

'Local Boy' system at Dal

by D. Moulton

There exists here at Dal a state of paranoia - not with the eighteen year old freshman trying to get a wet stamp, or concerning forgotten tests, overdue books ... no, this fear lies in the men who reign over us. Yes, professors at Dal-housie are afraid, especially junior professors.

One professor who wishes to remain anonymous spoke openly to the Gazette about this growing problem. Working in a department (again, anonymous) that has a history ranging from squabbles to wars, he has seen the "old boy", "local boy" system in practice. Ironically, this professor accepted a teaching position here so he

could get away from the restrictiveness found in larger centres. However, the pressure on him now has intensified. The greatest manifestation of this pressure on him now has intensified. The greatest manifestation of this pressure concerns publishing. A great deal of importance is placed on what and how often one publishes. When a professor has published not only does his prestige increase but so does his bargaining powers within the faculty.

Our anonymous professor teaches within a power structure resembling an oligarchy. The senior members of this system are mediocre - content in tenure security. They don't

want any hassies. The younger professors hoping for tenure are immobilized - too scared to speak because they would jeopardize their tender, expendable positions. These factors have allowed those at the top of this structure to make the most of their positions and by further enforcing the power they have, the senior members become more mediocre and the young staff more insecure. The professor in question has had a contract renewal but it is doubtful whether he will return. His dissatisfaction with Dal stems from his department and the methods employed therein.

A relatively trouble-free department is the History

department here at Dal, and I was able to talk to first-year Professor O'Brien. He too has heard rumors of the "old boy" system but has not been exposed to it. The faculty members within his department he finds "reasonable and co-operative". Already having a Ph.D., the thrust to publishing has not been given lip service but it has been implied. He feels that faculty bargaining power is rather weak and members very docile about accepting terms. He believes "the fear factor to occur only if there is a split in the department", which fortunately does not exist in his. As Professor O'Brien says, "When there is no dissension, power appears as popular will", and he

may be correct. However, dissension does occur in many departments, and we as a vital part of this university are never informed of it. Professors such as the anonymous one must remain so discontent with the structure, aware of its control, and helpless to benefit even themselves. Yes, there is nepotism at Dal, coupled with abundant fear. These factors cripple any advances which could aid a department, thus the university. They serve only to frustrate members and help create a stagnating pool of indifferent faculties. And until someone surfaces with a name, this disease will continue to spread.

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Intro Dal gets off to a Good Start

by Mike Greenfield

Intro Dal got off to a good start on Friday, February 21, if somewhat low key. About fifty people gathered in the lobby of the SUB to hear speeches and break the ground on what is becoming a rewarding tradition here at Dal.

Sandy Welsh opened the ceremonies by outlining the goals and many facets of this year's Intro Dal. The theme Community was stressed and some of the exciting activities planned for the weekend were mentioned. But perhaps the most interesting aspect

of the evening was the speech that Henry Hicks gave as an introduction to the main speaker, Robert Stanfield. Hicks, as you may recall ran for Premier back in 1956. Opposing him was none other than Bob Stanfield. Henry Hicks lost, and the rest is history. Yet, the old war was in the air again, as President Hicks spoke of the time when Stanfield was Education Minister. "I can say some nice things about Robert Stanfield", he stated. He spoke of the good work that Stanfield had done while

Minister of Education in Nova Scotia, how he increased the amount of government aid to schools, not forgetting to mention of course that he was Minister of Education when the economy was prospering with plenty of money around for things like education. It was a very interesting introduction speech, of course Henry Hicks in his usual manner was a very smooth and an excellent speaker.

Then Robert Stanfield spoke. Despite his renowned speaking manner, his speech was interesting enough to keep one awake. He spoke of the importance of a university education. How going to Dal broadened his scope and was a truly rewarding

experience; how the community should not look on an education in terms of cash, but in terms of the intrinsic value of education.

But enough of speeches, the real highlight of the evening was the free booze. Yes, Intro Dal certainly got off to a good start.



NUS Battles for Representation

by Roger Metcalf

The National Union of Students is currently battling for student representation on the councils and committees that make the crucial decisions affecting student aid and university financing.

Traditionally the Council of Education Ministers, a federal/provincial organization, does not permit non-governmental groups to participate in education decision-making. If there is to be any participation it must be at the provincial level, according to this policy.

NUS has requested student representation on the Council and on various sub-groups such as the Student Loans Plenary and the task force on student aid. These attempts have been supported by the Atlantic Federation of Students and the Ontario Federation of Students.

Despite the support from the national and regional organizations, and from many individual student governments, the governments have so far resisted efforts to establish student representation.

It is reported that the task force on student aid expressed its support for representation, but said that its hands were tied by the Education minister. On February 13 Hilda Creswick of the National Union had attempted to discuss the question with the task force, but she got no farther than a preliminary discussion with its Co-Chairman.

It appears that while officials at the federal/provincial level will talk

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