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## Quebec Education in Review

"Duplessis To Meet Student Heads" was the title of a recent article written on the deplorable education situation of the universities of Quebec province. Will Duplessis "meet the student's demands?"

Feelings that ran high last February and which led to a voluntary boycott of lectures for one day in March, are once again being agitated by the political stubbornness of Premier Maurice Duplessis. On December 2, Duplessis has consented to give audience to the students and their resolutions.

Last February the Premier definitely vetoed a meeting with the student presidents of Quebec's six universities. Reason—he was claimed "too busy". A leader who has to run the province, due to little opposition, should surely take the time to consider the education of future leaders. A letter sent by the Students' Council President of McGill University last spring was purposely sent after provincial sessions were over and there seemed no reason for it to be ignored.

Quebec students pay the highest fees in the country. Their professors receive the lowest salaries. At Dalhousie enrolment is increasing every year. At McGill enrolment dropped this year. **THERE IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING HERE THAT IS NOT RIGHT AND SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH EVERY STUDENT ACROSS THE NATION SHOULD CONCERN HIMSELF.**

The University of Toronto received \$11,000,000 from the federal government in Ontario; McGill University, due to the decisions of the leader of the powerful Union Nationale party, received only \$900,000.

Duplessis claims that education lies within the domain of the provinces rather than the Ottawa government and that aid for such represents an encroachment on provincial rights. The results of such a decision are too injurious to the population!

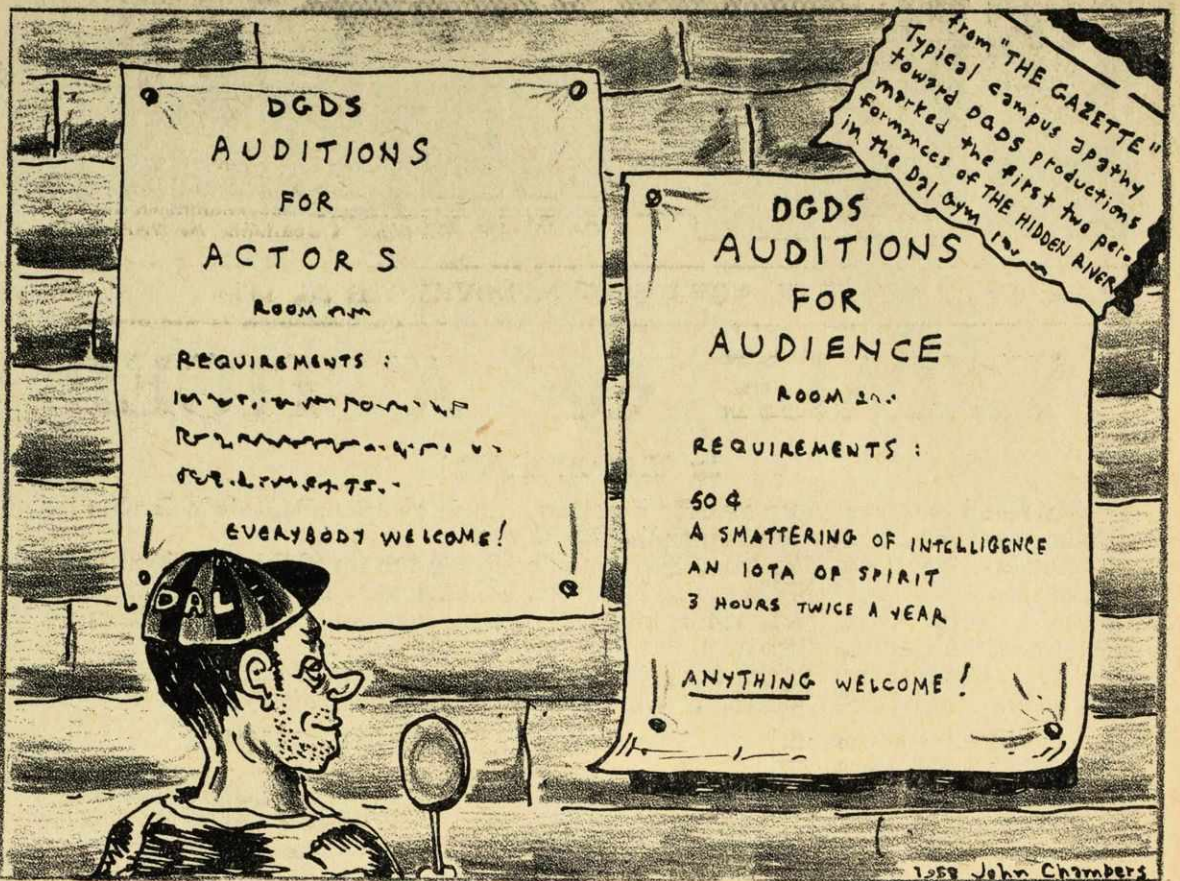
The Quebec universities are financially starving and soon will become exclusive to the very wealthy. Education should not be connected or dependent on money at all, but, since we live in a practical world and not an idealistic one, we should at least endeavour to lessen the financial burden of every worthy student.

The resolution put forward by the most recent meeting of the Student's Society in Montreal is as follows, "Therefore be it resolved that the Student's Society of McGill University in conjunction with the other university students in the province of Quebec, petition the Legislative Assembly to increase financial aid to higher education as outlined in the brief presented by the the students presidents last spring to Premier Duplessis." Obviously the students have, in a mature manner, adopted resolutions which alone do not pretend to constitute a solution to the situation, but which hope, with the backing of the over 20,000 Quebec university students behind them, to better the financial crisis.

This is indeed the beginning of the end—an end which will eventually, it is hoped, provide free education to all students worthy of a degree. This end is one with which all public-spirited citizens should be in sympathy.

Education should be considered as a non-political expression of national policy. This end should not be hindered by differences in aim of the federal and provincial governments.

## The Shape of Things to Come



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Something Added

Editor in Chief  
The Dalhousie Gazette,  
Dalhousie University.

Dear Miss Bell:

In compiling the list of academic departments; in which, I thought, students were busily occupied with their educations; I apparently used too superficial a standard for eligibility.

Since the publication of the letter (November 5) numerous acquaintances have informed me in colorful, if not culture, terms of their disagreement with my exclusion of their department from the list. Since no attempt was made on my part to distinguish between levels of industry in all the departments, and the list was merely for the sake of example, kindly enlarge it to include all departments in which some students are toiling diligently.

In particular, I would ask the pardon of the Commerce and Geology departments, students of which have felt especially slighted; in order to preclude the plans afoot to strew dead hogs throughout the Physics department. In the name of humanity, please reconsider!

Less optimistically yours,  
Normal Paul Patterson.

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### In Answer

The Editor,  
Dalhousie Gazette,  
Dalhousie University.

Dear Madame,

I would like to reply to an editorial written on a proposed abolition of Delta Gamma.

Abolish Delta Gamma and you abolish more than just tradition. I shall state some advantages of the organization. Delta Gamma gives the women of the campus, both city and Hall girls, a chance to work together and plan various social activities together. The Hall girls have their chance to entertain at their annual formal, whereas the city girls rely on the equivalence in the Open House and in Co-Ed week. The girls sponsor and arrange for Co-Ed week with the financial backing of the Council. However, in recent years, with the enthusiasm of all who take part, the Council lost no money on the venture.

As most of the societies and faculties on the campus have a majority of boys, it might prove difficult and embarrassing for them to prepare for a week.

Granted a committee of the Students' Council could arrange for this function — but — what kind of a Council would feel that they should do ALL the work? For, in fact,

Delta Gamma is a function of the Council.

In your recent editorial it was mentioned that a \$316 estimated expenditure for 1958-59 would be "an extravagant waste of the student's money." Last year the total loss was less than \$20. If, in following years we can make some money, it would mean that we could submit a reduced budget to the Council or become financially independent. However, at present, raising money is not our main objective. This year over 50 Delta Gamma girls are giving of their time to help so that the work of the Rink Canteen does not fall on ten or fifteen people.

Delta Gamma was founded in 1899 to stimulate an interest in "literature, science and philosophy." Meetings were held at night about five times a year and each night various groups were responsible for entertainment. In those days when the Council needed assistance, Delta Gamma was ready to help, just as we are if any occasion arises today.

The girls of Delta Gamma feel that the abolition of the group is unwarranted. They are organized to help out when needed.

MARGARET SINCLAIR,  
President of Delta Gamma.

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### Humanity Affronted

The Editor,  
The Dalhousie Gazette,  
Dalhousie University.

Dear Madame:

Fully aware of a breach of custom, I want to take issue with Mr. Fanning's review of the DGDS production *The Hidden River*. Even if the critic had not dealt postively with my bit-part I would feel compelled to brand this deprecator for at least one atrocious remark in his generally repulsive review.

Everybody is entitled to his own opinion, and a critic is expected to publicise his impression; if he has the calibre he may even be absolved of insulting the subjects of his criticism, but if he affronts humanity he must be challenged. It does not greatly matter that Mr. Fanning did not explain whether it was the actor or the enacted with whom he "could feel no sympathy at his plight at the hands of the Nazis". The statement — in the original or any other context — displays a depravity which places him who made it beyond exoneration.

I trust that the *Gazette* will never again have us witness a similar debasement.

Sincerely,  
OTTO H. HAENLEIN,  
270 South Street,  
Halifax, N. S.

### Limericks

The Editor,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Madame:

I would like to congratulate and thank the D.G.D.S. for a job well done on the "Hidden River". Concerning a review in your publication kindly print the following:

There once was a writer named  
Fanning,  
Whose favorite pastime was  
panning,  
His purpose so pious  
Was personal bias,  
So as a critic his backside needs  
tanning.

—PEPCAT.

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### Thanks

National Federation of  
Canadian University Students,  
National Secretariat,  
375 Rideau Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
November 6, 1958

Miss Judy Bell,  
Editor in Chief,  
The Dalhousie Gazette,  
Dalhousie University

Dear Miss Bell,

I wish to thank you for printing Judy Jackson's story *On a NFCUS Tour of Europe* in your edition of October 22. As you probably know, the NFCUS Travel Department cannot afford regular ads in CUP papers and such articles which to my point of view, have more value than many successive ads and are certainly more effective.

You might be interested to know that Lawrence MacKinnon Buffett, from University of Kings College, participated in NFCUS Soviet Union and East European tour last summer. I think Larry is still at Kings for another year.

Thanks again and if you happen to go to the CUP conference in Winnipeg, try to make a stop in Ottawa; we will be happy to meet you. Best personal regards,

Yours very truly,  
J. P. JINCHEREAU.

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### Editor's Note

Editor's Note: Letters to the Editor are welcome but must be signed, either with the name of the sender or with a nom-de-plume; however, in the latter case the name of the sender must be made known to the Editor but will not be published. Leave letters in the Editor's box in the Gazette office.