



The Dalhousie Gazette

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In praise of older presidents

It is sad, but undoubtedly true, that most Dalhousie students would not know him if they ran into him.

Many day students, who live one half of their split existence in that wame called "home", may not recognize his name. However, whether they know him or not, John Young, outgoing president of the student union, has made, or influenced, decisions that effect every student at this university.

The ultra-sophisticates of the 'canteen-set' may cluck their tongues and plead non-involvement and the 'academic isolationists' hiding in the library may claim disinterest, but it won't change the facts.

Young's determination to carry through a course evaluation is one example. This practice of recognizing the value of the collective opinion of the people most directly concerned with the quality of education - the student - has become an accomplished fact at some of the best universities in Canada and the United States, but it required a determined and responsible person to breakdown the conservative insecurity of the Maritimes.

Starting this month questionnaires will be circulated and students will be able to pinpoint many of the deficiencies in our lecture system, and the inadequacies of the lecturers.

The acceptance of this project means more than a recognition of a student lobby by the administration; it is the first step towards a fuller understanding of the student's rights and responsibilities within the academic community.

It is a move towards the position where the student is recognized as an active and productive member of society not as a social misfit living in a state of academic limbo.

Such ideas are both revolutionary and evolutionary. It is a new concept - at least for the North America academic community - but it is a change brought about by the pressures of a changing social-economic environment. It is not a change for the sake of change, but a change to meet the new reality of a world where involvement and concern are no longer choices in the traditional sense.

Young's recognition of this fact and his support of an evaluation scheme will, in the long run, truly change the character of education at Dalhousie.

True to the aims of the Canadian Union of Students, John Young also did his best this year to remove one of the economic barriers to higher education. He carried through a plan, begun under last year's student president Robbie Shaw, that would result in the abolishment of first-year tuition fees for Nova Scotia residents.

The proposal was to have been submitted to the provincial government. It recognized that free tuition for all students would be too costly a measure for Nova Scotia at the present time but on a first year basis it could help overcome the biggest immediate barrier. In addition it was estimated that the plan could be financed for less than the present bursary and loan schemes.

Unfortunately, Young failed to recognize the progressive nature of his proposal and the reactionary color of his council and the measure was lost.

It is true that, as some council members

pointed out, they were not given much time to discuss the matter, and an educational program may have saved the motion from defeat. However, in this day and age every student representative should have an informed opinion on the subject. And a discussion with the voters concerned showed that most of them voted against the principle of the motion not because of a disagreement over procedure.

Young worked to liberalize residence regulations and to increase student participation in clubs and societies. He helped host the 30th annual CUS congress held last year at Dalhousie.

He played a leading role in bringing the Student Union Building project to the stage where a ground breaking ceremony should take place before convocation.

Despite this impressive list of accomplishments, and the many achievements not listed here, Young may have won the battle and lost the war.

Young was a cool efficient administrator. A commerce graduate, he was council treasurer before taking over the president's job. He is both a small "i" and large "L" liberal. Together these factors operated to produce a student leader committed to maintaining the middle-of-the-road, Young would call himself a realist, but others might call him a compromiser.

Like all administrators Young believed in the efficiency of centralization. He paid lip-service to the concept of broadening the popular base of the student council but he did little to alter the existing structure.

The Law school is now installed in its new factory on University Avenue and next year the new medical plant, on the other side of Robie Street will open its doors for business. Along with the students in the other professional schools these people feel that the student council has nothing to offer them. As things now stand they are right.

The graduate students came to the realization last year. They increased their faculty fees to run a graduate house and there were some efforts made to pull out of the union.

Young and his successor, Dennis Ashworth, appear to believe that the new SUB will re-cement relations and prop up the old machine. It won't work.

The professional and graduate schools have become too large and their wants too specialized to be adequately handled by a centralized student council.

On top of this the under graduate faculty of Art and Science, with its high percentage of local day-students, has grown into an unwieldy blob. It too must be restructured if the members of the largest faculty are to find their proper place in the academic community.

Young obviously believes that the present system is flexible enough to accommodate the new demands being made upon it. Young's critics say this was the year to make a change and now it is already too late to reform the system in time to prevent a fragmentation of the student body.

For better or worse Young made his decision and now all we can do is wait and see if the existing structure merited his faith.

(Former Editor-in-Chief Tim Foley)

Bombing doesn't work, so...

The United States has consistently defended bombing of North Viet Nam on the grounds that it was reducing the flow of Communist troops and supplies to the south and thus saving American lives.

Now what does U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara tell a congressional committee? The man who is in the best possible position to assess the military effectiveness of the raids says flatly: "I don't believe that the bombing up to

the present has significantly reduced, nor any bombing that I could contemplate in the future would significantly reduce, the actual flow of men and material to the south."

If the military requirement for the bombing no longer exists and if it is agreed that raids in the north are a substantial impediment to truce talks, there is only one logical conclusion to be drawn: President Johnson should order an unconditional halt to the bombings.

In Retrospect Students expand horizons, interests during 1966-67

The Dalhousie Student Union this year, I believe, has made considerable progress towards providing a wider variety of activities which will serve to please the broadening interests of our large and expanding student body. I think it is important to remember that at Dalhousie, we have a large number of Graduate students and people who are in professional schools and as a result this gives Dalhousie a type of atmosphere which does not exist at any other university in the Atlantic Provinces. Often it seems that we don't have the college spirit in the sense of the tinselled and bottled variety that can quite easily be seen at other universities. However, I sincerely hope that all Dalhousie students have a loyalty to this university and are benefitting from their time at university.

I think the most important contribution that has been made this year is the establishment and setting up of the Course Evaluation Program. In the weeks following the March break students in the under-graduate Arts and Science courses will be taking part in the first scientific course evaluation which is taking place in the Atlantic Provinces. Next September the results of this questioning will be published in booklet form for all students to see and for staff to evaluate, as well. This year's course evaluation, although the result of over eighteen months of planning, will in many ways be a test case for Dalhousie Students, if the results of this questionnaire prove to be beneficial and help to improve the teaching at Dalhousie University it will mark a first and important step towards an ever-increasing interest in the academic life of the university by Dalhousie students and the Student Union.

This year, as well, I believe we have seen an increasing interest in the many small groups and organizations which exist on the Dalhousie campus. It is a fundamental item on a campus as diversified as Dalhousie that

we cannot expect all students to like the same type of activity and therefore we must provide for the many varied interests which are present on this campus. In the past we have not emphasized the strengthening of these small and varied groups and this year has seen considerable progress in this area. It is also gratifying to see that the faculty societies are taking a greater responsibility and becoming more co-hesive; this is an important area and one in which continuous support must be provided if the Dalhousie campus is to become a more enjoyable place for us students. We've always had to cope with the problem of the Arts and Science students who represent a large but unfortunately nebulous and uncohesive group. This year the Arts Society has made valiant attempts and as a result has made considerable progress towards providing an active and stimulating program, and for this they should be complimented. However, we have a long way to go in this area and only by developing strong faculty societies, strong residence communities and numerous small clubs and groups we will be fulfilling the needs of an expanding university population.

This year I'm pleased to see a number of new groups arrive on campus. Dalhousie student radio began this year and now has a half hour program on radio station CHNS every Saturday afternoon; I think radio has a large and expanding horizon at Dalhousie and will be a tremendous benefit in the next few years. As well we've seen an active interest in providing a better life for married students by co-operative residence apartment building in Canada at Dalhousie and as well the establishment of wives club and continuing study of programs for married students.

Of course, this year must be remembered because of the referendum held regarding the fee increase, which will enable the construction of the Student Union

Building. This is a 3,7 million dollar building with which we are familiar and which we desire. It is hoped that we will be able to turn the sod and begin the construction of this building before the end of the year; if this is possible the building will be opened sometime in the summer of 1968 and will be in full operation a year from next September.

This year I think we have seen very good orientation, Fall Festival, and Winter Carnival programs. All these programs have been organized by hard working students for the sole benefit of the rest of us lazier students. I think that the programs this year were imaginative, well planned and carried off and that they were popular and I think the campus is better for it. This type of activity whereby the students are offered a program which is enjoyable, and at the same time relatively cheap and which does not rely on the importing of expensive foreign talent, should be continued, for I think it is of great benefit to the campus. This year the Dalhousie Student Union hired a qualified student Administrator. The Administrator is a full time employee who directs the administration of the Student Union office and the day to day planning of the Student Union Building. We are very fortunate in having a very capable and very interested person who has devoted long hours which has freed most of the student groups from the necessity of becoming large business organizations, and as a result many of our organizations can now concentrate on program development and student involvement, which is a far greater benefit and is far more enjoyable as far as we students are concerned.

An effort to educate more Nova Scotians throughout universities in general and Dalhousie in particular



JOHN YOUNG

(Photo by Bob Brown)

organized the C.U.S. committee organized a High School Visitation Program, whereby groups of students travelled throughout southern Nova Scotia and gave talks and presented literature to groups of high school students, informing them on how to apply to university and what to expect when enrolled. This program had far reaching benefits for the province as well as for the university for it should certainly encourage more Nova Scotians to attend university.

One of the continuing problems which persists at Dalhousie is the lack of communication between Medical campus and the

Arts campus and between the various segregated departments and faculties. I think some progress has been made towards trying to accommodate our activities and plan our activities around the Medical system, which the Medical and Dental students now use, but we must make further efforts to ensure that we are providing a beneficial and useful Student Government for all segments of the campus. It is in this area where the Student Council and all students must place their greatest efforts, in order to ensure a greater loyalty to Dalhousie now, and in the future.

Dalpseudo's campus library

Author's Note: the following article is purely fictitious. Any similarity to an existing situation is coincidental and was not intended by the author.

The scene is in the Dalpseud University Library, a decaying stone structure where the only sounds are those of copulating pigeons and crumbling mortar. From the moment the student steps inside the door, he is aware of a prevailing atmosphere of reverent silence, not unlike that in a funeral parlour (although the latter is more stimulating) The student feels the gaze of many eyes upon him as he makes his way to the desk of the librarian. It becomes clear to him that his motives for entering the building are under suspicion. Assuming what he hopes to be a sincere forthright expression, he approaches the least severe-looking of the ladies in charge.

Clearing his throat nervously, he croaks a greeting, which is met with stony silence. He smiles, and this overture is scrutinized with open hostility. Throwing caution to the winds, he asks for directions to the card file. The librarian thrusts a bony digit in the appropriate direction. In eager excitement at this unexpected response, he thanks her conversationally, but once again, there is no sign that he has been heard. Could it be possible, he speculates to himself, that the entire place is staffed by deaf-

muters? Near the card file, he finds a convenient pencil (length 1/4") bolted to the table by a huge chain, similar to those used to secure ships in their berths, another female follows his every movement carefully. He decides against stealing the pencil (which has no lead) for his chances of escaping with 200 pounds of chain clanking in his pocket are slim. He now has a catalogue number written on a scrap of paper, and rashly decides to attempt to find the book. He walks to the desk, and states his need. The librarians spring to life. He is pined with questions from all sides; does he have any form of identification? does he have proof that he is a registered student at Dalpseud University? How is his credit rating? is his father employed steadily? does he realize what a great privilege it is to be allowed into the Holy of Holies (known as the Stacks in library jargon).

His admittance is cleared at last, although he has now missed two classes while waiting. However, he now feels that it must be worthwhile to receive an education if he must go to this much trouble to read just one book. He turns towards the stacks and there he sees signs on the wall saying: "We reserve the right to examine the contents of briefcases and any other receptacles upon leaving the stacks." He touches the doorknob and the inoffensive article comes to life in his hand; a resounding buzz fills the air. Somewhat dazed, he re-

alizes that he has not set off the burglar alarm, but is holding the craftily-contrived electric doorknob in his hand, and is meant to turn the knob and push. The door swings shut behind him; once inside the sacred stacks, he has time to stop and think.

Obviously he is suspected of a great crime against the literary masterpieces of his day. And here we see a change come over this honest ethical young man. He who has never had any previous record of petty larceny, is now plotting revenge against the system. He slinks stealthily up and down the aisles, amassing a great collection of light reading, useful reference volumes, and a variety of other interesting works. He conceals them carefully about his person. Upon leaving, he is asked by a Librarian (male) to strip down to his underwear, and is thoroughly searched. He has been successful. The fourteen books concealed in his athletic support were overlooked. He leaves the mouldy air of the library in a mood of elation.

It is because of the frequency of such incidents which are doubtless the result of unwarranted and ludicrous measures of supposed prevention, that the students of Dalpseud University wonder whether the recent reorganization of their library was undertaken solely for the benefit of the librarians themselves, who now have so many loftier pursuits to follow than the aiding of students in the use of this essential organ of university education.

SIR JAMES DUNN SCHOLARSHIPS IN LAW tenable at DALHOUSIE LAW SCHOOL

Seven Scholarships - \$1500 each

may be awarded to Male students, who are Canadian citizens, entering the first year of the course leading to the Bachelor of Laws degree at Dalhousie University. The Scholarships are renewable for students attaining a first class average and standing in the top ten of their class.

Successful applicants must have a declared desire to study law, must have shown evidence of outstanding academic ability and must possess in the opinion of the selection committee the qualities needed for the attainment of distinction in the legal profession.

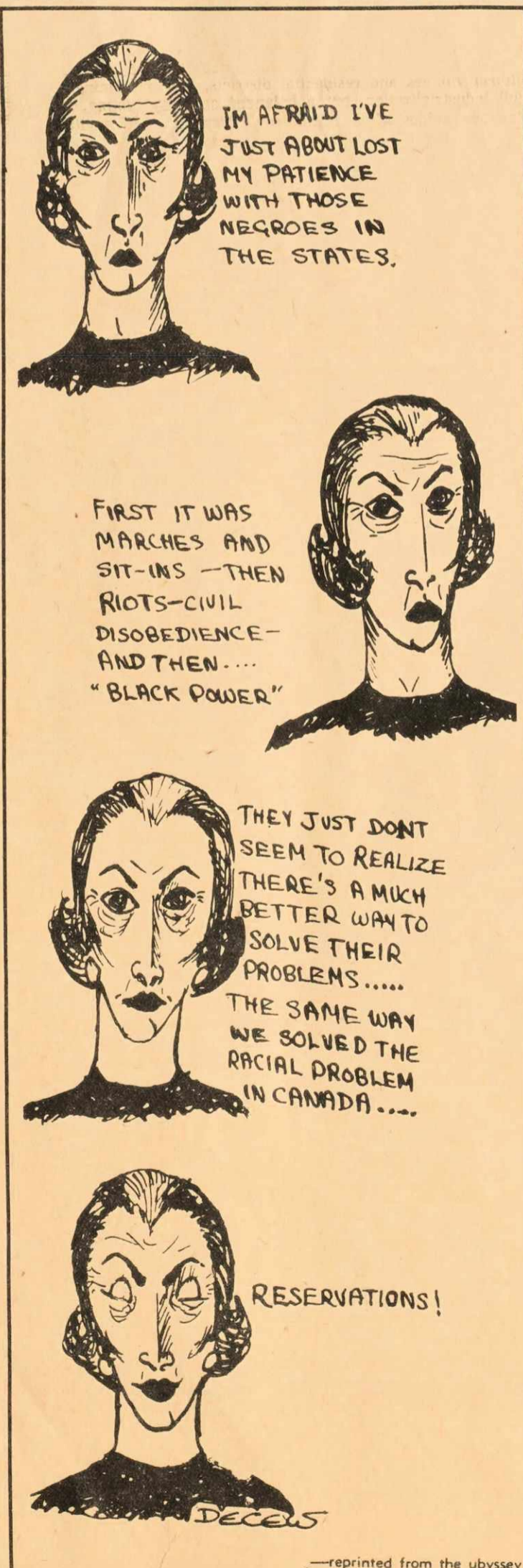
Candidates are invited to apply to

the Dean, Faculty of Law,

Dalhousie University,

Halifax, Nova Scotia,

not later than March 20th 1967.



IM AFRAID I'VE
JUST ABOUT LOST
MY PATIENCE
WITH THOSE
NEGROES IN
THE STATES.

FIRST IT WAS
MARCHES AND
SIT-INS - THEN
RIOTS-CIVIL
DISOBEDIENCE-
AND THEN....
"BLACK POWER"

THEY JUST DONT
SEEM TO REALIZE
THERE'S A MUCH
BETTER WAY TO
SOLVE THEIR
PROBLEMS.....
THE SAME WAY
WE SOLVED THE
RACIAL PROBLEM
IN CANADA....

RESERVATIONS!

DECEES

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