

GAZETTE URGES RETURN OF

Why Initiation?

In practically every university in North America, extra-curricular activities form part of the life of the student during his four, five or six years at institutions of higher learning. Some of these activities are strictly social, others are primarily educational, still more charitable, and others may be combinations of one or more of the different categories already listed.

At Dalhousie, WUSC, NFCUS, SCM and other religious organizations, may be included in the list of charitable organizations. DAAC, DGAC, DRFC, Delta Gamma, DRC, DGDS, Sodales, Pharos, Gazette, may be listed primarily as organizations designed to promote social and athletic activities. In the category of educational groups we could include the Psychology Club, Le Cercle Francais, the Philosophy Club, the West Indian Student Society, the Sociology Club. This year, there is a move afoot to promote an interest in politics and as a result student organizations of the Liberal, Progressive-Conservative and CCF parties have been formed, and there may be other organizations, which are not known to the Gazette.

Since these organizations exist on the campus, it must be assumed that they have the approval of administration officials. Indeed, by the constitution of the Council of Students, no organization is permitted on the campus unless it has the approval of the Council. By Article 2, section 7, the Senate has general jurisdiction over "the internal regulation of the University" which includes all organizations and student groups.

There is no question then that the Senate and the President of the University approve in general of extra-curricular activities at Dalhousie. However, the existence of these social, charitable and educational organizations on the campus depends upon a constant influx of new members who are interested in the respective objectives of the various student groups. Unless new blood, so to speak, is added each year, the organizations wither and finally die. What, then, is the best way to see that new blood is added periodically? Few or the organizations can be pin-pointed to any particular location on the campus so that there is little opportunity of new students "finding" the organization and becoming familiar with them unless some assistance is provided.

For generations, at Dalhousie and other universities, initiation programs have been the methods used to introduce new students to their seniors, and to the different aspects of extra-curricular organizations on the campus. If there is no initiation program, no organized attempt to help the new students become acclimatized, to know what the university has to offer outside of academic studies, then the extra-curricular organizations will die, and the new student may dry up in the dust of his books, libraries and laboratories.

Of course, if the new students—or any student for that matter — has not desire to become part of this world, but is content to locate himself in an ivory tower and watch the rest of the world go by, that is his own business. We think, however, that most people are not of such a retiring nature. We think, too, that a majority of students gain some advantage from one or more of the organizations existing on the campus.

The best way to guarantee their continued existence is to see that new members are added each year by means of a well organized program.

The Dalhousie Gazette

Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

MEMBER OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS
Published Weekly at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
GEORGE TRAVIS Sc.55

Associate Editor
Bill Ingarfield L.55

Business Manager
Ken Mounce C.56
Vincent Willden C.58

Associate Editor
Bob Levesque L.55

News Editor
David Peel L.57

Feature Editor
Helen Scammell A.55

Sports Editor
Alasdair Sinclair A.56

Peggy Fraser Ed.55
Janet Christie A.55
Janet MacLachlan A.57
Loanne Young Sc.57
Sheila Elman A.58
Stu MacKinnon Sc.55
Jeanette LeBrun A.55
Mary Chipman Sc.56

Joy Cunningham Sc.57
Marg Griffiths A.55
Matt Epstein L.57
Ev Bennett G.S.
Russ Hatton A.56

David Bryson L.57
Pete Bennett C.57
Nancy Lane A.57
Elise Lane A.55
Jackie Galloway Sc.56
Marilyn Oyler A.57
Anne Rayworth A.57
Ted Withers C.57

Circulation Manager
John Armstrong C.56
Doreen Mitchell C.55

Photography
George Jollymore Sc.55

Jim Holland Sc.58
Cle Marshall Sc.58
Bob Jackson Sc.57

Typists
Liz Aitchison A.57
Barb Chespeswick A.55
Dorothy McIntosh A.57

Cartoonist
Jim Goring A.58

What The Present Situation Forces a Group to Do

The non-existence of Initiation of new students at Dal this year should cause concern in the offices of University Administration. The reason? In a mainly non-residential college such as Dalhousie, in order for the student body to be the cohesive group it should be, the individual student must consider himself part of the whole. Without this "oneness" a great part of university life is lost; and prospective students will turn from Dal to other Maritime universities when one can partake of such college life and in later life look back upon it with pleasant memories.

Without Initiation, the new students will not for the most part get to meet each other or the upper classmen. In a few years we sincerely shudder to contemplate the far-reaching effects of no initiation. The Glee Club this year, aware of this, sought to partially alleviate the situation. This end was, we trust, partially achieved by personal interviews with the majority of new students and a house party to which all potentially interested Glee Club persons were personally invited.

This does not make a student a Dalhousian, but a Glee Club 'type'. This is not what is wanted — students would soon associate themselves with WUSC, Rink Rats, Football or Glee Club, and the broadening of outlook, which is a benefit of a college training, would be lost.

The university officials should for once, think about something apart from the academic side of college and turn to consider the part which should make students "increase in wisdom and stature with God and man".

It is, of course, understood that initiation is only a small part of the moulding of a college student's character and outlook, but it is the only step which can achieve the end of being students together in the fellowship and understanding which is needed for a college spirit and the sowing of seed which will send us out as assets to our respective communities.

Ratification Necessary

For the first time for many years the Dalhousie Freshmen had no traditional initiation. Although we do not condone the usual mineral oil - onions - potato bag - treatment, it is evident what the lack of sufficient introduction into University life has done to the Freshmen class. It is true they have done the best they can under the circumstances, but we think it safe to say that there will be a gradual lack of college spirit, class spirit and co-operation within campus organizations in the future. This fact cannot be too strongly emphasized, and in order to rectify the situation we have suggested this programme.

To say that this idea is unfounded is not true. The fact remains that the Freshman class had to postpone their elections until November BECAUSE THEY DID

Hazing—What? Why?

What is hazing? Examination of any English dictionary reveals that the verb "to haze" has come to the English language from the old French verb *haser* meaning "to irritate" or "to annoy". The meaning of the modern verb is "the act of forcing a fellow student, (especially a freshman) to do unnecessary ridiculous tasks, or "to bully". It is in the latter meaning that hazing has most often shown itself at Dalhousie. Some see hazing as "good, clean fun" and as such it would not be objectionable. Unfortunately, human nature does not allow "good, clean fun" to exist for any period of time in a gathering where one faction has been "invested" with power over the other. In the last three years of hazing at Dalhousie there has always been at least one "incident" during the period of hazing. These are not the fault of the freshmen nor the initiation committee, but the fact remains that in past years enmity has arisen, not on a large scale fortunately enough. Any operation sanctioned by the Student Body of Dalhousie has not served its purpose if it be the cause of ill will arising between two students. One such incident is too many.

The basic idea behind initiation is the desire to create and cement friendships between the new students. Through this the new class will be able to present united front in student affairs and thus provide support for the student government. This is desirable. It cannot be accomplished by hazing. When a group of bullies unauthorized by the Initiation Committee comes into the gym and begins to exercise their "rights" as upperclassmen on the initiates, this may band the freshmen together in a defensive spirit but it will not cement friendships among themselves and most especially with the upperclassmen.

NOT KNOW THEIR CLASSMATES. Even then, a great many said that they knew very few of the incoming class. Wordsworth's lines, "I wander lonely as a cloud" applied, most unfortunately, to the freshman during their first few weeks at Dalhousie. It is a credit to the Sophomore and the Fresh that they were able to resurrect their class spirit and take an interest in college life to the extent to which they have.

Initiation—Lift The Ban

The Administration's move to ban Dalhousie Initiation was based on the "personal indignities" which students were suffering at the hands of the Initiation Committee and Sophomore class.

To say that a rough or "personal indignity" afflicting Initiation would have no bad effect on the University public relations is ridiculous. It is obvious that a rough and brutal Initiation would have a decidedly bad effect with such relations, and it is equally obvious that the University would suffer tremendously, both in prestige and in enrolment. The Administration's decision must be regarded in this light and if such a rough initiation were in practice at Dalhousie, the Administration certainly had every right to impose its ban.

The Gazette feels, however, that such a rough Initiation was not in practice at Dalhousie. Any students who were mal treated or who suffered a "personal indignity" were certainly in the minority. Nevertheless; in order to even further minimize this group, the elements of hazing have been greatly modified in the Gazette's proposals. We feel that grease, molasses, flour and other goey materials have no place in Initiation. Beanies and placards are essential, however, and the element of compulsion is present. Freshmen students who repeatedly refuse advice and who repeatedly try to impress others, are forced to follow certain rules, for example, shining shoes or performing trivial and menial duties.

The Administration's decision was definitely autocratic, and their reasons for the complete banning of all phases of Initiation are not plentiful. What is even more alarming, is the virtually complete destruction of the freshmen and sophomore class unity. Initiation gives the Freshmen class unity, and on a large campus like Dalhousie, where many faculties and various age groups are to be found, the unifying spirit of the Freshmen class is not only important, but is essential.

The Administration's views may be considered even more autocratic when it is remembered that no official statement from the Senate accompanied the ban. On this campus we believe you can find several members of the Senate who are in disagreement with the ban, and it is quite obvious that the Senate's decision was not unanimous.

Clearly, the only solution is to lift the ban on Dalhousie Initiation. To lift the ban before signs of apathy and disorganization have conquered the Dalhousie campus. The Administration may have thought they were doing the right thing, but it is strongly felt that the results of the ban have been bad on Dalhousie campus life. The spirit of Dalhousie, the need for organization, are daily apparent. With more distracting factors besides age groups and various faculties present, the Gazette honestly feels that Initiation in some form must not only be present, but also that the presence of Initiation is a necessity.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

HALIFAX - NOVA SCOTIA

Founded 1818



Offers exceptional opportunities for students in Arts, Science and the Professions.

Entrance scholarships available on the basis of educational attainments.

Special emphasis on student health and a well-regulated program of athletics and recreation.

for full particulars write

THE REGISTRAR

Enjoy a pipe with
Sir Walter Raleigh

MILD BURLEY TOBACCO

at its best...