

# Law students burn themselves

## Student Government History #36

Dalhousians were reminded of the university's age when the first Dean of the Law School, Richard W. Weldon, died on November 26, 1925. He had served as Dean from 1883 to 1914, and moved to Dartmouth after his retirement.

The minutes of a December meeting of the Student's Council indicate some frustration in the remark that "the first business was the reading of the customary letter from Professor Howard Murray regarding the infringement of the smoking rule in the Arts Building". As a result of the case Council voted to remind freshmen about the rule. There must have been attendance problems since the meeting closed with a decision that a roll call of members be taken at every meeting, and noted in the minutes.

During the Christmas vacation a question rose over whether theology students at King's and Pine Hill could participate in Dalhousie athletics. One particular theology student, George Ernst, was wanted on the hockey team. Senate reviewed the Council constitution and recommended that it be interpreted so that theology students could participate in most student activities at Dalhousie. The stated reason was a desire to make sure that these students could participate in activities during their education.

The Students' Council accepted the Senate's suggestion, with the result that Mr. Ernst was able to represent Dalhousie. Professor Murray's latest report of smoking infractions was accompanied by a letter of support from Dean Read of the Law School. Two dollar fines were handed out by the Council. The deficit inherited from the previous Council is the probable cause of Council's appointment of a committee to raise

funds for gym equipment. Such purchases were customarily made from fee and admission revenues.

Despite the March 1925 defeat of an amendment to treat men and women in Arts and Science as two separate Faculties the Council was giving separate treatment by January 1926. Another position taken by a previous Council was reversed when Council agreed to guarantee order and discipline at the Majestic Theatre during the Convocation Week performances of the Dalhousie Dramatic and Glee Club. Two years earlier it had been decided that the Majestic would be boycotted for demanding that the students pay for alleged damage caused during a D.M.G.S. opening night. It was a delayed victory for Carl Bethune, who had demanded that the Council assume responsibility for students' actions during D.M.D.S. productions.

The Forrest Building almost burned down at the end of January. It was saved by several students who were studying late in the Law Library, which was located in the building at the time. They discovered the fire, which was between the basement and the first floor. Rather than leave for help they pulled up the floor boards, burning themselves but stopping the flames before the fire spread.

During 1925-26 the GAZETTE Editor was Arthur L. Murphy. In the 1960's he became Chairman of the University Grants Committee after a career in medicine. He held the chairmanship until the Committee was disbanded several months ago. An Associate Editor of the newspaper was Ronald Hayes, also the highly successful President of D.M.G.S. that year. He eventually became Vice-President of Dalhousie, received an honorary degree in 1965, and today is Professor of Biology and Senior Killam Fellow. That winter a four-person Imperial Debating

Team from the United Kingdom visited Dalhousie at the start of a trans-Canada tour. Their missionary work led to a GAZETTE editorial calling for the formation of a national association of Student Councils, similar to that existing in Britain. The British organization had organized the Imperial team.

On January 28 Donald McInnes (now the Chairman of the Board of Governors) wrote the paper to attack the credibility of the Students' Council. He made seven points, beginning with the excessive size, a result of the 1912 representation formula. In its actions as student/Senate intermediary the Council was slow and inefficient, he said, adding that operation of the rink was also ineffective. Operation of the rink despite high costs had hurt all other student activities, and the Council had assumed too much responsibility for the management of student organizations. (The example used was the Dalhousie Amateur Athletic Club, of which McInnes was President.) Mr. McInnes continued by claiming that Council's financial inefficiency was so great, the Board of Governors had been forced to step in and make sure that a proper accounting system was adopted. The last point was that the Council's fee of \$7.00 was too low, with \$10.00 being the minimum required for adequate operation.

The unusual new co-operation between Council and the D.G.D.S. was illustrated in the issue of the paper that carried the McInnes letter. The President of each organization signed a letter inviting student participation during Convocation Week.

Donald McInnes' letter received a reply from A.B. Morton, the Council President. Since this number of Student Government History is running out of space, we will carry the response in the next number.

## Halifax City Council Report

by Doug Hendsbee

On Thursday, November 29, Halifax City Council sat in regular session. Council managed to deal with all the items on a lengthy agenda.

The meeting moved along smoothly until the aldermen reached the part in the agenda where they were to decide what they were going to do with the temporary barricade on Peter Lowe Avenue. At this point a long procedural argument developed which lasted over a half an hour. Rather than going into a long monologue describing the events, it would suffice to say that as

the debate continued the aldermen became more confused on what they were doing. Finally a motion was passed. The motion stated that the present barricade on Peter Lowe Avenue be lifted and staff be asked to report to the next Council meeting on the implications of the possibility of closing William Hunt Avenue at the intersection of either Edward Arab Avenue or Mumford Road.

The next item on the agenda which again turned out to be a long drawn out affair was a public hearing on the proposed location of a

South End Fire Station at 3391-3395 Gottingen Street. This hearing was the culmination of 16 months of prolonged and exhausting investigation of 8 possible sites. This was the 9th site. In his address to Council, Fire Chief Brundige showed his frustration at being able to find a suitable site. He said that the fire department needed a new station as soon as possible due to the inadequate and antiquated condition of the present fire station. The proposed site would put them in the hub of the district they would be serving. Trucks would be able to reach the fringe areas in the district easily. After this several residents spoke for and against the proposed site. The Council members decided to refer the matter to the next Council meeting without recommendation. As one alderman put it, it has taken us 16 months to get this far 2 weeks won't make any difference. Council also instructed staff to continue negotiations with the owners of the property to determine a fair market price should the city decide to build the fire station at that site. Negotiations were to continue even though the city options to purchase the land ran out the next day.

Council also referred the matter of leasing city owned land at the corner of Leppert and Phillips Street to the next Committee of the Whole. The land would be used as an extension to the Simpsons-Armdale Mall parking lot. After the city decided not to sell the land to Foord Construction Company, City staff worked out a one year lease with the

company. Alderman Connolly felt that since the company had offered a large price for the land, that the city should receive more than the \$200 a month lease negotiated.

The first item added to the agenda by Mayor Morris was a letter sent to the city by Quinpool Plaza Limited offering the controversial Quinpool Road lands for sale to the city for \$8 million. This would certainly give Mr. Medjuck a large profit. The land at present is rumored to be assessed at \$3 million and Mr. Medjuck paid \$5 million for it. However in his letter Mr. Medjuck said his company would consider lowering the price if his company retained an involvement in any development in the site. What this means is that the taxpayers would be subsidizing him for constructing his own development. However a motion was passed authorizing appropriate city staff through the City Manager be instructed to begin negotiations with the developer to determine the best possible purchase price for the city and report back as soon as possible. Before this was done Alderman Connolly expressed several doubts about the resolution. In his mind the motion implied that if a price could be negotiated the city would buy the property. Such a deal would involve serious financial implications for the city. However he was the only one who voted against the motion. It seemed so stupid that Council would not vote down the motion because it would be too costly for the city. It certainly is an easy

way for Mr. Medjuck to solve his problems connected with his hassle prone development.

Next Council discussed and passed a motion authorizing city staff to begin tri-level government talks with the developers of the Waterfront Development Y and R Properties, Foundation Company of Canada Limited and Clayton Developments Limited. The talks would concern the costs of the infrastructure associated with the huge development. These \$20 million infrastructure costs includes such things as streets, sewer, lighting, landfill, etc. Mayor Morris pointed out that the motion does not commit the city to pay for these costs at all.

The last important item added to the agenda was a timetable presented by Mayor Morris for \$20,000 worth of improvements for the Armdale Rotary. The timetable was presented for information only and would be fully discussed at the first Council meeting in January. These improvements should be completed by March 10.

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staff running the Free Press so that women would have a vehicle to inform the community of women's issues and "learn the business and technicalities of running such a large enterprise."

The statement read by the Collective at the open meeting explained that the nature of the editorial board was to enable them to "combat sexism in society. We don't want to be faced with the problem of combating it within our own group."

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