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Photography: Dave Thomas, John Acker.
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The Canteen Problem

The biggest and most urgent problem on Dalhousie's Studley Campus is its canteen. Talked about, tolerated, but unchanged, it has remained essentially the same since 1941. Built at that time as a temporary unit by our armed forces, the Men's Residence which houses the canteen has become outmoded, except for partial renovation several years ago.

During the same time St. Francis Xavier has acquired good dining facilities, with student waiters, and a co-operative snack bar separate from the dining hall. Acadia has acquired a Student Union Building where hamburgers and snacks are served in a modern cafeteria. University of New Brunswick has a new Student Centre which includes a streamlined restaurant.

These universities are not in the United States. They are not in Western Canada. The comparison is with Maritime universities.

We should have these facilities. Dalhousie is the largest university in the Maritimes, yet our student dining facilities are inadequate. Service is inefficient.

What is needed? 1. Better food. At present the food is limited in variety; it is of questionable nutritional value; service is slow, sanitation debatable. To the food problem there is only one solution; quality and better variety.

2. Better service. There is much more to this than the average student's complaints. To the students in residence, after the canteen closes, there are great limitations. Service consists of one pop machine. They cannot get cigarettes; they cannot get coffee. There are suggestions for improved service. Some say adopt the student co-operative system; others feel that limited self-sacrifice is the answer. A larger counter area has also been suggested.

3. Better atmosphere. The present attitude of the students fits the present conditions. Why do they litter the canteen? Pushing through a crowd to return dishes to the counter doesn't help; pop bottles are left on the tables—the return on pop bottles is small and a nuisance. The room is barren; it does not seem to be a part of our university.

These highlight a few of the complaints which have been made, time and time again. They are student complaints, and a general improvement is sought in canteen standards. Not a temporary improvement, but a permanent one.

Are We Missing Something?

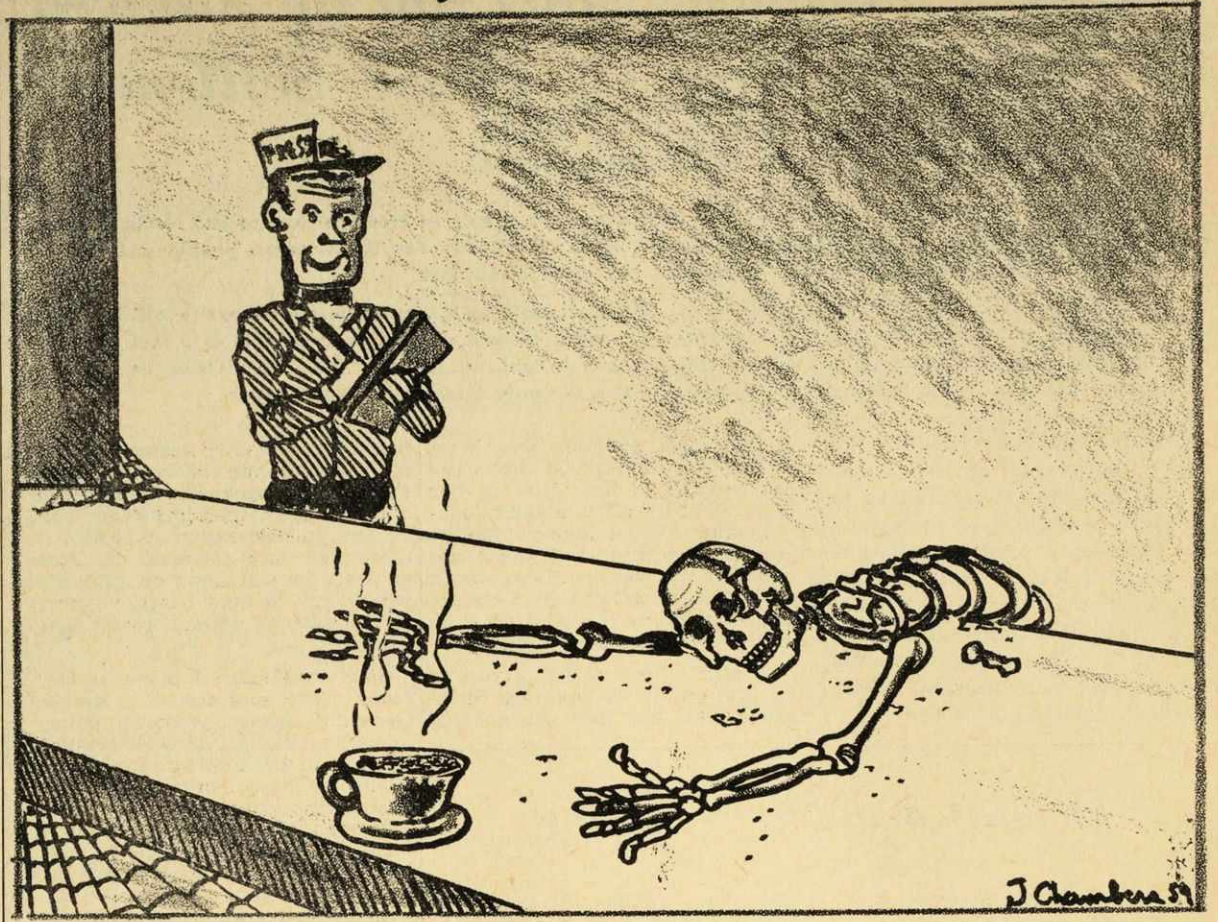
This month has brought with it invitations from three Maritime Universities to attend their winter carnivals. Dalhousie has sent teams to the one at UNB, some students will attend the one at Mount A, and on February 14, most Dalhousians and their teams will pile on the train headed for the Acadia Winter Carnival. Later this month Dal will also send debaters to the McGill Winter Carnival, and it is possible that others will be taking flight with them.

With so many Dalhousians participating in other Winter Carnivals and showing such interest are we not perhaps missing something? Why does Dal not have a Winter Carnival too? Should so much enthusiasm be lost to Dal and to the cause of apathy fighters on the campus?

The only two reasons against having a Winter Carnival that we have heard are: there is not enough snow in Halifax; and, we have Munro Day, which takes its place. To the first we answer that, if held in January, there would be a possibility that we would have snow and, if there were not enough we would have to improvise. As for Munro Day taking its place, we remind you that Munro Day is a day set aside in memory of the founders of Dal and should not be turned into a carnival.

We suggest to the Council then that it appoint a committee to look into the feasibility of having a winter carnival next year, to study the activities which take place at other universities during their carnivals, and to recommend to Council the means by which it should be financed.

What comment would you make about canteen efficiency sir?



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cheerleaders

Madam:

Let the student body decide! Dalhousie should at this point decide whether or not it wants to support a cheer leading squad.

Each year, a group of approximately ten are selected to encourage the apathetic Dal student body.

Have they failed in their efforts—and if so, why? Ten voices "crying in the wilderness" in the Dal Rink present a rather tragic spectacle. If Dal wants cheerleaders, Dal should cheer. However, if the majority want to strike a different pose—restrained and well-bred approval—then they should continue quietly clapping their gloved hands. If this type of spirit is to be introduced, then cheerleaders must be dispensed with.

Tech fans, without cheerleaders, whole heartedly and enthusiastically support their teams, and, whenever the occasion warrants, there are spontaneous cheers from the stands.

Does Dal want cheerleaders? A snide rejoinder might well be—"Yes, an able, enthusiastic and larger group of cheerleaders, who perform with flawless precision and cheer with a 'mighty cheer.'"

In a different atmosphere one might assemble such a group but without support, even they would fail.

It is obvious, now, that no matter how much time or money is spent in improving the cheerleading squad the situation will not be altered. It is up to you, the students of Dalhousie, and supposed supporters of its teams, to decide the fate of the cheerleaders.

TWO CHEERLEADERS.

Staff This Week

Reporters: Bobbie Wood, Sharon Blackburn, Denis Stairs, Mrs. Baker, Janet Allen, Margaret Doody, Diane Scott, Peter Green, Alroy Chow, Betty Archibald, Gregor Murray, Ruth Ann Irving, Alison Petrie, Jean Isabel Macdonald, Mike Kirby, Rod MacLennan, Mike Noble, Wally Turnbull, Joel Jacobson, Hugh Fraser.

Typists: Penelope Stanbury, Nancy Crease, Judy Lorway, Elinor Pushie, Elizabeth Fossen, Kelvin Matheson, Libby McKeen, Josephine Partington.

Editorial Comment

At a Council of Students' dinner given by the Chairman of the Board of Governors and the President of the University the question was raised: What has happened to the Law and Med songs and cheers? All Council members looked blank; they had never heard of them. Has the apathy on the campus become so widespread that the old historic songs and cheers of the two largest professional schools died out without notice of their passing? This seems unbelievable but true. Dr. Kerr has sent us copies of the two songs and we print them below in hopes that the two schools will learn them and come out singing at the top of their lungs next hockey and basketball games. A challenge as to which school can sing the louder would help speed the learning we feel. We suggest that a member of each executive be delegated to trace the yells as well. Let's have some spirit!

THE LAW

There's not a flaw, flaw, flaw,
 In the boys in Law, Law, Law,
 The students up at Dalhousie,
 There's not a flaw, flaw, flaw,
 In the boys in Law, Law, Law,
 That's the work for you and me.
 They smoke and chaw, chaw, chaw,
 Those boys in Law, Law, Law,
 And drink the very best cold tea.
 An LL.B. is the thing for me, to H-
 with the Medical's old M.D.
 Leave your girl and come along
 with me, to Law at Dalhousie.

THE MED

There was a Med, from Dalhousie,
 Zwilliwilliwick, bum, bum
 Who loved an awful mess to see,
 Zwilliwilliwick, bum, bum
 He's spend twelve hours a day or
 more,
 Zwilliwilliwick, juchheirassa, z
 Dissecting corpses steeped in gore,
 Zwilliwilliwick, bum, bum.

While two regional conferences are taking place this weekend in the Maritimes and while many others, both regional and national, have already taken place this year, it is time to stop and consider of what benefit they are. Dalhousie has sent hundreds of people to these conferences over the years and we ask: Is there any point? To this the only answer can be yes. Many Dalhousians spend a great deal of time participating in campus activities, often with very little idea of the aims of the national organization and they find themselves hampered by their local attitude. Regional conferences especially, because of the numbers that can attend, and national conferences broaden the outlook of the students attending and allow them to talk with people interested in similar activities, having similar problems and, most important, having found new ways of solving the problems. Delegates come back with new sights and goals in mind, with new vim and vigour, ready to tackle their jobs in a fresh new way. And from this the campus as a whole must surely benefit greatly.