

The Dalhousie Gazette

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IN ERROR OR FORESIGHT

Last year the Senate banned hazing and in so doing put an end to Initiation as most people know it... the subordination for one week of the Freshman to the Sophomore class. Before any judgment is passed, let's take a broad view of the situation.

The Senate's action came as a result of too many "personal indignities" inflicted upon Freshmen. Doubtlessly, the Senate would not have taken such action unless some "personal indignities" had occurred. When talking with the initiated of the past few years, however, one finds it hard to believe that the majority of the freshmen were treated unfairly. Indeed, we are afraid that the Senate has once again proved that Democracy's adage "the majority rules" is wrong. The decision of the Senate was made in the interests of the students and the University. The Senate is comprised of mere humans, however, and humans quite often have the ability to err.

Initiation in Universities has long been an established tradition. It, probably more than anything else, has welded the Freshman class into a well united body, pitting a solid block against an equally solid block of upper classmen. Moreover, the rivalry of Initiation Week usually ceases after a few days and the so-called enmity between the Initiators and the Initiated sweetens. The united Freshman class is still united, however, and as a group the new students begin University life.

Traditions are not always good. When they are considered bad or no longer beneficial they must be abolished. In view of the different age levels on the Dal campi, and in view of the many and varied faculties, it is the opinion of many that any step that leads to unification is not only good, but also necessary.

Perhaps of even more importance to the University is the present feeling of mistrust between the Senate and some students. In the past, the students have not only respected, but have also admired the actions of the Senate. There is surely no level-headed student who would deny that free Council of Student government and freedom of the press without any faculty censure are not great concessions. Unfortunately, today the students show only respect without admiration and thus treat the actions of the Senate as dictated law.

Nothing can be more injurious to Dalhousie University and her academic standing than misunderstanding and mistrust between her teachers and students.

The Senate's action on hazing and Initiation must be regarded in another vein. Take a quick look at Universities elsewhere and find why hazing was banned. In colleges in the United States, Freshmen have been burned, drowned, and forced to submit to barbarous and outlandish Initiation gimmicks. In Toronto and Vancouver, where two of Canada's biggest Universities are located, are two former Dalhousie men as presidents. They are confronted with the same problem which faced the Senate of Dalhousie last Fall. In Toronto, over 200 rampant engineers wrecked furniture and buildings and in Vancouver, Freshmen were chained to monuments and other structures. Any disciplinary action that happens in such cases is most deserving. The students have brought upon themselves their own undoing.

When viewed in such light, the action of our Senate seems to have been prompted by foresight. Certainly, we at Dal are not very different from our contemporaries in other universities. Although the Dalhousie students had done nothing outlandish in the past, there was no safeguard to say that October 1954 would be as peaceful as in past years. The rights of the individual have been upheld and new students are no longer coerced into the rites of Initiation.

The Senate of Dalhousie has acted—in error or foresight?

Student Income and Income Taxes

A few years ago the government appointed a Royal Commission to investigate, among other things, the state of education across Canada and at the end of the investigation it made a number of recommendations. One of them was that the government should provide further assistance to Canadian Universities in the form of grants. Subsequently, the government put into effect, to a certain extent at least, some of the recommendations and the universities benefited by receiving additional financial assistance. Quebec not included.)

It seems, then, that the government is not entirely unaware of the needs of Canadian universities and university students, and its conduct suggests that it may be amendable to further assistance does not hit the government coffers to any great extent. What we're getting around to is the matter of income tax regulations and students' incomes.

At the present time, as we understand the act, the student earning more than a \$1000 a year must pay income tax at the same rate as other Canadian citizens. There is no provision made for allowing the student any extra extra exemptions because of his expenditures for tuition fees, student council fees, books, and instruments required for the proper pursuit of whatever courses he is taking.

And yet the government has indicated a willingness to help universities provide education for Canadians seeking it. It seems to us that government could make its attitude better known to the students directly, by allowing the students to deduct such expenses as are outlined above from their annual income in order to determine their taxable income.

Some people may say there are not many students who earn more than a \$1000 a year, most of which would be in the four or five months between academic mine their taxable income.

Letter to The Editor

To Whom It May Concern:— (and it is hoped there are a few) Re: the joining of WUSC and Rink Rats with the Glee Club to present the forthcoming revue.

In 1952-53, the Glee Club presented as major productions, two plays and an opera. In 1953-54, due to financial stress upon the Council one play was eliminated leaving two productions. During both these years the Glee Club operated at a loss. During the latter season the personnel of the Glee Club presented for WUSC and Rink Rats what was for Dalhousie a new type of Revue, "Singin' In The Seine" costing very little and realizing for those two organizations a sizable figure. Realizing the potential of this type of show the outgoing president of the Council, Gordon MacConnell, recommended that the Glee Club resume its three production replacing the play with a similar revue. This was in the light of the O'Neill-Crosby investigation which pointed out that the Glee Club with the proper shows would serve as a much needed source of revenue without sacrificing the calibre of the shows nor making the Glee Club primarily a money making organization. This met with approval by all interested parties, the incoming president and vice-president of the Council included.

Hence during the summer months the Glee Club executive remained in the city and drew up what is felt to be a superior show to "Singin' In The Seine" along the same lines. This coupled with a good play, "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "The Yeoman of the Guard," which latter will be presented at the QEH Auditorium, was thought to not only enable the Glee Club to meet its budget but to bring back to the Council a substantial surplus.

"The rains came..." The Glee Club was approached by the Council in regard to the possibility of that organization again aiding WUSC and Rink Rats by permitting them to share in the work of the Revue for which they would receive a share of the profits. After careful de-

liberation on the part of the Glee Club it was decided that it could not reconcile the required financial successful year with such a combination. This was communicated to the Council and parties concurred.

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, the Glee Club was informed that it was to take WUSC and Rink Rats into said organization for the production of the Revue. This by Council resolution coupled with hints of budget stoppage if the Glee Club failed to comply with the "request."

The Glee Club has nothing but respect and a feeling of good fellowship toward the organizations with which it worked last year, and will this, and they sincerely hope that for them the Revue will prove a financial success. Toward the Council is felt a vague apprehension. That the controlling body of the campus would use its power, from which there is no appeal or redress, to direct the policy of an organization under it to such an extent that that organization is irreparably harried is a matter for serious consideration. Surely the persons directly concerned with such an organization can best assess what is good or bad for that organization rather than an aloof uninformed governing body.

Since the Glee Club has been informed that money making is not or ever should be required from it (nor indeed does it now have hope of making any), regrets are tendered to other organizations on the campus who could both now and next year use more money for activities which had to be abandoned last year.

The purpose of this letter is not quarrel with organizations or persons but to create a desire for greater awareness of the problems of the various organizations on the campus so that its governing body will not be permitted to "rob" Peter to pay Paul" to the general detriment.

Very sincerely,
GRAHAM DAY,
President, DGDS.

Ripost

The college boys that we have dated,
Are all extremely over-rated
They're irresistible they think
Especially when there's lots to drink
They think they're all comedians,
And girls are their admiring fans.
They condescend to ask you out,
Expecting you to cheer and shout.
An evening of good clean fun,
Is what you want. Do you get one?
If they've no car, you hike and hike
Unless of course they have a bike.
They buy you lunch. Say it's a crime
That coffee costs them one whole dime.
They take you to Sask. Hall at last.
The curfew hour's long long past.
You say good-night and turn to go,
You won't get off that easy though.
It seems you pay for what you get,
It's true for all the men we've met.
So girls beware of varsity lads
They look like gentle little tads.
But most of them are beasts at heart,
You are defeated from the start.
And you may still live to regret,
That Varsity men you ever met.
P.S. In spite of all we've said about them,
We really couldn't do without them.

Reprint from "THE SHEAF"

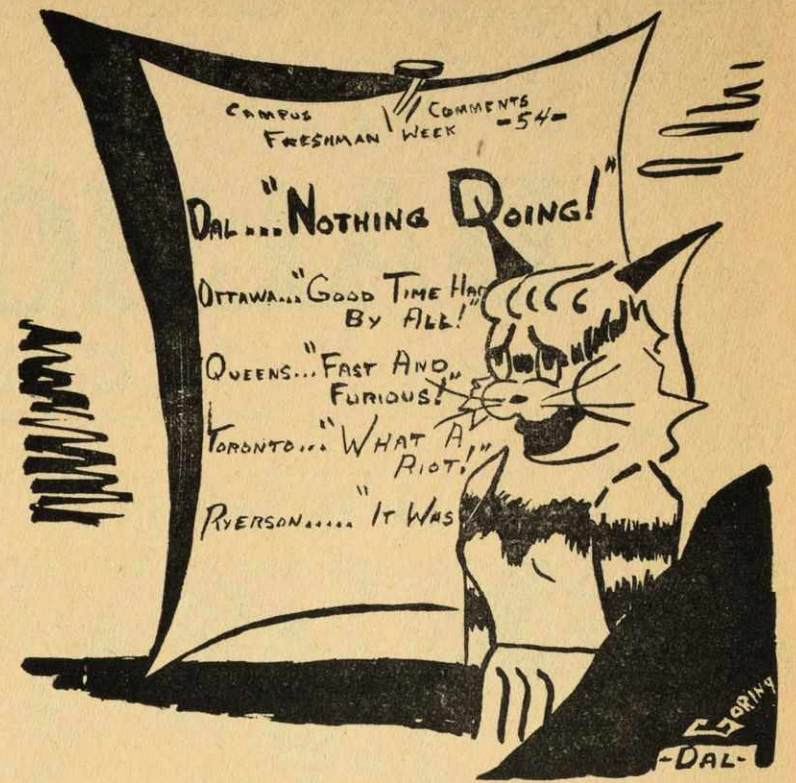
years. That may be true, but our opinion is that there are a good many who are hit by income taxes and they are the ones who are forced, because of limited financial means, to make a point of earning more than a \$1000 a year just because they do have limited financial means. It's that group which needs the exemptions most which is being hit the hardest by the income tax department.

As a matter of fact, the minister of national revenue cannot plead ignorance of the expenses attending university education because in another section of the act, provision is made for parents who are sending their sons and daughters through university. Section 26(1)(c) says that, if a son or daughter is over 21 and attending school or university as a full time student, the parent is entitled to an additional exemption of \$1000, if that parent is a widow or a widower. Even if the parent still supporting a spouse, and therefore is entitled to a basic exemption of \$2000, he may still claim a son or daughter for exemptions of \$400 if that son or daughter is a full-time student and does not disqualify himself as a dependent by earning the vast sum of \$750 a year. (Also, incidentally, he is not qualified for family allowances.) Should that happen, he could no longer be claimed as dependent.

Thus the picture, resolves into the following: The parent is allowed additional exemptions for

supporting his son at college. Yet, the student who is supporting himself at college and who may not have a parent of substance, is given no break whatever by our tax gatherers. And as we said, such students are the ones who need the most help, not the parents able to support their children at university. This little article should not be taken to mean that parents should not receive the benefit of exemptions, but rather that the government should extend its recognition of the need for more assistance by allowing self-supporting students, additional exemptions, i.e., they should be allowed to claim themselves as their own dependents.

THE HEIGHT OF HUMILIATION.

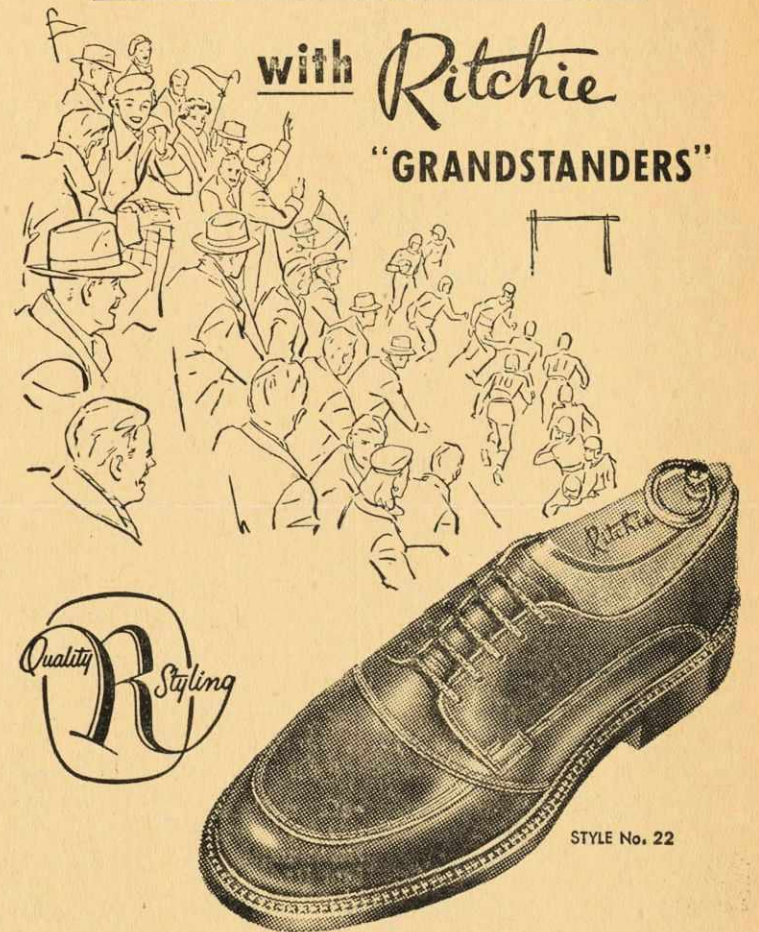


"JUST NOTHING DOING!"

The first issue of our paper has appeared, and is now before you. Previous to introducing you to its contents, we crave your attention for a little, while we endeavour to state the aim of our paper, and the manner in which it will be conducted. Its aim is two-fold, viz: the cultivation of a literary taste among ourselves, and the establishment of an organ in which free expression can be given not only to our own sentiments, but to those of others who may interest themselves in our progress and prosperity. The prosperity of a University is the prosperity of a Nation. The training and mental tastes formed there extend their influence to succeeding generations, and give to the national character tone and direction.

—Reprinted from the Salutatory of the first issue of the Dalhousie College Gazette, January 25, 1869.

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