

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

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Budget Activity Coast to Coast

by Don Allen, McGill Daily
 A C.U.P. Feature

How to finance more and larger-scale student activities with less dollars when each dollar is itself worth less: such is the problem currently facing finance committees of student councils on Canadian campuses coast to coast.

Decreased registration attributed principally to the graduation of the last large veteran classes, has resulted in reduction in the scope of extra-curricular activity or increases in per-capita compulsory contributions to activities budget funds at many Canadian colleges and universities, according to replies to a nation-wide survey conducted this spring by the McGill Daily for the Canadian University Press.

How does the average student react to news of financial difficulties in campus administration? "With the usual apathy," says the Queen's Journal—"A certain lack of interest," observes Le Carabin of Laval University—"Students are numb—there's little feeling on any question", reports the Brunswickian of the University of New Brunswick.

Twelve college papers replied to CUP questionnaires concerning campus budgets and the financing of college clubs and societies; many reported recent increases in activity fees. Budget conditions varied all the way from "at present, satisfactory" to "serious slashes—an air of general economy".

Much to Finance

Financing of the activities of clubs and societies; debaters, choirs, and musicians; dramatic groups, year books, newspapers and library publications all is included in the responsibilities of elected student council representatives at most Canadian universities. Funds are obtained from student union and campus activity dues collected at registration time which range from \$36.00 for arts-men at the University of Toronto down to \$9.00 for all full-time students at the University of Western Ontario.

Variations in activity fees from campus reflect differences in degree of centralization of budgeting more than differences in over-all per-capita activity expenses. At the University of Alberta a four-dollar year book subscription is included in \$20.50 student union fees while at a number of other universities orders for annuals are solicited during special campaigns on the campuses.

St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N. S., collects five dollars from each student to finance a concert and lecture series. University of New Brunswick student council fees include admission to three formal dances. At universities where activities dues are low, correspondingly low grants to campus clubs and societies make for high membership fees and on a number of campuses may be tending to discourage large-scale participation in these phases of extra-curricular life.

Residence and college activity dues are added to university student council fees for the groups of students concerned. The University of Toronto Varsity reports the campus-wide financial situation satisfactory but notes activity

cuts in member colleges where finances have been more directly affected by decreases in student registration. McGill range from five to seven dollars per session.

Post-War Trends

Decreased registration following closely on the upsurge of enrollment and activity in the years of large veteran classes is cited as the principal cause of present-day financial difficulties attributed directly to an over-inflated program of extra-curricular activity.

As each student production or campus club slips into the red, student council reserve funds are called upon to meet the deficit: as reserves decrease budgets are slashed in anticipation of a difficult year for student financiers. At McMaster University last session plans for a final banquet and an issue of a literary magazine had to be dropped when deficits mounted and students refused to sanction a fee increase. At the University of Western Ontario last winter publication of the Gazette had to be cut from two to one issue per week.

Several campuses report relatively inflexible budgets to be a cause of considerable concern. But a staggering deficit from a single unsuccessful undertaking remains the greatest peril: Carleton College, Ottawa, was reported to be proceeding with caution following a \$1,400 loss on Year Book sales; at McGill University last session student leaders cancelled a \$20,000 Winter Carnival rather than have it conflict with a period of campus mourning following the death of the late King.

On the great majority of campuses the matter remains simply choice between "austerity" and increased student fees: Mount Allison reports sound financial health and recently upped the price of the Argosy Weekly, undergraduate newspaper, to remain that way.

The solution to financial difficulties that college papers currently report in student government; campus opinion and "next year's budget is the consensus of reported opinion. Observing that student opinion must be marshalled behind any proposed fee increase, the Dalhousie Gazette observes: "Our student body as a whole is not yet fully aware of the situation as it has not reached a dangerous stage". The majority of student officials quoted express the view that a revised budget drawn up after due consideration of the necessity of keeping student activity in correspondence with decreased enrollment would go a long way towards righting most of the financial difficulty of the 1951-52 academic year.

Appeal

*I have fallen into the Sea,
 The wondrous Sea of Being,
 But all my friends and teachers are alarmed,
 They seek to "rescue" me
 from the raw clutches of what they call confusion,
 And I am terrified of being snatched
 from out the Sea.
 Help, help I cry, and cling quite desperately
 to the few meagre pieces of driftwood that float my way—
 to D. H. Lawrence, and his joyous poems,
 oozing with Wisdom.
 to a few Saints and Orientals, whose bits and pieces
 are scattered 'round in Mystic books.
 But what am I to do, when
 these are torn from me.
 When I am thrust into the midst of Intellectual Men,
 Who tear me apart, and beat my Saints to Dust?
 Oh what am I to do,
 When not one of those who KNOW,
 that is older, Stronger, will come to my aid . . .*

T. C. S.

Bye Now

"The time has come, the Walrus said . . .", heralding some significant event, or series of events, so also in perhaps not so rapid succession, similar happenings have been occurring at Dalhousie. The Exodus of that August body "The Law School", to the Studley Campus has been practically completed. This sets a record no doubt compared with the transition of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land, which took a decade longer. All that remains to make the journey westward to the new domicile are a few hundred calf skin bound tomes of very uncertain age and value.

The past few months have been busy for the academic staff as well as a group of Law students who painstakingly vacuumed and removed the thousands of books from the Law Library and supplementary stacks in the old boiler room of the Forrest Building. The remaining books, waiting to sever the last tie with tradition's valued associations, now are stacked in one corner of the old common room, where recently, studious budding barristers indulged in crib and bridge, keeping their intellectual up to the Status Quo. (I wonder?) The Law Library, bereft of its mezzanine where erstwhile stud Blackonites retired in monastic seclusion to slumber over Halsbury's Laws of England, undisturbed until the unearthly clanging of the warning bell awakened them to the grim reality of an impending lecture, is now an empty shell.

Where D.L.R.'s and Chancery tomas adorned the spacious walls, blackboard and lecturer's dias greet the visitor's eye. Tables are gone, also the cloistered quarters of the priestly librarian who guarded so zealously the (locked press.) The writer is reminded by the mention of locked press of an incident not officially recorded in the annals of the library's list of offences.

The late lecturer in Insurance, Col. W. E. Thompson, called one evening just before classes in law commenced, and asked me to let him into the library to get a book which he desired to get in connection with the course he was teaching. The book in question was carefully housed in the same (locked press,) and no keys were

available. Its title was plainly visible through the intervening wire mesh panels. His frustration and concern was so great that I was moved to the point of making a forcible entrance to the only remaining barrier 'twixt the Colonel and his quarry. Procuring some tools, the objective was soon realized, but much to the writer's amusement the only comment made was that it took a good mechanic to make a good burglar, or words to that effect.

The Moot Court Room now silenced, where once the venerable graduates from 1883 onwards clothed its lofty walls, peering from their windowed frames, quietly writing and exhorting the present generations of lawyers to greater heights in legal achievements, have all but vanished, however I am informed by the present Dean of Law, Horace E. Read, that the pictures will be reproduced in miniature form and will be bound in suitable form, and placed in accessible location in the Law Building, so that old graduates and their interested families may at any time, when visiting their Alma Mater be able to see their old classmates' pictures and renew old associations.

Time marches on and as of yesterday, it seems my thoughts flash back through the decades, where rising from the green sward south of the Macdonald Memorial Library cemented in its classical beauty, arose the present Law building.

Those symmetrical columns and surmounting capades received their final touches at the hands of two Scottish stonemasons at wharf where now stands the Castine monument, before extending their lofty stature to support the p— with its gable facade, adorned with its carved Dalhousie crest. The roof of the Law Building is supported by heavy Douglas fir trusses exceptionally rare in our modern age of construction, and possess remarkable design and beauty; ceiled over inside with Douglas fir sheathing, and again strengthened by rapets all-glass blankets, felt and slate. Thus we have a roof, no doubt ponderous, but whose acoustic values and durability are unexcelled.

Digressing for a moment, I recall that the first occupants of the Law Building was a Robin family, who despite the noise and movement connected with masonry construction, built their nest at the top of one of the supporting

(Continued on page three)

Seein's Believin'

This is a critical column. Last week, in these confines, it was stated that a phase of university life would be bisected weekly. A week has elapsed, touché m'sieu student.

Emerging from the keffuffle that surrounds a week of initiation and indoctrination, the writer confesses difficulty in finding a concrete phase, as such, to analyze. Therefore, Oz will be content with an analysis of isolated incidents gleaned from the general campus picture.

Frosh Introduction

On Friday, September 26, the embryo of this productive campus were exposed as a body to the solicitations and invitations of the major campus functions. Aside from being bored to a remarkable degree of distraction; as self-conscious as monkeys in a cage, as uncooperative with their mentors as a yo-yo on a broken string; their response was normal. Perfunctory hand clapping for a three second interval followed each speaker's descent from the podium, leading the writer to believe that the applause was more in favour of this simple act than for whatever the speaker had had to say. It's a tragedy that the mouths of crowd pleasers like Jerry Lewis or Lili St. Cyr couldn't be solicited for just long enough to utter what amounts to being the foundation of any participation in these very worthwhile, indeed invaluable, major campus functions.

So much for the audience, the speakers have a bucket coming. On both sides, the most proven adage of youth "first impressions are lasting" was violated repeatedly. Those spoken to have been dealt with, those who spoke—the acknowledged people's choice, the BIG 12 on Campus, the example we should follow—did quite well, with few exceptions.

A few points worthy of mention: unfamiliarity with the Public Address System, lack of enthusiasm for the subject at hand, tendency toward hastily spoken, long-winded addresses instead of what was intended to be an introduction. Each of the foregoing points figured in the end result criticized. There was too much of interest to each of those assembled to be crammed into the time allotted. Admittedly, the group was there to be spoken to and you can say you've tried, even when your attendance figures don't come up to expectations. Suggestion: Approach this group, and any other, at their own meetings. Freshmen classes especially are notorious for the number they have during their first six months on the campus, two-thirds of which are unnecessary. Where could Sodales, advising on meeting procedure at the first few Freshmen meetings, appear in a more effective light? Go to the mob if the mob won't come to you. Items of Lasting Interest

1. In the old game of "fool thy neighbour," Dean H. E. Read of the Dalhousie Law School, preceding by scant minutes an august visiting personage, successfully conquered an assault course consisting of 59 cigarettes butts (mostly makin's) thoughtlessly spotted by his charges in the most inaccessible places. Right up to the second floor yet!

2. The Indian Arms beneath our weather vane are still on Oriental time—slow.

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