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The Gazette has the last word on The Dalhousie Gazette

It does seem impossible that a full year has passed since writer with much ambition, many plans, and limited experience fought for the position of Editor of the Dalhousie Gazette. Since no Gazette's were published after the uproar in the applications meeting in the Spring of 1963 the story never reached the student body. At the initial meeting of the council another man, since departed from Dalhousie, was chosen as Editor. Due to some irregularities in the procedure and the absence of this candidate from this meeting due to a broken promise, the council decided to review its original decision. At the second meeting the idea of co-editorship was debated and discarded and this writer became your editor on the second vote for the position.

During the year that followed the Dalhousie Gazette has been printed for your perusal twenty times. Our budget amounts to approximately \$10,000, no graft

included and our advertising revenue usually runs between \$3500-\$4500, that means that each student pays approximately fifteen cents a week for the paper. This makes the Gazette rather an expensive item as newspapers go; however if the time and efforts of the staff could be measured in dollars, you, the student are getting an excellent return for your money.

This brings us to the point that all college editors reach in their final editorial, a summation of the activities of the paper for the year from the staff point of view.

A newspaper staff lives on bare exposed hill that is slightly above its reading public but certainly not out of their range. Indeed we are bombarded verbally and in print after every issue that hits the stands; buffeted often by the winds of criticism that are cold and biting and very seldom warmed by the soft breeze of praise.

During the past year we have

seldom warranted praise and indeed have invited critical attacks through faulty reporting and poor newspaper technique in some cases. However we still think that we have provided a service for the students of this campus.

I fear then unless I take this opportunity to point out to the readers of this paper the tremendous efforts of my editorial staff, their work will have gone by unnoticed and unheralded. I have been extremely critical of my staffs' work this year and I welcome this chance to stress the good points in their work. To use an old time-worn expression they really deserve what credit that is due this year for the Gazette, and possibly a little of the criticism that we have gracefully accepted from our readership during the year. Please glance at the masthead, slightly enlarged this week, and see who has been carrying the enormous burden of producing a paper once a week for twenty weeks.

On The Athletic Year

This will be the first time this year that the editorial page has contained any lengthy comment on the athletic scene, however sports have received good coverage again this season due to the fine efforts of Paul Farley and Bill Owen. The ex-sports editor in this writer, however cannot help but burst forth on occasion.

In the four years that I have attended this university we have been subject to continual humiliation in two major varsity sports, basketball and football. We the students along with the amateur teams we have fielded have suffered disaster on disaster and have been unable to hold up our heads when we talk of athletics.

Changes come slowly, and our ascent to the winner's circle will take longer than our sharp decline to the bottom. The seed has been planted, however, and the athletic department has the staff to nature this seed to its bloom. This year both the var-

sity football and varsity basketball teams won intercollegiate games for the first time in recent centuries. Both were remarkable achievements due mainly to the new enthusiasm for the game that Coaches Rutigliano and Yarr instilled in their football and basketball squads.

Prospects in basketball are particularly bright since Coach Yarr has scoured Nova Scotia for native talent and this ex-player from Acadia could very well give us old Coach Mr. Aberdeen some sleepless nights next season. The talk we hear around the league is that we have got ourselves one of the better coaches in the area. The fans have certainly showed renewed interest in the sport, proving that all we really want is a chance to win and we'll turn out to cheer for the black and gold.

A word about our erstwhile breadwinner, the lone bright spot on our major athletic scene over the past few years, the Dal hockey team. They have won no

championships but the fans turn out to watch us take our chances and they know there will be no humiliation.

The team failed to click this year, with injuries and lack of desire playing a part in the average season record. With another 12 goals scored at right time we could have been intercollegiate champs, but that is a rather big maybe. We feel it is time that the hockey team receive the services of a full-time coach, only with full time effort on the part of both the athletes and the coach can we become champions.

In the world of sport there a group of individuals whose names do not appear on programs or in scoring summaries. Yet their contributions are invaluable to the game, these are the team managers and equipment personnel. They deserve a special vote of thanks for their behind the scenes work.

THE WOODEN HORSE

by FEC

Stock-taking is a year-end ritual whereby, through myopic eyes, but I hope with reasonable accuracy, we look back over the recent past and, with the advantage of hindsight, weigh our accomplishments against our aspirations. Forgive me if this sounds somewhat sanctimonious — but this is my last column for the Gazette, and I hope a little mild pomposity will not offend too many.

The most significant event of the past year is the change of Administration and the installation of an ambitious President of proven ability. So far, Dr. Hicks has been primarily occupied with fund-raising. But there is reasonable hope for some significant changes in the near future. A few weeks ago, I indicated those areas where I thought change would be useful; and so I shall not retravel already well-trodden ground. I only hope that the change of Presidents will not be a mere change of form.

The Council of the Students was mildly disappointing, Mr. Cooper was a top-notch President, and a handful of individual representatives did excellent jobs. But it seemed that Mr. Cooper was working with a large group that could not match the administrative talents of the four or five students who, together with Miss Robb, were the effective administrators of student affairs. The result was an innocuously average year.

The Dalhousie Gazette had an eventful year, with most items of interest ranging far beyond the scope of journalism. The main problem has been a shortage of staff — both at the editorial and reporter level. The appearance in the most recent issue of a piece of libelous trash from the toxic pen of Mr. Donald Brazier prompted suspicion that the features editor was merely trying to fill space. Earlier this term, Mr. Levitz, an editor beset with enough problems by one standard, was senselessly attacked by the Council of the Students — the unfolding events provided an interesting diversion, but the smoke cleared quickly. Until the Gazette builds up a large staff of competent writers, we cannot hope to match the extensiveness of the McGill Daily, the glamour of the Ubysey, or the outright excellence of the Toronto Varsity.

The Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society did a very poor job. Producing one musical comedy per year is not enough, regardless of the commercial results. DGDS should aspire to somewhat loftier goals.

The record of our athletic teams was, once again, ludicrous. But there is a bright spot here, if only by Dalhousie standards. For at last an attempt is being made at coherent organization; we have competent coaches; and there is reasonable hope for an increase in staff. Regardless of personalities, this in itself is a profound improvement.

But so far, I have not even mentioned our greatest problem — a problem that will be solved neither by more ambitious Administrations, nor by more active Councils, nor by better Gazettes, nor by more successful athletic teams. I refer to the lack of creativity among the students. For few things are ever done on this campus that transcend the bounds of the established institutions. The Gazette comes out because — well, because it always has. DGDS produces a musical comedy because — well, it just does, that's all. The dictum "There is nothing new under the sun" is sadly descriptive of Dalhousie. In short, our student body is unimaginative. There seems to be a reluctance to try things that are not already being done. But I have walked this path before.

And so, Dalhousians, let us take the tiger by the tail. Et cetera. So long. It's been damn good fun.

On Cooper's Council

George Cooper, this year's Council President had a rather poor council to work with, more than one member turned out to be silent partners in the council's activities, and some of the vocal members of the council did little to back up their fine silver tongues. However, the council did administer the year's activities without any major disaster, they even managed some cross-country publicity for one motion they passed. Financially we are still solvent so they managed our money passably. Probably, the one single criticism of council that stands out is their lack of pre-meeting preparation. Frequently meetings dragged needlessly simply because some members who were not prepared to discuss agenda items, clogged the air with silly questions. Possibly the same assessment of the Gazette would fit the council, above average but not by very much.

A few members stood to the forefront of the councils' act.

Dear Sir;

I agree with Sen. Gold . . . I mean, Mr. Brazier. Anyone who advocates peace and abhors the nuclear destruction of mankind (see last issue's "National Security") is obviously a communist and must be investigated. Who else but a dirty Red wants, excuse the expression, peace? Every college dorm and classroom in Canada should have at least one RCMP informer. And if this causes an overcrowding of classrooms, students will have to be eliminated to make room. The ultimate, of course, would be universities composed entirely of RCMP and no free thinkers.

Yours truly,
Barry Quisling.