

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1949

VICE OR VIRTUE?

Owing to complaints about excesses at other initiations the Dalhousie Senate Committee has decided that hazing should be curtailed this year in one or two respects.

Initiation, whether fraternal or campus, serves to eliminate inhibitions prompted by the strangeness of the surroundings and the cosmopolitan nature of college life. It was never intended for personal affront or a vent for spiteful impulses. Unfortunately, it has occasionally been used for both.

The Senate of the university has seen fit to limit this year's hazing to a level which it feels will still serve the purpose, yet maintain a decorum befitting an institution of higher learning. The ordinary hazing features of proper respect to upperclassmen, and the installation of a fraternal feeling for fellow-initiates are not impaired. But the sense of ridicule has been eliminated.

We do not support the stand taken last year by Acadia when all hazing was banned. We recognize hazing as an institution of college life. Within its proper limits, it is of inestimable value, and the university authorities are attempting to define those limits.

On the other hand, the elimination of the more ridiculous aspects of hazing, inspired by a desire for comedy, may now be replaced by more undesirable or even sadistic actions in private. No one can control the relations of upperclassmen and frosh off the campus or in residences, but the need for control is diminished when milder actions are permitted in the open.

LET'S GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT

By far the larger percentage of freshmen entering college view their new surroundings as a glorified high-school, a place to make new and larger acquaintances, or a means of continuing the carefree times of earlier years.

All too few come with the idea of immediately entering the many extra-curricular activities. Some feel they will lose their sense of self-importance, when they find themselves doing some small job under the guidance or leadership of someone more mature than themselves. Others take an even more apathetic stand. Their lack of interest in campus affairs is matched only by their own narrow view of college as a brain factory.

But student government and affairs can run without support no better than a class could run without students. Granted, a college is an institution of learning, but no one should limit their field of knowledge to academic subjects alone. Experience gained in the field of extra-curricular activity and friendships made there can be as valuable as many a college class.

In campus affairs generally, as well as in studies, frosh can expect to benefit only insofar as they give, and perhaps the ten percent of the student body who have previously run student affairs will show an appreciable increase in future years.

CAW - CAW - COFFEE

The Bookstore has finally become the Bookstore, much to our regret. We view with alarm the dictates of Efficiency and Progress which as forced upon us the recognition that a book is a book and not a coffee saucer. Plato and platitudes will no longer be spooned out with sugar and cream by weary juniors to weary sophomores. Muttering invectives the Right Honourable Members of the Ancient and Venerable Order of Afternoon Coffee at Roy's now scurry about, furtively seeking caffeine grounds in local drug dispensaries.

With them we, too, grieve, but resign ourselves to the Fates. Thank you, we'll have another cup.

Letters to the Editors

The Editors,
Dalhousie Gazette.

Re Pharos

Dear Sirs,

For the information of your readers the Students' Council is doing everything that can be done at the moment to hasten the production of Pharos. During the holidays the Council became aware of repeated delays in the production of the book, and consulted the printers and the Editor.

From the printers it was learned

that some of the material for the book and certain amount of editing was needed before it could be printed. The Council heard recently from the editor that reasons more or less beyond his control were responsible for the delays; he is completing the book now and copies should be available within the month.

The Council intends to supervise the remaining steps to insure the speediest possible publication of Pharos, and has constituted a Committee to inquire into the reasons for the delay at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Moreira

President

The Council or Students

Hazing Returns To McGill Campus After Four Years

Much milder, much simpler than earlier years, freshman hazing is back on the campus after a four-year post-war lapse.

Governed by a six-point set of rules known as the "Freshman Code of Etiquette," hazing will see freshmen, distinguished by buttons and pieces of green ribbon, pay their respects to upperclassmen by lighting their cigarettes, offering them seats, and "in general being respectful and courteous to them."

Hazing is being re-instituted on the campus "on an experimental basis," according to Boris Gerdavsky, assistant chairman of the Freshman Reception Committee. "The basis of the program is to single out freshmen so that they will not feel that they are being neglected," he said.

"In this way we will see to what extent we can make freshmen feel a part of the university," he said, noting that this is the first time in ten years that hazing has had the official backing of university authorities.

"Upperclassmen are not permitted to ask a freshmen to do anything outside the Code of Etiquette regulations," Gardavsky emphasized, "nor are they to enforce the regulations in any way themselves."

"Upperclassmen will, however, report the names of any freshmen found violating code regulations to the Freshman Reception Committee.

Code of Etiquette regulations follow:

1. Every freshman must write his or her name on the "freshie" button and wear it for the duration of freshman activities.

2. Freshmen must wear their green ribbons on the campus, for the men in place of their usual tie, and for the girls in their hair or around their necks.

3. Freshmen must light an upperclassmen's cigarette when asked.

4. Freshmen must pay respect to upperclassmen by: (a) Offering seats to them anywhere on campus grounds; (b) letting upperclassmen precede them in any queue, except in regard to official appointments; (c) giving way to upperclassmen on stairways and sidewalks; (d) in general, being respectful and courteous to all upperclassmen.

5. Freshmen must know all the McGill clubs and societies listed in the handbook and their functions.

6. Freshmen must know the McGill songs listed in the handbook.

Before the Council

The Council is considering ways and means of contributing to a rink, if the University decides to build one. Should a rink be built this year intercollegiate hockey will become possible.

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The Publicity Committee is currently working on a new setup for publicity which will include a service issuing releases to newspapers and radio stations about student affairs.

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The possibility of a concert at Dal featuring Murray Adaskin, well-known Canadian violinist, and Frances James, equally well-known soprano.

* * *

The probability of the students' agreement with King's College coming up for revision this year. Every third year the agreement is subject to revision at the request of either party and this is the third year.

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