

# The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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## LETTERS

### Horror?

Sir,  
 I would like to congratulate the Commerce Club for the efforts to provide better entertainment for Dalhousie students I refer, of course to the series of films that are being shown weekly on Friday evenings. To this date the three films shown have provided excellent entertainment and the high standard will be maintained in the future, providing sufficient support is forthcoming.

It seems strange that these films are not better attended, since they provide a satisfactory filler for the time on Fridays before the evening dances. It may be, of course, that students are unaware of the films, or perhaps it is too difficult for them to drag themselves away from the high class entertainment provided by the CBC over the local television networks.

Another reason to be considered, perhaps, is that the type of film shown, British comedy, may be above the level of comprehension of

the greater student population. Possibly if such minor masterpieces as "The Crawling Eye" or "The Mummy Rides Again" were to be shown we might see "Full House" signs exhibited outside Room 21 on Friday evenings.

Yours truly,  
 Wilf Harrison

### Dances, Goons and Us

Sir,  
 Having read your front page article blaming the Students' Council for the Friday night farces that occur in gym, I feel it is time that someone set you and your reporters straight as to Council's ideas concerning these dances.

First of all it is not the Council's desire that they should interfere with the running of the various societies on the campus. After all they are supposedly run by students who



are leaders in themselves, or if they are not then the blame lies with the various students who are members or are associated with these organizations who have failed to see that capable students are in charge of the various societies and clubs at Dalhousie.

For the first time in my four years at Dalhousie the dances at the Gym have turned into "record hops" and with the advent of these a new population has decided to move in on the Gym and are unhampered by those in charge of the dances. This can only be the result of one motive and that is to make money. Yes! The various societies at Dal have turned into Business organizations to make money. They have incorporated the usual records to supplant orchestras. This was the craze in high school so why not college? As a result students are not interested in listening to a loud speaker blare the same music they have heard on the radio all week. They would just as soon stay at home or go to a show and I for one don't blame them.

If the writer of that article had checked with the minutes of the Student Council meeting of Nov. 17, 1959 he would have seen that this matter was discussed. It is obvious that proper control over dances is not being adhered to. The Council does not want to be a police force telling each society what it can and can't do and who it is to allow to dances. After all this is supposedly a democracy where the majority rules. It is up to the various students who belong to societies and clubs to change the tone of their dances. What is the matter at Dalhousie, are you all afraid to voice your feelings at your societies meeting or are you quite content to abide by the decision of your executive whom you have elected? It seems you are quite willing to say "let George do it" and then sit back and criticize what has been done when perhaps you could have presented it beforehand, or taken an active part yourself.

As I have said before those sponsoring dances have failed to present a theme, decorate or publicize their dance and as a result Dal students don't want to attend a dance where there is nothing to attract them.

Yes, Mr. Editor, I feel you have directed your remarks to the wrong group. It is the students themselves that you should have awakened. Tell them to get after their various organizations to bring back the dances where there was a theme, decorations, publicity and mainly an orchestra and supervision. Then you will see Dal students return to the gym and outsiders will be frozen out.

—Wally Turnbull,  
 Vice-Pres. Students' Council

**Editor:** Mr. Turnbull's argument for the student responsibility for the calibre of these dances has much merit. The fact is, however, that most students, although wanting the dance situation improved, have shown that they are not prepared to devote the time nor energy to dissuade the executives of the organizations from simply making money. The Students' Council is the only practical agency in a position to do something about the dance problem. Surely the main job of the Council is to hear and act on student problems, whether this must involve "police action" or lesser restrictive measures; passing the buck or disclaiming responsibility gets nothing done. We recommend an order stipulating that one of a couple or a single person must have a NFCUS card or a Nurse's card. We can assure Mr. Turnbull that such "police" action will have the support of the majority of students.

## The 'Beat' Warning

People are categorized in many ways, but one of the most topical divisions of the present time seems to be that of "beat" and "non-beat", the latter class voicing particular contempt of the former. "Beats are clueless clucks, escapists, slackers, psychotics, dope addicts, lazy bums, parasites, pseudo intellectuals and whatever other derogatory descriptions we can think up," say the non-beats, taking great satisfaction in the sense of superiority that comes from criticizing, with safety, fellow human beings.

But, we wonder, do the beats deserve no respect, no credit for ideas or ideals? Have they nothing to command in their favour, and isn't all this lampooning going a little too far? Don't their motives merit some attention before condemnation? Is there not something more fundamental in their life and beliefs than unusual clothes, untended beards, dirty bodies, orgies, dope addiction and "way out" jazz?

And after wondering, we come to the conclusion that the -beats are not just the victims of a pervading fad or exhibitionism. They are, rather, a social phenomenon arising from social conditions, and as such, their fears and criticisms of that which gave them origin are not to be lightly tossed aside.

They are, on the average, from 18 to 25. So let's look at the world that produced them. They were born in the mid-thirties, and by the time their environment began to have an effect in the moulding of their characters, there was a war on. When the war finished, there wasn't the relief of the 1920's with its conviction that peace was here for good. There was only, "I hope the next one won't come too soon." And there was the atomic bomb—and fear; Russian communism—and fear; big-city loneliness—and fear; thirst, as never before, for security—and fear; a popular rejection, through psychiatry, of religion—and fear; a tendency to lose, via psychological research, values of right and wrong—and fear. There was, in brief, no real faith, nothing solid to believe, and, in a mass society, no room for self-expression. And so now we have beats, people who feel they have a fight on their hands, but whose minds, finding no faith or moral standards, can't tell them exactly what that fight is and at the time won't allow them to join the rest of us.

We are not advising people to go beat, nor do we advocate taking dope, wearing queer clothes or losing oneself in promiscuity. The methods of the beat generation are most certainly childish, immature and even debasing. But they are not totally ineffective. They are making people talk, at least, and perhaps

making them think, a little. The beatnik hasn't got the answer to the big question of real values and the everlasting whys and hows; but he is trying, and he is achieving something for himself and his own group, perhaps even for us all.

We are not going into beat philosophy here, although there is one. It does not presume that it has the cures. And we are not saying that as a philosophy it is healthy. We are saying that it is asking astute and pertinent questions. Its warning deserves our consideration.

## Engineers

### A Breed Apart

Our collective hats are off to Dalhousie's stalwart and spirited Engineering Society for its recapture of the Tiger last week.

In fact, it almost went without saying that the same energetic group to design and build the mascot would be the one to stage the successful guerrilla raid that recovered the animal intact. Dalhousie Engineers, active but unsung, are indeed a breed apart on this campus.

Within the last two years, nearly every stunt that has been staged to promote college spirit and to attract outside interest in Dalhousie has been an Engineer's brainchild. The effigies burned at "X" football games, most of the membership of the band, the lives and death of our Tiger, and most Varsity sports spirit, to mention only a few.

We feel most of the other faculty societies would do well to follow the Engineer's example.

It is true that the Engineer's as a group have their faults. They are clannish; rub an Engineer the way and a horde of his kinsmen will probably descend upon you at the next glen. They are collectively apt to misconstrue and misunderstand the attitude of Studley students toward them, and generally exhibit an "everybody against us" attitude. But these things are understandable. Engineers take few subjects with Artsmen; they live and work in comparative isolation in the Shack. Geographically and politically, they are the Quebec of Dalhousie: nobody quite knows what student edicts they will accept or follow.

Nevertheless, the Engineers continue to lead in college spirit. They are strong, and independent, and militant; and these are qualities which are all too often lacking in university students.

To our Engineers, we say: keep up the good work. To other campus societies we would add: how about some competition?

### Kibitzer's Corner:

## Don't Ask Me Questions About Returning Exams, The President, or Pepsats

By BOB SCAMMELL

**DALHOUSIANA:** Since CUP news seems to have bogged down in the mid-January social season that plagues every campus, I will make use of suggestions given me by my four readers (not counting my Mother) from time to time.

I am told time and time again that what seems to be the Dalhousie policy in the Faculty of Arts and Science of not returning Christmas exams to those who passed or failed them, leaves much to be desired.

I agree; a small amount of research has led me to the conclusion that many Universities in Canada show their students the common courtesy of returning their papers—graded and commented upon—back to them.

Such a policy seems to have much merit, especially for the freshman for whom the most difficult task of learning would seem to be that of discovering just how a university exam should be written.

Of course the sage Profs can counter with: "Any of my students are welcome to arrange an interview in which I will go over his exam with him."

Such democracy! However, I understand it is easier to arrange an

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## IMPORTANT

There will be a student forum in the East Common Room of the Men's Residence on Thursday, January 28, at 12 noon

Agenda includes:

- (1) Greetings from Jacques Gerin, National President of NFCUS
- (2) Should "D's" be abolished?
- (3) "Friday night farces"
- (4) Income tax exemptions for university students: why not?
- (5) Munro Day Programme