

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER
Member Canadian University Press

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Liberty or Licence

The seed of mass hysteria and suspicion sown by McCarthy and his followers has not been long in taking root in the United States and many unpalatable products have already appeared, but now a far more dangerous one has reared its head—the loss by the universities of their traditional right of freedom of speech and her twin sister, freedom of intellectual thought.

The loyalty oath question at the University of California last spring was the first omen, but recently, when that issue seemed on the point of being settled satisfactorily, another appeared.

The long established custom at U. of C. of permitting those who wished to spout off politics to do so outside the two university gates was threatened with an abrupt conclusion this fall when a proposal was brought before the City Council that the use of sound trucks, loud speakers and public meetings be prohibited at certain points in the city, among them the two university gates. The reason ostensibly given was traffic obstruction but when the issue was finally clearly seen it at once became apparent that it was not to half traffic obstruction but for the obstruction of Communists.

At the same time at the Ohio State University another ruling gagging freedom of speech was passed by the Board of Governors. It follows an address to the student body by an eminent professor, but one often termed an "educational radical." The Board passed that all speakers must be cleared by the President before they could be invited to the university.

The outcome of the fight between the Board and the Faculty has not been decided but the only man barred so far has been a Quaker pacifist not a Communist.

In a period of national emergency, and everyone will agree that this is one, it is to be expected that the freedoms taken for granted in time of peace must be curtailed to some extent for the sake of national security. But how far for how long can we safely curtail these freedoms, particularly freedom of speech, which dangerous as it can be in time of peril if unchecked, is yet even more dangerous if checked altogether or even too much.

Yet this is what was demanded at these two American universities—a gagging of their freedom of speech to an unnecessary point. Universities have always been seekers after the truth but when they become forced to speak nothing but the truth of the Board of Governors, views palatable to them, then the most fundamental principle of a university is lost.

Universities are the bulwark of a nation's freedom for in them the leaders of tomorrow are forged; if the furnace is hot and the mold good, leaders of strength and principle emerge but if the furnace is allowed to cool and the mold crumbles at the edges as basic principles are allowed to be sacrificed for expediency's sake then the nation can only expect disaster.

Dalhousie And Its Meaning

It is fitting just now when the appearance of the Massey Report has stimulated wide-spread interest in the plight of Canadian universities that the Maritime Provinces in general, and the City of Halifax in particular, should reflect on the vast public service being rendered by Dalhousie University.

Dalhousie is a name of distinction in the field of international scholarship, and it is part of our proud boast in this North Atlantic region that this is Dalhousie's home. It is not only one of the great universities of Canada but one of our great national institutions, and its reputation is inseparably associated abroad with that of the Maritime Provinces.

On the purely material side Dalhousie is one of the most important assets to the City of Halifax. Its fine buildings are among our noblest architectural structures. Its ordinary budget places it among our chief economic enterprises. But, besides its ordinary expenditures, it contributes to the City's life from time to time by its new programs of development, such as the new construction on the campus that is even now creating considerable employment. Any attempt to appraise the purely physical value of Dalhousie would have to include many items, some at least of which are easily overlooked.

The National Research Council laboratory, which is situated on the campus of the University will have a large staff of scientists. Such research activities as have been mentioned, and a University with a fine scientific staff, mutually reinforce each other, and require the presence of each other for their continued vitality.

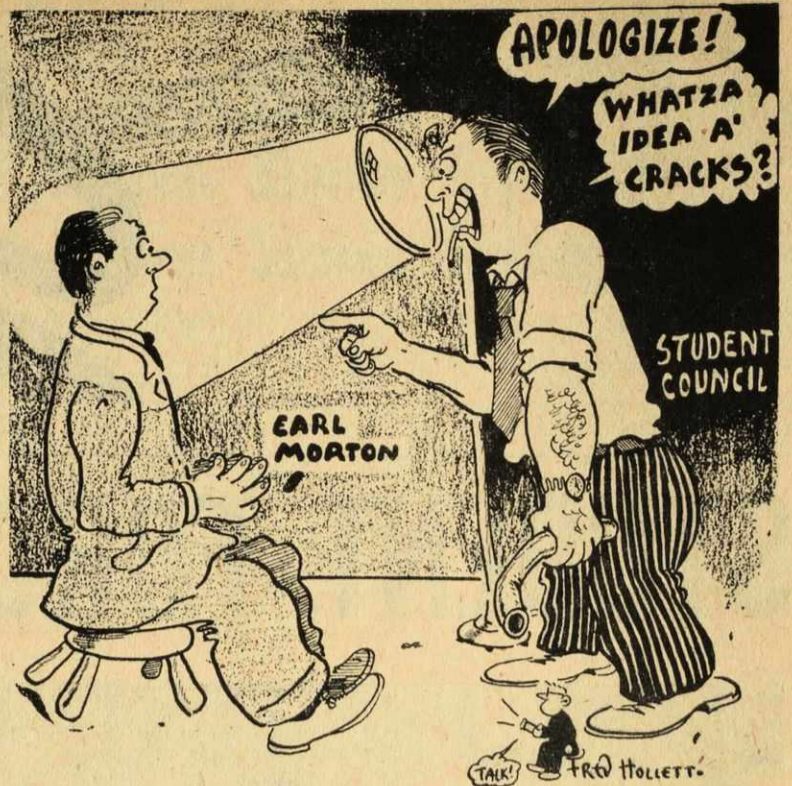
Incidental to the advances just mentioned, the organization of a Faculty of Graduate Studies in Dalhousie will enable the University to take advantage of all existing facilities, for the particular and immediate benefits of the youth of these Provinces and the ultimate benefit of everyone. Given sufficient support, the formation of this Faculty will help to correct the existing disparity between the number of students engaged in advanced studies in the Central Provinces and other parts of Canada on the one hand, and the Maritime Provinces on the other. The comparison does not show our Maritime Provinces in a creditable light.

Dalhousie's decision to maintain a Graduate Faculty marks a new development in Maritime education and merits whole-hearted support.

It seems proper, too, to call attention to the developments which have made Halifax a medical centre of outstanding importance. The Medical School, with its first class rating by the American Association of Medical Colleges, The Medical School not only makes available to the youth of the Maritime Provinces, the opportunities of thorough training for the Medical profession, but it helps to attract to and retain in Halifax, specialists of outstanding ability in every department of practice.

The generous gift made to the University some years ago by the late Hon. J. C. Tory has enabled the Medical School to embark on a program of research that represents a distinct forward movement in the field of medical investigation.

The Toronto "Saturday Night" in a recent issue, stated that the universities of Canada are being "beaten to their knees" by rising costs and singled out Dalhousie as one of the four outstanding universities most seriously affected. The program of the universities is created by the fact that if they charged students the actual cost of their courses, the fees would be prohibitive for all but the children of the rich.



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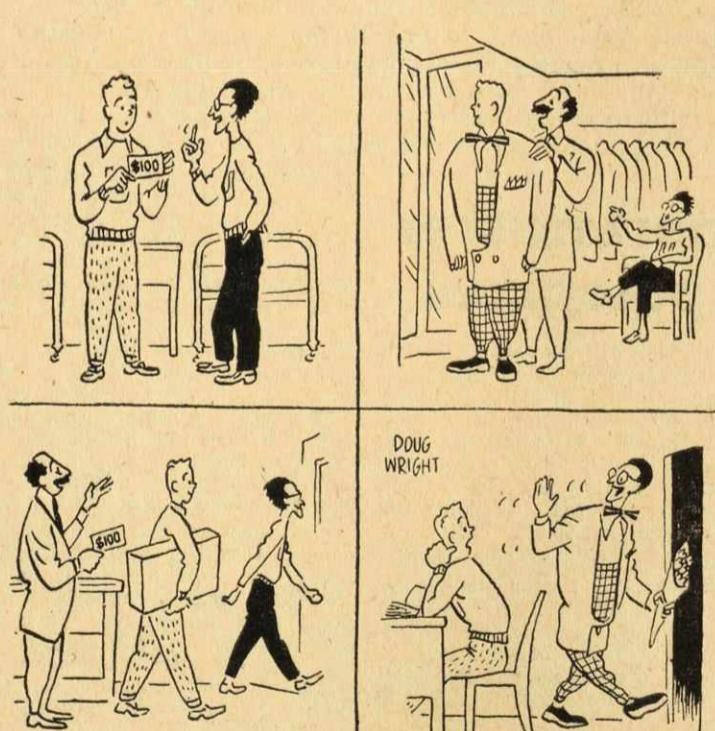
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