

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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THE MONEY QUESTION

The topic for discussion in the student forum which is being held at noon tomorrow in Room 21 will be the proposed raise in student fees. The Students' Council is seeking a hike of about \$5.00 in order to meet the rising cost of student activities.

At present the national average for council fees is about \$30.00 per student while here at Dalhousie we are currently paying \$26.00, \$10.00 goes to the Student Union Building Fund, while \$8.50 of the remaining \$16.00 goes towards Varsity and interfaculty athletics. This leaves only \$7.50 per student to cover the costs of all the remaining campus organizations.

This amount is far too small to meet this university's expanding needs. Organizations such as the Gazette, Pharos, and DGDC are already running on limited budgets and will soon be unable to provide the student body with reasonable service if they are not allotted more money. Dalhousie's enrolment is expanding and with this increase have come more and greater demands on campus activities and hence on the financial resources of the Council. The time has come when these demands must be met.

In addition to campus activities the council is supposed to pay for Dalhousie delegates who are sent to various national and international conferences. Due to the strain of the current budget, Dalhousie has not been represented this year at a host of these conferences with the result that we are rapidly becoming isolated from the rest of Canada's University Students.

For these reasons the Gazette strongly supports the efforts of the Students' Council to raise students' fees. We feel that the money is urgently needed and that it is in the best interests of the student body that such a raise be made immediately.

It is also our opinion, however that a referendum should be held to determine whether or not this raise will be instituted. Constitutionally financial matters may be decided by the council without holding a referendum but we cannot help but feel that matters of such importance should be decided by the student body as a whole.

It appears unlikely that such a referendum will be held. In the opinion of several members of the council executive such a vote is unnecessary and unwarranted. They claim that as they are the elected representatives of the student body, they should be able to make decisions which are in the best interests of Dalhousie's students.

We agree completely, gentlemen. But if you are convinced of the wisdom of your decision then surely you should be confident of victory in a referendum, rather than being afraid of defeat as you now seem to be.

THE LAZY POOR

There occurred last week an interesting juxtaposition of news items on the front page of The Chronicle-Herald.

On one side of the paper was an article under a two-column headline labeled "Too much socialism in Canada, says Oland". Five columns away was a second story telling of the death of a child in a slum-filled area of St. John's, Nfld. after being attacked by rats.

It is, of course, insanity to believe that the election of a socialistic government in Canada or in any other country would immediately bring relief to all social evils. It does seem immediately apparent, however, that most forms of socialism make at least an honest attempt to relieve, and in some cases remove, the causes which lead to such an incident

which occurred last week in St. John's.

It is tiresome indeed to hear over and over the drivel that good, sweet, pure free enterprise must rally to defeat the bete noire of state control. For it is obvious to almost anybody who does not own a beer factory that socialism does not attempt to replace the democratic ideal with the "big brother" of Orwell's 1948; instead, in its best forms, it attempts to guide and plan a country so that its citizens are best able to live within the framework of that democratic ideal.

This is not to say that all free enterprise is wrong or to prove that all forms of socialism is the hope of the world. But when in the same issue of the same paper are reported a wealthy industrialist complaining that socialism is standing in the way of his sort making more money and, to quote the second report, a baby is chewed to death by rats in a home "in dilapidated condition and known to be infested by rats", it seems time for a protest.

THE SEXY SIXTIES

A native from deep in the forests of the Amazon Valley being shown the sights in New York might well be taken to the Peppermint Lounge, birth place (so Americans claim) of the world's latest dance craze. One can imagine him gazing with awe at the gyrations of high society, and then turning to his companion and exclaiming: "With a fertility dance like that, no wonder they're all talking about the population explosion!"

The Twist is sweeping North America. It has reached Europe — where Parisians claim it originated in the first place. No doubt it will soon be slipping under the Iron Curtain to set the Comrades' hips awaggle. In fact we await with anticipation what Krokodil, the Soviet humor magazine, will have to say about this latest example of decadent Western Capitalism.

Returning to our poor, benighted heathen in the middle of New York, we wonder how one could set about explaining to him that about one quarter of the world's population in the Western Hemisphere is not indulging a mass orgy of sex hysteria. But is only satisfying those "inner needs" which psychologists are always talking about these days.

Over the past few centuries dances performed at social functions would appear to have been getting faster and more erratic as the general tempo of living has increased.

In the leisurely days of the 18th Century daring young things performed the stately (to us) Minuet. The 19th Century was characterized by the Viennese Waltz. The 20th Century has gone mad. The roaring Twenties witnessed the rise and fall of the Charleston. The 30's and 40's were relatively quiet except for the odd war. However, one might imagine the ultimate had been reached with Elvis the Pelvis and the wiggling 50's. Not a bit of it. The sixty '60's have produced the Twist.

For years now psychologists have been warning the human race that the perpetual turmoil in which it lives can only lead to the mental asylum. Perhaps the Twist is the proverbial last straw.

Regardless of whether the Twist turns out to be the last straw or not, we cannot help but be amazed at the reception this 'dance' has received here at Dalhousie and at many other institutions of higher learning across the nation. The Gazette has been accused in the past of regarding as foolish the habits of the average university student. This latest craze only serves to confirm our beliefs.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"I DO BELIEVE IT'S TH' HARDEST EXAM HE'S EVER GIVEN US!"

The Critical Eye

MARRIAGE AND SOCIETY

Most people seem to feel that a marriage is only socially acceptable when it has taken place in a church. There must be a ceremony with many flowers; there must be bridesmaids, flowergirls, and ushers all decked out in the elegance of formal dress; the reception must be a gala affair with plenty of food and drink for all. Finally the couple involved must look sweet and holy.

Only if all these totally extraneous details have been blown up in importance will the back-yard gossips be able to use that oft-worn phrase, "It was a lovely wedding".

In principle, this sounds like a wonderful idea: such ancient rituals are all too few in this ultra-modern world. But in many cases this tradition makes a farce out of what should be a serious affair, and forces two young people to be hypocritical on the most important day of their lives.

Since the turn of the century, more and more people have become atheists or at least agnostics. The two worlds wars, the constant state of international tension and the great strides of science have turned many into doubters of the Christian doctrine. Our high standard of living has resulted in the feeling that people can get what they want by working hard and without the aid of any divine providence. The spread of Communism has

caused much of the general public to think about religion instead of accepting it blindly. The world today demands a practical answer for its problems and, for many, the great faiths do not provide a satisfactory solution. All these developments have resulted in a decrease in the percentage of the population attending church regularly, and those genuinely believing in its doctrines.

Why then does society still view as "not proper" the marriage which is made legal by law and not by the church, at the same time admitting that "what God hath joined together" can be torn asunder by the ruling of a divorce court? Surely this leads to a double code of right and wrong.

It is time we realized that marriage, like any other partnership, is mainly a legal affair and that the church ceremony should be reserved for those to whom it means something. It is time we stopped looking down on those who are honest enough not to take vows they know have no meaning for them.

As a result we have allowed our most important ceremony to degenerate into a battle for social prestige and have forced the two people involved to become the center of a religious ritual regardless of whether or not they believe all they must say.