

450 attend talk given by Dean

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

John Dean opened his talk to a crowd of 450 in the McInnes Room on Tuesday night by acknowledging the controversy surrounding his arrival and explaining the breakdown of his lecture fee. Mr. Dean said he earns only one sixth of the full fee and explained that he was not exactly sure what the real fee was or why his agent would wish it kept secret. (Bruce Russell later revealed that Dean was part of a package deal and his fee was about \$2500.)

Mr. Dean opened his discussion of Watergate with an attempt to define the term. He said that originally he had considered Watergate not in the broad sense of corruption in politics but merely as the actual break-in at the Democratic headquarters. It was a letter from a friend which forced him to re-evaluate his definition of the term. He now defines Watergate as the "corrupt use of power by high government officials".

Dean's part in the Watergate fiasco began in April 1971 with the issuance of a memo from Nixon to Haldeman. The memo described how the best possible political intelligence gathering operation was to be established within the organization to re-elect the President. Since one of Dean's jobs was to keep Nixon informed of demonstrations, an aspect of political intelligence, Dean was to be involved with the operation being established.

It was Dean in fact who found Gordon Liddy and suggested his involvement in the political intelligence operation. Mitchell wanted a lawyer and approved Liddy. Dean pointed out that everyone was trying to please the President and that if Nixon had not wanted illegal activities to occur they would not have occurred. Though the President may not have had specific knowledge of illegal operations he certainly did not condemn such activities.

Dean described how, in the aftermath of the break-in, the cover-up began to protect John Mitchell and Erlichmann from embarrassment, if not indictment. Dean, intent on pleasing his superiors, became involved in the cover-up activities. He was in his words "blinded by my own ambition" and as the cover-up began he felt it was wrong but not at that point illegal. At first Dean was an information gatherer only—finding out exactly what had happened at the Watergate Apartments—but as money became involved he felt increasingly uncomfortable with his role. Today, he says, his actions seem highly illogical.

Dean said that good public relations was seen at the White House as the cure for almost anything. In the case of Watergate good public relations was simply lies.

John Dean is convinced that in a sense Watergate was a good thing to go through. If it had not happened when it did Dean thinks there would have been a worse Watergate in the future. Further, the unravelling of Watergate proved that the American system does work.

John Dean was sentenced to

prison for 1-4 years for his role in the Watergate cover-up but was released after serving 4 months. He said that the time he spent in jail proved to him that money can and does minimize the impact of justice. Further, he said that "concepts of rehabilitation in prison are bullshit". Justice cannot occur said Dean, when a kid gets 5 years for possession of marijuana and he only served 4 months for obstruction of justice.

In the question period following Dean's talk the audience received a much more vivid impression of what it really was like for Dean during his White House years and after.

Dean said he was never really pressured by any administration officials not to tell the truth but he did have to have marshall protection for six months. There were threats on his life from numerous sources, but, he said, one just learns to accept them as a fact of life.

Dean thinks Nixon's forthcoming trip to China signifies his re-emergence into the public eye. Dean does not think, however, that Nixon is capable of ever erasing Watergate from his image. Other men might be able to make the public forget but Richard Nixon will never be able to do so.

Dean does not think that Nixon should have been jailed but he does feel that in return for Ford's pardon Nixon should have come forward with the truth.

If it had not been for the discovery of the tapes Dean said Nixon would still be in office. It was very lonely for Dean before the tapes were brought forward as no one would ever corroborate his testimony. In fact, the tapes were almost not discovered Dean said. It was only a chance comment in his testimony about "feeling" that he was being taped that brought the question to Alex Butterfield later. Butterfield told Dean he never intended to volunteer any information on the tapes but would answer questions truthfully.

In a discussion with the Gazette after the lecture Dean confirmed that all the stories about the White House being a cold, calculating place in the Nixon years are absolutely true. It was never a relaxed or friendly place to work.

Asked if he knew the identity of "Deep Throat" in the Woodward Bernstein book "All the President's Men" Dean said he had two good guesses. Woodward and Bernstein, now friends of Dean's, have agreed with his guesses. Dean however would not reveal the names nor the occupations of his speculations. He did say that he knows 'Deep Throat' did not work in the White House. The Gazette can only speculate that he worked in the prosecutor's office and had access to all the government evidence as the case progressed.

Also on the topic of Woodward and Bernstein Dean said that it was not the two reporters who broke the case but Judge John Sirica. The reporters, Dean said, were responsible for making the public aware of the situation but they were always two steps behind the Prosecutor's office. It was Sirica's tenacity that finally brought Watergate into the open.



CBC muscles in on Dean story, copping interview with Michael 'Mikhail' Greenfield of the Gazette Dal Photo / Mooney

Carnival through for another year

by Lianne Murphy

Dalhousie Winter Carnival is over for another year. The committee has relaxed and partially recovered from their ordeal, and are probably wondering what fit of insanity induced them to undertake it in the first place. All the parties, receptions, and free liquor in the world can not possibly make such a nerve racking experience worthwhile.

However, every year Dalhousie has been lucky that such temporarily irrational individuals still exist on campus.

The Winter Carnival began on Tuesday, January 27 with the first unforgettable appearance of the Madhouse Theatre of London. With a mixture of vaudeville and Monty Python-type humor, these four performers managed to keep the audience laughing both in and out of doors. On Wednesday and Thursday nights they were back and playing to packed houses.

Also taking place on Wednesday, before the second appearance of the Theatre, was the Black and Gold Review. Sprinkled among the painfully nervous in their amateur talent show were some very competent and accomplished performers (who were also painfully nervous if the truth be known). Most find talent shows an agony to watch, especially if its your friend on stage and you are afraid he or she will forget the words, trip over a cord, or experience some other devastating catastrophe. However, with Gordie Neal as M.C., how can

you go wrong?

When the results from the judges were announced, no one was surprised to learn that Dude (originally christened Brian MacDonald) had won first prize in the competition. His was a performance you could relax and enjoy, as he played guitar and sang some fine songs of his own composition.

Thursday was SUB night with Time Space Continued in the McInnes Room, a CJCH Disco in the cafeteria, and the Green Room the scene of much bet placing as Dalhousie's pin ball wizzards competed with each other for extra games. On Friday afternoon the insanity really took hold of Dalhousie as both the cafeteria and the McInnes Room were opened for beer bashes. The organizers, hoping to discourage the beer throwing which always characterizes these events, prohibited the wearing of rain gear; and so every one just got soaked.

For those who missed the beer bash or who had recovered sufficiently, it was back to the SUB that night to see and hear the electronic wizardry of Scorpio, and the return appearance of (Time Space Continued).

Finally the Winter Carnival Ball taking place on Saturday night, ended the festivities for this year. Our thanks to the chairperson, Joey Roza and his entire committee for a fine job despite all the pitfalls and assorted crises which faced them throughout.

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