

# THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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## Delegates—

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ent from twenty-two member universities, with observers from several more.

"It is good to see", said Peter Martin, the retiring president of the Federation, "that at last student councils have realized that it is they, and not the NFCUS committees, that should be represented here."

The major efforts of the national union will be directed toward obtaining more scholarship aid for students. This year the campaign will include industry as well as government.

Internationally, King's College has been mandated to try to arrange a tour of the West Indies for Canadian students. The project, tentatively scheduled for next summer, arose from the invitation of P. J. Patterson of the University College of the West Indies, an observer at the conference.

A change in voting and fee structure has also gone into effect, after heated debate in the commission sessions. Larger universities will receive votes on a more equitable level in the plenary sessions of future conferences, while fees will take a slight drop as university enrollment figures go up. Dalhousie will likely receive three votes next year, while the fees will be a few dollars less. The University of Toronto, Canada's largest, will have five votes and an average fee of about 40 cents per student, instead of one vote and 50 cents as last year.

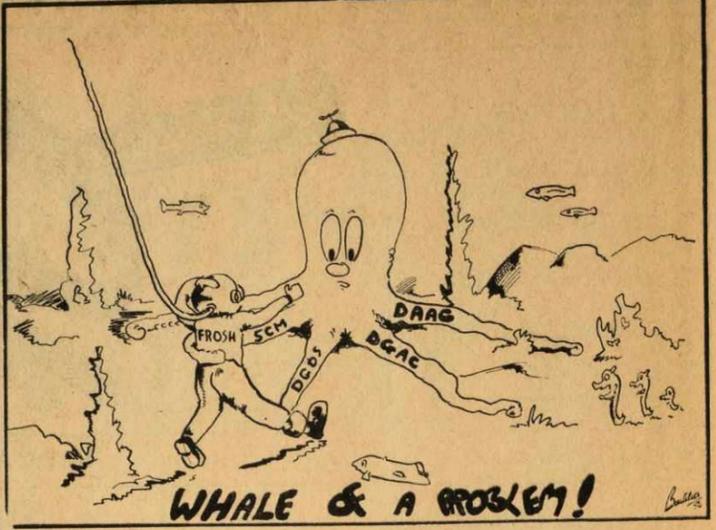
The Georgian Trophy, for outstanding contribution to the National Federation, was awarded to the University of Saskatchewan. Last year the trophy was held by Dalhousie. Saskatchewan also copped the Corpucule Cup from Mount A., and achieves the reputation of being the bloodiest campus in Canada. The Cup is presented annually to the winner of the inter-university blood drive for the Red Cross.

A symposium discussion, an innovation at this year's conference, proved most successful. The topic was "The Role of French Canada in Canada's Future" and the principal guest speaker was Prof. Mason Wade of the University of Rochester. The seminar resulted in plans for two days of such discussions, satisfying the request of almost all delegates, at next year's conference. Next fall's meeting will likely be held at Laval University in Quebec City.

The Dalhousie committee accepted a mandate to review and revise the constitution and by-laws, and legislation of the Federation. The conference felt a need for modern legislative form and language to establish clarity, and Dal's lawyers offered to do the job.

Delegates to the conference felt that in the past the Federation had spread its efforts too widely and accomplished too little. To solve this problem, much of the work previously done by the national executive and office was mandated to individual universities. For example, the art, short story, photography and Corpucule Cup competitions will all be run by local committees. The national office will concentrate on the scholarship campaign, which it expects to enlarge this year, a plan to establish an endowment fund for the

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Lost Underwater? Call for Jane Russell

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Office of the Mayor  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.  
12th October, 1956.

The Editor  
Dalhousie Gazette  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.  
Dear Sir:

I have read your editorial on Mr. Gilchrist's letter, and your idle wail of frustration what you can do about it. Should you see me, as Mayor, armed with placards "Don't bother, Mr. Editor. I can't help you with the barber on Buckingham Stret, nor with the hotels or apartments that denied shelter to Mr. Gilchrist and friend.

What I can do is urge upon you there's room for constructive thinking and action that can be taken, that if there were, for example, some coloured men or women serving the thousands of customers who use our leading department stores or have business with our leading newspapers, the basis of this prejudice might tend to disappear, for it is lack of familiarity that leads the barber to this kind of thinking. And you might well challenge me why we haven't any coloured men or women in City Hall or on the Police or Fire Department.

Examine too, Mr. Editor, along with the proud array of persons listed on your editorial staff, the mote in your own university eye. Would it be a cruel joke if I were to suggest that Mr. Gil-

christ and friend might be very comfortably put up in one of your many fraternity houses?

The trials of the negro are not unknown to me. We have more coloured people in Nova Scotia than the other Provinces of Canada put together. Except for a few handfuls, the men reach their employment peak if they become porters, the women as domestics. That situation is changing, but not very fast.

The City gives a good grant to your University, and you play an important role in our City's affairs.

I'm interested in you, and in the problem that hit you so brutally. I'm leaving town tomorrow, but I welcome an interview with you on my return. I hope you mean business.

Yours very truly,  
L. A. KITZ, LL.B. '38  
Mayor.

The editorial to which the mayor refers, entitled "This Couldn't Happen Here," was not aimed at the City as such, but at all people who practice racial discrimination, whether in or out of our university. The particular case prompted comment on the situation existing in the city. The editorial also received public attention over Radio Station CJCH. The meeting with the mayor will be arranged as soon as possible; perhaps, if enough responsible persons are interested, some action will be taken, and our wail may no longer be either idle or one of frustration.—EDITOR.

## A National Paper— At Last!

During the past week, students at most universities in Canada received copies of "Canadian University Post." There have been criticisms of it from many quarters, some of them justified, some of them good, and some of them bad.

Also during the past week, we received a letter from the "McGill Daily" telling us why that paper will not support the "Post," and calling it "a real threat to the existence of every college newspaper." The letter explains that the "Daily" fears it will lose all its advertising to the national paper and will be unable to expand or perhaps, to publish, in the future.

We are in favour of "The Canadian University Post." Perhaps we are a bit sorry that a commercial firm has undertaken the publication of this paper when it should have been done by the students themselves, but it fills a long-felt need of Canadian collegians.

There is an organization in Canada supremely qualified to publish such a national newspaper at the student level. It is the Canadian University Press. It has often been urged to undertake a national paper, but has never produced anything along those lines. The National Federation of Canadian University Students, perhaps tired of the attitude of CUP, was planning this summer to publish a trial issue of a national tabloid, long overdue. When it learned of the "Post," NFCUS abandoned its plans in favor of the more definite publication.

The McGill objection may have some truth in it, but their conclusion is unfounded. Local advertisers will always remain with the local papers, and national advertisers will realize the necessity of covering the market among students, whose main interest lies in local university events.

"The Canadian University Post" fills a need that has existed for too many years on Canadian campuses. We may never agree with what it says; it may prove a danger to our revenue; it may fail; but we wish it every success.

## Student Government Wakes Up

This is about NFCUS—a new NFCUS. Perhaps you, like many students across the country, thought that there was no change possible in the National Federation of Canadian University Students. But there is something new in the organization, something that puts it on the brink of doing great things.

The 20th annual conference of the Federation, held last week, was perhaps the best in its history. The reason was obvious. Nearly every member university was represented by the president of its student council. Student government in Canada seems at last to have realized the fact that it forms the National Federation; and that without the active participation of local student councils the Federation will continue to be as weak and ineffective as it has been in the past.

The Federation is not a separate entity, something apart from the student government on each campus. It is a parliament and civil service combined, where views can be expressed and programs of action carried out. Once the students of Canada realize this, and their leaders appear to be aware of it now, the Federation can become what its name says it is.

A spirit of intelligence and good will prevailed at the conference. Council presidents from Toronto, from UBC, from Dalhousie and from most universities had their ideas on what was wrong, but most important, they all realized what was right, and how necessary the Federation really is. There was a new enthusiasm at the end of the meetings.

This new attitude is due to many factors, but if any one person can be singled out for the part he played in building it, he is Peter Martin. No tribute to his work can be better phrased than the standing ovation he received from the delegates as he retired from the presidency. We echo it here.

For the first time, the conference passed statements of policy. This is, perhaps, a symbol of its adulthood. The subjects are not unimportant (they are higher education, colonialism, bilingualism, and racial discrimination in the educational community) but the most significant fact is that the student leaders of Canada took time from their worries over details to discuss matters of other than practical urgency.

The National Federation is solid in its own house at last. There are new members joining. There is a new spirit of co-operation, coupled with a realization of the necessity for such a national organization. The new president, Gabriel Gagnon, has taken over at a moment of great promise. We wish him success and pledge him our support, in fulfilling it.





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