

# COUNCIL APPROVES \$50 FINE

## Student Government History #28

On March 15, 1922, soon after Norman MacKenzie was reappointed as President of the Students' Council, Senate sent a delegation to meet with the Council. The Senate representatives felt that the Council should recognize its obligations as well as its privileges. The Council discussed its function and appointed a committee to work on a document of Council powers and duties. Large sums were voted for athletics, routine business was settled and the Council adjourned.

Eight days later the Council met to deal with urgent matters. The executive was finalized, and for the first time in five years there was a woman member. One of President MacKenzie's goals was reached when Council agreed to co-sponsor the Student Handbook and to make up any deficit. This took a growing burden off the YMCA's shoulders. Finally, Council expressed its concern about the lack of control over expenditures. It then proceeded to sink out of sight once again, still leaving routine business to the executive.

The last meeting of the 1921-22 Council saw many reports made, GAZETTE appointments made. The Council confirmed a referendum which had approved a fee increase to \$7.00 from the original \$5.00 established in 1912. The major project of the summer of 1922 was improvement of Studley Field and installation of the bleachers there. It was expected that rental income and the new Students' Council fee revenue would be enough to repay the cost.

The 1922-23 Council had its first meeting in mid-October. It tried to continue improvement of financial control and began allotting the year's money. Despite the fee increase it was not possible for the Council's money to meet all of the needs.

Administration of Dalhousie seems to have been no better 50 years ago. The small women's residence, Marlboro Hall, was closed before Shirreff Hall was finished and ready to house students. As the new temporary gymnasium became a popular social and

meeting area, Council's role in assigning times for dances and meetings became that of recommending matters to Senate. Several groups had to rent private auditoriums because of the university's restrictive policy on use of the gym. Criticism eventually led to more flexible rules and more direct Students' Council control.

The Council, in the fall of 1922, resumed its old practice of weekly meetings. On November 14 it quickly gave a positive response to a Red Cross attempt to become established on campus for the first time. There was concern that extra football costs were going to be incurred before the amount originally allotted was increased.

Dalhousie students were once again aroused when in early November it was decided to enforce a new requirement for one hundred percent attendance in all Arts classes. A mass meeting of students was called by the Arts and Science Students' Society. Two hundred and fifty students crowded into the Council's room in the Forrest Building. Student representatives spoke and it was decided to protest the new rule, then see if anything happened.

In late November GAZETTE called for Dalhousie students to consider an idea being adopted elsewhere - a yearbook for the graduates. GAZETTE's graduation number was the only souvenir of the year that they were receiving. GAZETTE also congratulated the Arts and Science students on the fast cancellation of the new attendance rule, which had been achieved in an orderly manner. Too late, it pointed out that the rule had perhaps been invalid all along.

Senate was continually asking the Council to investigate damage or abusive behavior that had been attributed to students. The Council usually found no cause for action or started an investigation which never reported back. Quick punishment may have been the Senate's idea of Council assuming its obligations. Also, Council refused to sign a contract for payment of the upkeep of Studley Field which the Board of Governors had submitted. They wished to

know more about the costs.

A comparison of Arts and Science enrollment in the Maritimes revealed that Dalhousie led the pack, followed by Acadia, Mount Allison, St. Francis Xavier, U.N.B. and King's. Dalhousie was involved in the beginnings of national student organization. A Christmas conference in Toronto was to discuss the proposed International Scholarship Plan, among other items. The Council reaffirmed in December its tough bargaining position on Studley Field finances.

The Council was running into problems with the House Committee of University Hall (a residence). The House committee recommended that Students' Council fine two students fifty dollars each. The Council asked for more information, the House Committee renewed its request. The Council then approved the fines, but delayed informing the House Committee until there was second thought about the approval. Eventually, after more than a month, Council gave final approval.

A January 1923 incident reveals a soon-forgotten aspect of private funding of universities. The Dalhousie Senate expelled 16 students, in a surprise move, as idlers, drones and social climbers. A GAZETTE comment pointed out that limited endowment and tuition revenue meant that all who wished to could not attend North American universities. There were not enough facilities. To be fair, the universities had to cut out deadwood. Dalhousie students apparently agreed, but the commentator urged all to ensure that slow starters were not weeded out with the drones.

As the Glee Club changed executive that February it ran into poor relations with the Council. Several bills had not been cleared through the finance committee. The finance committee began to investigate. The Club made four requests of the Council, three of which were delayed and the fourth was refused. Council then declared that no club secretary should be paid, in response to a Dalhousie Amateur Athletic Club request.

## ABORTION TRIAL

OTTAWA (CUP)—The Supreme Court of Canada has reserved its decision on whether or not to allow Montreal doctor Henry Morgentaler to appeal his conviction on abortion charges made by the Quebec Court of Appeals.

The reserve means that the court will deliver its decision at a future date,

which could be months away. It can decide one of three ways: to uphold the Court of Appeals' decision, to overturn or to order a new trial. Indications are that a new trial may be ordered.

Members of the court expressed some doubts about an appeal court substituting its verdict for

that of a jury, as had the Quebec Court of Appeals.

The court also seemed of the opinion that only a jury should decide whether the abortion performed by Morgentaler was necessary and therefore not an illegal act.

The Crown's lawyer, Louis-Guy Robichaud, argues that Morgentaler made no effort to come within the 1969 abortion laws when he performed the abortion in August 1973.

Robichaud says the doctor made no attempt to have the girl brought before a therapeutic abortion committee established in Montreal as called for by law.

Section 45 states that everyone is protected from criminal responsibility for performing a surgical operation upon any person for the benefit of that person "if the operation is performed with skill and care and it is reasonable to perform the operation and having

regard to all the circumstances of the case."

If that were a valid defence against abortion charges, everyone, not just medical doctors, could perform abortions, Robichaud said.

Earlier the court had ruled that the defence of the abortion laws being unconstitutional was not valid leaving Morgentaler with only Section 45 of the Criminal code to use as a defence.



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