

Stanfield loses in council election

Student Government History #61

In February 1935 the Students' Council, after four months of devoting its time to budget cutting, decided that it would maintain its obligations to NFCUS and to other student governments, but it was obviously hesitant to undertake new obligations for fear that the Depression would cut even deeper into enrollment and Council revenues. Falling into old patterns the Council did not co-operate with those who brought up alleged breaches of the non-smoking rule. Unless there was an iron-clad case the Council was not about to act. Also in February the Council virtually laughed out of the room a DAAC suggestion that the Munro Day holiday become the time for all student elections. Professional representatives sensed that it was an attempt to cater to undergraduates while most members felt that a holiday was the worst possible time to get student participation.

During the 1935 winter term Leo Landreville, a Law student, became prominent both as leader of the Independent Party in the mock Parliament and as a member of the Dalhousie debating team on national radio. Approximately 25 years later he was forced to resign from the judiciary for corruption while he had been Mayor of Sudbury.

The Council elections were extremely quiet, with little advance publicity and few close races. Bob Stanfield tried to regain a Council

seat after staying off for a year, but he lost due to the rule that in dual Arts and Science constituencies a man and a woman must be elected. Eric Mercer, now a faculty member and assistant to the university president, was elected as DAAC Secretary—Treasurer. Leo Landreville, whose graft and downfall were mentioned last week, lost an attempt to be elected Glee and Drama Society Production Manager. Meanwhile Carl Bethune, who as DGDS President in the early 1920's was a constant source of annoyance for the Council, was now assisting with Munro Day in his role as Alumni president.

In 1934 the newspaper had been unable to produce a graduation issue to replace the abolished year book. For 1935 the paper was ignored and Council authorized the senior class to prepare a special issue. In the first exercise of its disciplinary powers in at least seven years the Council fined the third year Medicine students \$10.00 for disrupting a classroom. Taking a fiscally irresponsible but politically wise decision the Council voted to have a year-end party instead of the traditional Council photos. They forgot that the previous Council had cancelled the banquet altogether in what had been more prosperous days. The only person proved to have broken the smoking rules, Charlotte Lyall, was fined \$2.00.

Unusual interest was demon-

strated in the customary what's wrong with Dalhousie debate. The first session of it was sufficiently lively to cause adjournment of the discussion to a second day. The paper was moved by the discussion to propose that the permanent Secretary—Treasurer, Murray Rankin, be fired and the money spent on athletics and scholarships for two Commerce students who would do his work. Perhaps the editors resented the financial control that accompanied Mr. Rankin's involvement, and which had seen the GAZETTE budget trimmed.

The star of the continued debate was university president Carleton Stanley, whose remarks went unrecorded at his request. One hundred and seventy-five students attended. The discussion was dominated by John Fisher, a long-time Council member who often found himself on the losing side of votes. The new Council had just chosen the fourth consecutive Medicine student President, Hal Taylor, by a nine to one vote over Mr. Fisher. Fisher now charged that sectional and fraternity interests had worked against him, and that the Council was inept and corrupt. In turn he was accused of misusing Freshman Class funds. Fisher had been elected twice as Freshman rep, the only position elected at large by all students. He played heavily upon sectional

interests by saying that it was time a Council President was from Arts and Science instead of Medicine. Those present voted to ask for Taylor's resignation and for Council to then institute direct election at large for the presidency. An editorial felt that direct election was too doubtful a system, and predictably the Council ignored these flurries.

At the Council's final meeting on April 2 they loosened the purse strings by a six to five vote so that the basketball team could enter the Maritime playoffs. Senate was asked to take "drastic steps" to stop cribbing at exams, a practice that Council apparently found to be worse than smoking.

The desire for a year book proved to be large enough that the graduating class of 1935 produced their own year book. It was a small pamphlet, not the glossy hardcover production that had appeared under Council auspices. This was a sign that the decision to have no more yearbook at Dalhousie would not last long.

John Fisher was active for several more years at Dalhousie, and he has also been prominent since graduation. He became known through work for Canadian tourism and association with John Diefenbaker. Fisher went on to be centennial commissioner and today he continues to hold government appointments.

Agreement

Cont'd from pg. 1

Other business dealt with at Sunday's meeting involved Student Aid, housing, status of women, and course evaluation.

President Bruce Russell informed council that he, in co-operation with other student leaders in the province was preparing a position paper for the provincial government on student aid. The report is to include recommendations on the more equitable distribution of present funds, student participation in policy making, and opportunities for student employment in the student aid office, among others.

Two recommendations arising out of a women's conference attended



by Lynn Fitzgerald (Arts) and Sue Johnson (Communications Secretary) were approved by council. The recommendations express council's support for the Dalhousie Womens

Movement and recommend that a Status of Women report be done by the University and be forwarded for approval to the Senate or the Board of Governors.

A motion was passed providing for the establishment of a permanent housing secretariate to advise and make recommendations regarding university housing policy and provide student co-operation in a community housing task force. Bruce Russell, in answer to members questions, added that the office would also be responsible for collecting and disseminating information regarding housing which the university was not currently collecting.

A final motion was approved to discontinue at least for this year, the course-evaluation programme. Council was told that the position of course-evaluation chairman had been advertised for some time, but nobody had as yet applied. Council decided that such a program would be impossible to conduct at this late date and several comments were made questioning the value of last year's Anti-Calender. Anne Smiley, vice-president, informed council that many student unions had switched to alternative methods of producing an Anti-Calender, which were more effective and cheaper to produce. Council asked that Academic Affairs Secretary Phil Hicks form a committee to investigate alternate methods and report back to council. Students who have suggestions or who would be interested in serving on the committee should contact the Academic Affairs office in the SUB.

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