

# THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER

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## CLASS VERSUS SOCIETY

The classification of students at Dalhousie for extra-curricular purposes is, to say the least, inefficient. We talk of student apathy. We blame the university, the city, the end of the war, other students, and even ourselves if all else fails, but we have never given our student organization the scrutiny it deserves.

We put every student into two or more categories at once, and he is given little opportunity to become fully aware of the responsibilities involved in any of them.

Let us take, for example, an Arts student. After his first week or so, he quickly forgets the freshman phase of his career and, if his Society is on its toes, he is sold a membership ticket in the Arts and Science Society. From then on, the student is more an Arts and Science man than a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior. These four categories are called to mind only when there is a dance sponsored by one of the classes . . . a dance which is usually the brain-child of about 10% of the class involved.

There is a further complication. Should the student join any one of the Students' Council sponsored organizations on the campus such as the Glee Club, Sodales, the Publicity Committee, or the Gazette, his affiliation with his Society will often go by the board.

Clearly then, some better system should be evolved if a student is to fulfill his obligations to those with whom his studies group him . . . or if he is to do so much as become aware of his obligations.

From the above analysis, it might seem that the societies, being the more powerful of the two types of organization under question, should be retained, and the class system dropped altogether. But the purpose of such organizations is supposed to be the broadening of the student's interests and associations and outlooks. This purpose will only be partly achieved if the student meets merely those whose studies match his.

This overlapping of systems has caused us trouble more than once. The lack of interest in and the consequent failure of the Junior Prom last year can be traced to this source. But the most obvious and prevalent proof of trouble can be seen in the attendance at any meeting of any society or class. There is usually found the same 10% of students at such times . . . the ten per cent who are sufficiently aware and interested to divide their time between two overlapping organizations. It has been proved time and time again that the other 90% will not so divide their attention. Indeed, given any distraction, their attention will turn completely.

We do not recommend that the Council immediately abolish one of these types of organization . . . we do, however, ask that an examination be made of their relative merits, and action taken thereon.

## Letter To The Editor

January 19, 1950.

Dear Mr. Moreira:

Dr. Kerr has asked me to send you the following excerpt, with reference to Pharos, from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors, held on January 13:

"It was unanimously resolved that it shall be the policy of the university, in accordance with the opinion of the Board-Senate Committee:

- (1) That, beginning with the present session (1949-50), the sum of \$3.00 be collected from members of the graduating class only;
- (2) That the Students' Council be advised that the amount of \$3.00 already collected for all other students in 1949-50 will be returned to them along with the unexpended portion of their Caution Deposit—if students not in the graduating class wish to purchase copies of the 1949-50 issue of Pharos, they may do so voluntarily; and
- (3) That the students be asked to publish a less expensive Year Book than the present one, in keeping with their anticipated resources."

Nola Henry,  
Secretary to the President.

January 24, 1950.

Dear Mr. Moreira:

Relative to the headline in the Dalhousie Gazette, Friday, January 20, "Council to publish Pharos despite University Ruling", the Executive of the Board of Governors, at its meeting yesterday, decided to call to the Council's attention to the fact that the Executive has issued no "ruling" in the matter but had merely made a request.

I think this is clear from the minute quoted in my letter of January 19:

"That the students be asked to publish a less expensive Year Book than the present one, in keeping with their anticipated resources".

Will you please bring this matter to the attention of the Council?

Yours very truly,  
Nola Henry,  
Secretary to the President.

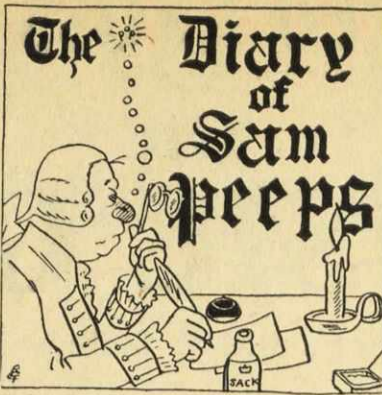
January 25, 1950.

The Editor,  
Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir,

At the last meeting of the Council the following resolution was passed:

"To clarify a misinterpretation arising out of a headline in the Dalhousie Gazette of January 20th,



Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1950—Alas, my new system of bookkeeping has proved unsuccessful and I am forced to recite from memory all that I saw at the Spectator Gallop.

Surely She's Coy was approaching the scales to be weighed to determine the price of her admittance but her escort did snatch her back and state that he would rather pay the full amount than take a chance on her weight.

Billsdaughter was there with Miss Wouldn't, who was his partner long ago; I was pleased to see them together again, for they make a fine couple.

Also present was Knave Flusher, an aged and decrepit journalist, was told all and sundry that when he had been Editor of the Spectator it had been a much superior publication. The revelers did humor this dotard and all pretended to believe his assertions, though they were manifestly false.

Less Ozone, the Prime Minister, graced the occasion with his presence and had the good fortune to win the special prize, a box of confections. I asked him if he were embarrassed by this unaccustomed publicity, but his only reply was, "I hate chocolates". I do believe that Miss McDull, his partner, was quite pleased however.

Miss Phlemm and Lord Giggle did do the minuet quite gracefully and a group of admirers collected about them to watch. Art Hairline, his partner, were also graceful but did not collect so large a group of admirers.

Some were nervous lest the net which was tied over their heads should fall upon them and some of the more befuddled did cry out that it had fallen but this was their own imagining.

Thursday, Jan. 26, 1950 — Did meet Allfired Hairless who told me, rubbing his hands together the while, that the Spectator had not made a financial loss on the Gallop as all had anticipated.

Did hear that the Junior Class, a group of the scholars, did announce that a meeting was to be held. Over twenty damsels appeared at the meeting but only five young gentlemen. A vote was held to determine whether they were to sponsor a ball, and all the damsels and one gentlemen voted for the affair, but the other four men were opposed. The Parliament looks upon this enterprise with great disfavor and has decreed that the members of the committee are to become personally liable for the success of the affair. Some difficulty is anticipated in obtaining a committee.

Did go to the Law school, where I met Mr. Foxe. He told me that he had just come from the latest lecture of the new class the legal scholars are taking and that now he knows all about the stock market. He said that he was on his way to the Assembly Room where he would try to enter a game of chance to get some capital to start his venture. His plan is to buy shares on the margin and sell shares himself on a holding company to take any loss he may incur. He intends to issue a large number of preferred shares at 100% to himself and neglect to declare a dividend on the Common stock. In this way he intends to make enough to retire for life in Kingston.

we request that the enclosed correspondence be printed."

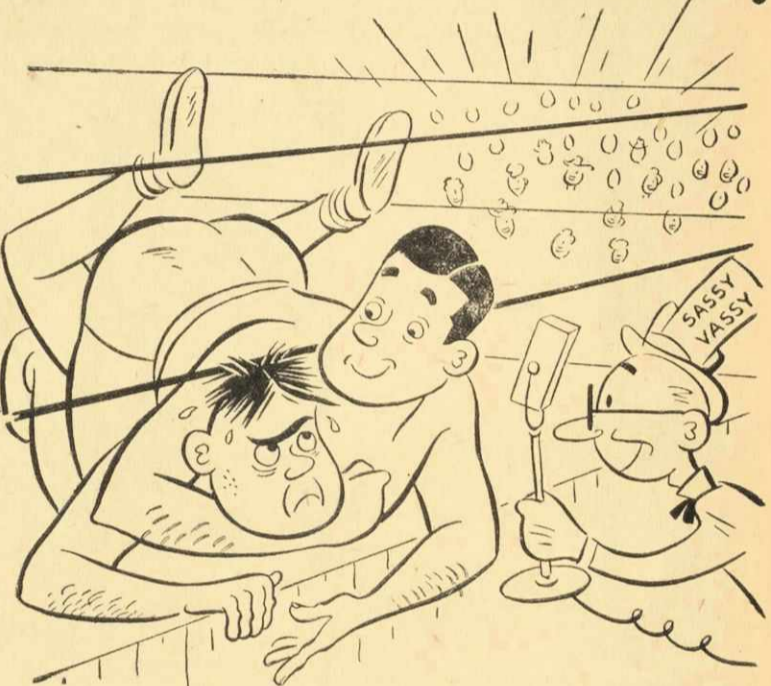
Yours very truly,  
Arthur Moreira,  
President, Council of Students.

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