

CALYPSO CRAZE BEGUN

The Dalhousie West Indian Steel Band, making its debut last November at a West Indian party, has swelled its ranks from five to nine since that time, and sustained a remarkably demanding schedule. The boys appeared on the Joan Marshall show, have made recordings for CJCH, played for Acadia, and will be performing at Mount A and St. FX later this month. In addition to this they have appeared throughout the city on charity shows, and have added atmosphere to several Dalhousie functions.

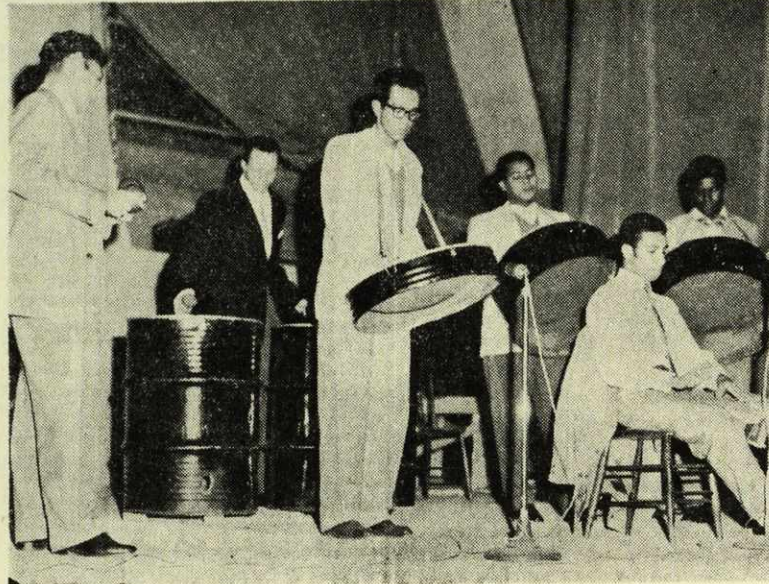
The band is composed of Alroy Chow, leader, from Trinidad; Master of Ceremonies Basil Cooper from Nassau, Bahamas; Business Manager Mike Agis of Trinidad; and Arranger John Davidson of Tobago. Kirtland Culmer and Leslie Culmer are both from Nassau, and Kenrick Chow, Hollis Whitehead and Percival Martin come here from Trinidad.

Steel band music originated in Trinidad; although its lifetime on West Indian soil has been relatively short—about 25 years—its popularity is as great as that of any of the older forms of music. A number of years ago the Government forbade the natives the use of steel drums, feeling they were dangerous in exciting the populace in certain voodoo rites. However, as percussion was an integral part of the musical life of the island, the people used the tops of steel drums which had formerly contained oil, hammering the tops into depressions of varying depths to produce the desired timbers. The making of steel drums is now an industry in Trinidad. This popularity is spreading — even Hollywood and New York have joined in the demand for more steel drums.

Of the nine men, seven play drums; Mike Agis plays the murracs and Basil Cooper the bongos, the only two non-steel instruments in the band. All playing is by ear, John Davidson using his piano knowledge to tune in the others.

"People have a misconception about those steel drums," asserted Basil Cooper. On them any type of music from classic to calypso can be played. The favorites of this band are Marianne, Jamaica Farewell and Love Me Tender, but

other selections are continually introduced, including Fire Down Below, Vive l'Amour and the Peanut Venda.



When Alroy Chow approached the Council of the Students for aid two years ago, neither he nor the Council could have foreseen the results. "We didn't expect to see calypso go over so big in Halifax," said Mr. Cooper, "but obviously it has taken over completely from the limbo dance we used to do last year." "Next year," he asserted, "we'll have new instruments, new costumes, and we'll make new additions to the band, using the current crop of instrumentalists as the back bone;" "we aim to expand and better ourselves until we are at least 12 in number."

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Ora Et Labora: 1960 In 1980

During the Students' Council elections, just completed, the issue of an Alumni homecoming and reunion was brought forward by one group of contenders. THE GAZETTE considers this project worthwhile, and would like to see a continuing practice over the years of "old grads" returning to their Alma Mater.

Twenty years from now, 1980, might be just such a year in which one of these mammoth homecoming groups would assemble at this our "College-by-the-Sea." THE GAZETTE, in publishing an article in its Munro Day edition of that year, might revue the affair something like this:

"1980 will go down in history as a great and memorable year. On the national level, it was the year in which the Liberals almost came back into power (they won four seats in Newfoundland again); internationally, the Seventh Republic of France, the people once again barricading the streets, was peacefully annexed to Monaco after a threat of war had been issued by Prince Ranier and Princess Grace; and provincially, the Nova Scotia liquor laws were relaxed to the extent that coffee, tea and milk is now being served to the patrons in the tavern of the Lord Nelson. On the local level, 1980 will also be remembered as the year of the largest homecoming of Dalhousians of all classes and ages.

Peter Outhit, formerly an editor of The Gazette, was able to attend the reunion as he convinced a co-worker to take his stint as copy boy on the Halifax Herald graveyard shift. A former editor, George Martel was given leave of absence from his post on Tab Confidential in order to be able to visit Dalhousie once again.

As a by-election was in progress in Halifax, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Rt. Hon. Mike Steeves, who, it has been rumored, will be asked to form a Government later this year by the Governor-General of Canada, Dr. Alexander E. Kerr, upon the predicted resignation of Prime Minister Davie Fulton, was able to combine business with pleasure on his trip to our fair city. Running in the by-election were three ex-Dalhousians, Gregor Murray, for the Progressive Conservative party, Jack Buntain, as the Independent Constitutionalist Anti-Socialist candidate, and Jim Cowan, leader of the newly-founded Canadian Christian Commonwealth Federation of Independent Rounded Knights.

The noise of hustings stomping even conveyed itself to the greats and the insignificants of Dalhousie's former years, when, during a late session in the pub in the SUB, Rick Kinley announced the formation of his Anarchist party, declaring that the time had come for the formation of a truly national, positively anarchical way of looking at the Canadian body (politic.)

Letters and telegrams of regrets were received from a number of ex-Dalhousians who could not for some reason or other make the reunion: from Rick Cashin, whose campaign for a pub in the SUB at Acadia had reached its critical stage; from Mike Kirby, who had recently blown himself up at Chalk River; and from Jim Hurley, who was in court being sued for writing libellous poetry against the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The Commandant of the Halifax garrison of the Royal Canadian Corps of Sea Cadets, Reid Morden, turned out an honor guard to herald the approach and impending approach of these many great Dal-

housians and Canadians. The guard was reviewed by Hon. John Cochrane, Premier of Nova Scotia, who in later addressing the first banquet of the reunion, confessed that, though never having been a sea cadet himself, had nonetheless been at sea many times during his life.

At the opening banquet, the Rt. Rev. David Matheson, D.D., President of the University, welcomed the old grads "back home." Beyond many of those mentioned above, there were many prominent people seated at the head table, such greats as Dr. Douglas Cudmore, the discoverer of the new wonder drug faecesomyacin, developed after considerable research into the previously-thought inert qualities of the human faeces; John Chambers, the well-known novelist, whose most recent book, "Sexual Conduct of the Mauritian Dodo," with illustrations by the author, has received critical acclaim from all over the globe, particularly in view of the fact that the dodo has been extinct for the past 100 years; Dr. Denis Stairs, Professor Emeritus of Modern Morality at Mount St. Vincent College; and Sir Ken Clark; knighted for his actor-writer creation of the radio and television day-to-day serial, "Crossing at Weezy Willow" the heart-rendering saga of young love foiled in a small mid-Western town.

As this was the eve of Munro Day, the many great benefactors of Dalhousie University received many overt acts of homage from our alums, principally in the form of toasts drunk between many of the returning friends. However, knowing the quality of our predecessors in this year 1980, had this not been Munro Day evening, students presently at Dalhousie would have expected our Library to be crowded with these many fine, temperate men and women.

The next two days were filled with many varied events—speeches, meetings with old friends and acquaintances, a hockey game between the "old boys" and the Dalhousie Tigers, at which time the Tigers were soundly trounced 17-1, and a smashing good banquet thrown by the Mayor of the City of Halifax, Dr. Byron Reid, whose exploits with the city council over water supplies and sewerage disposal are well known. Many other famous figures in Nova Scotian and Canadian life graced us with their presence, but space does not permit us to mention all those present.

Readers will have noted that no former woman students have been mentioned in the preceding article. This is not to imply that they have not made their indelible mark and impression on our society; indeed, it is quite to the contrary. Suffice it to say, however, that they have made very good wives."

A closing note from Dalhousie Gazette 1960: Remember: YOU WILL BE THERE!

Danceable Hit Variety Show

Saturday night's Foreign Student Variety Show was indeed just that—a mixture of acts from China to Spain, from Greece to the West Indies, that captivated a fairly large audience for two hours in the Dal gymnasium.

Master of ceremonies was Gunter Buchta, well-known Halifax dancer, who performed a Hungarian folk dance with his wife. One of the top acts was the singing of a group of American Folk tunes a la the Kingston Trio and Harry Belafonte by a group of American students from New Hampshire.

The West Indian Steel Band performed several numbers, and the Chinese lion dance scored its second hit within the week. Much of the evening's entertainment consisted of dance sequences, a highlight of which was the Indonesian Candle Dance, originally from the Island of Sumatra.

Spanish, Greek, South American, Swedish and Russian dances were also performed, and footwork ably expressed that which language finds difficult.

Letters—

(Continued from Page 2)

play of dubiously impressive dialectic, and as an extravagant example of ill-informed journalism. To use words in which Dr. Jonson referred to much more eminent fools, your editorial on the Bill of Rights succeeded only in marrying words which had barely become acquainted.

Respectfully,
Frank Sigsworth,
Dal Law School.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM—

(Continued from Page 6)

not play in both leagues but they could be compensated in the trophy standings with a handicap. This sport might also get out some of the foreign students who are not familiar with the football rules but are familiar with those of softball.

Soccer was also suggested as an interfac sport and this could be put in place of softball. Again this

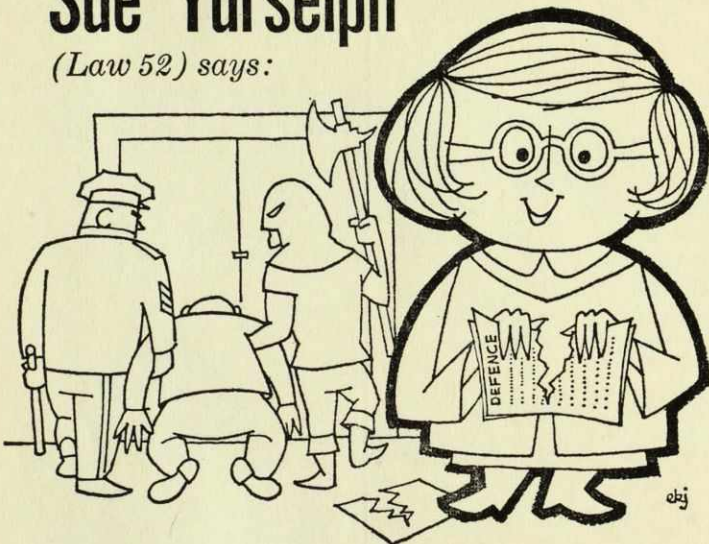
would get out most of the foreign students and the league could act as a farm system for the varsity team.

Another interfac sport that was discussed was bowling. It was decided that this sport had great possibilities and the formation of an interfac league was to be looked into. Swimming was also brought up—both recreational and varsity—and it was also decided to look into the possibilities of reviving the sport.

As we said, the plans have been laid and Dal should be in for a great year of both varsity and interfaculty sport. One advantage the new DAAC has over last year's is that everything is set up for them and they will have to do little in the way of planning. They will just have to carry out the ideas of the Athletic Board and the 1959-1960 DAAC. "The Gazette" looks forward to seeing a much improved athletic program next year.

Sue Yurselph

(Law 52) says:



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