratic' society such as apartheid, military dictatorships, and nondemocratic puppet regimes as instruments of U.S. imperialism to keep the peoples in the weaker nations suppressed, to facilitate their exploitation. This attitude leads to active support of the National Liberation Fronts of the Third World and representative of these organizations will be coming to give a personal lecture of the struggles in the Third World against U.S. imperialism.

The D.S.M. will be holding further meetings and is opening a bookstore on Granville or Barrington; interested students and faculty are invited to attend.

OCT. VOTE

Dalhousie students will march to the polls October 22 and 23 to decide future participation in the Canadian Union of Students. On a motion by Derryn Crowston and Cathy Cox, Council narrowly decided the question which had been long in contention.

The vote on the matter was 10 for and 9 against; those opposed were of the opinion that a longer period of time should be allowed to better inform the student population about the full ramifications of the issue. They also expressed the belief that Dal should not be pressed into making a decision by the University of Toronto, which holds its vote on October 23.

Meanwhile a committee, consisting of the CUS Congress delegation and interested students, has been established by Council to educate and orient the student body about the entire matter both before the referendum and continuing thereafter.