

# Controversy over school for murder

## Student government history # 63

In the fall of 1935 the pacifism among Canadian students had gone to the extent that the University of Saskatchewan student newspaper, "The Sheaf" called the COTC a "school for murder". This was done in a widely admired front page editorial. The GAZETTE, with future judge Nathan Green a co-editor, was also solidly anti-militarist although not so vocally.

Of more important concern to this paper in early October 1935 was the 15 year old problem of stories ridiculing Dalhousie in the daily press of Halifax. This time the GAZETTE was especially enraged because the downtown furor was about Shirreff Hall girls' response to a GAZETTE article on their cliques and snobbish attitudes.

Two changes quickly followed the revival of the newspaper's old phobia. One was the appearance of the first article criticizing the Students' Council members for their attendance record. This was a topic that had either been non-existent or hushed up until November 1, 1935. On that same date appeared the first amalgamated issue of the GAZETTE and the ALUMNI NEWS. The alumni paper had ceased operation a short time previously, and this amalgamation was offered by the students as a way to keep it alive. There were to be three amalgamated issues each year. The November 1 editorial heightened the yearbook campaign by stating that promises of student support would restore Pharos to

activity, and publication for the 1936 graduation.

The Students' Council's November meeting faced yet another dispute over use of the gymnasium, which was still under student-Senate control. The Senate Gymnasium Committee felt that the Glee Club (DGDS) had abused the rules by wishing to exclude university employees from the Property Room unless accompanied by a member of the DGDS executive. It appeared to be another case of students assuming that employees were responsible for theft. The Council heard about the matter but took no action.

Permanent Secretary-Treasurer Ranking suggested abolishing the Student Handbook as a source of unjustified competition for GAZETTE's ad revenue. This may have simply been a disguised attempt to further cut Council expenses in view of the declining enrollment. The Council members were full of ideas, all of which were referred or deferred rather than being decided upon. One of the few decisions was permission for John Fisher to hold a student forum "in an attempt to stir up student enthusiasm". It appears that despite his frequent controversial remarks Council members felt Mr. Fisher was good for something.

When the Students' Forum was held its recommendation was the printing of Council agendas in the newspaper as a way of encouraging interest in Council affairs. A week later it was clear the forum had

stirred little interest, because an editorial bemoaned the continued lack of interest in the Council, not to mention within Council.

One of the future VIPs to visit Dalhousie that fall was John Bassett, who went on to be the last publisher of the Toronto Telegram. The question of hotel dances versus gym dances was once more heating up. When people did not realize a Depression had started the newspaper strongly advocated the expensive downtown dances due to the good food and comfortable rooms that were available. Now its position was reversed, and regular dances in the gymnasium were favoured as being both pleasant and within the finances of every student.

Late in November John Fisher held another students' Forum. It approved the idea of continuing to pay for varsity hockey teams, and once again paying for a yearbook. However, the big news was created when Fisher suggested establishment of a beer parlour on campus. The students cheer and the daily press had a field day denouncing this further example of Dalhousie hedonism. Hotel dances had been bad enough, but this was dynamite. The GAZETTE condemned Fisher for his improper choice of time and place. It asked who would send their children to such a place.

The Council reacted swiftly to the beer controversy by condemning the students who, as part-time correspondants, had let the dailies know what was happening. It was

decided both that these correspondants would be brought before Council for censure and that the Halifax publishers would be asked to use some discretion in reporting college news. It turned out that the Forum had expressed once again the desire for a Students' Union Building, and it was here that Fisher had proposed operation of the beer parlour. It was 1972 before the regular sale of beer in a Dal SUB became a reality.

Most of Council's time was spent trying to bring income and expense within nodding distance of each other. It decided to have due dates for GAZETTE ad accounts, and to be prepared to go to court to collect the money. To save money the Council financial statement was posted instead of being printed in the newspaper. Despite the storm he had created, Council gave Fisher blanket authority to hold student forums. At least he had stirred up student enthusiasm.

The newspaper was both a major source of revenue and a major expense. Concentrating on its profitability, Council decided that major societies would have to pay for GAZETTE advertisements. This was a break with the past, but it would free some space for copy in a year when ad sales were almost too high for the paper's own good. The senior Arts class, Law and Medicine had expressed interest in revival of Pharos, so applications were called for Pharos editors. Applicants would have to propose how they would run and finance the book.

## Amalgamation nears

OTTAWA (CUP) --- Canada's national and provincial student organizations are one step closer to possible amalgamation and will draw up a common program as a result of a two-day meeting here January 3 and 4.

A target date for the creation of "one student organization" has been set for May 1977.

Delegates from five student organizations resolved to work on a

"restructuring plan" which will be presented at the organizations' respective spring conference.

Also to be presented is a "common program" of action which will be drafted when the organization next meet in February.

Included are the National Union of Students (NUS/UNE), the British Columbia Student Federation (BC-SF), the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), the Ontario Fed-

eration of Students (OFS), L'Association Nationale des Etudiants du Quebec (ANEQ), and the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS).

NUS represents 150,000 of Canada's 591,000 students, while the remaining organizations represent 240,000. Next year they expect to have a combined income of \$5 million.

The meeting was the second in a series to discuss improved cooperation among Canada's provincial, regional, and national student organizations, and delegates from each have attended with various

types of mandates.

"Some organizations gave specific instructions to their delegates to work on certain directions" while others have been "less specific" as to their expectations, NUS executive secretary Dan O'Connor commented.

O'Connor said the organizations hold varying opinions on the nature of a unified student movement, ranging from ANEQ's concept of a "very loose confederation to mobilize students", to AFS's idea of provincial extensions of a strong centralized national body.

so good  
so many  
ways ...

**Tia Skia**  
Hot Doggers, Downhill Racers  
and Cross Country Buffs will appreciate  
this exciting new apres ski  
idea that's almost as pure  
as the driven snow.

**Tia Skia:**  
Add 1 1/2 ounces of delicious  
Tia Maria to nature's most  
perfect food, hot milk.

**world's most delicious coffee liqueur**