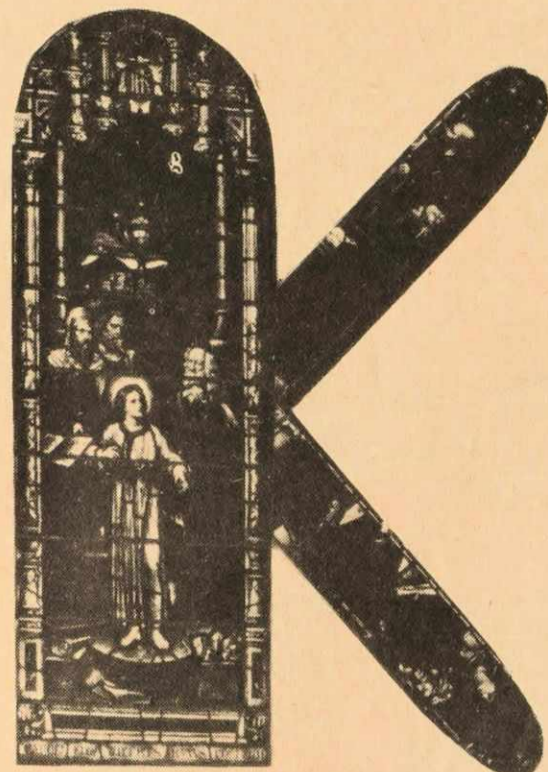


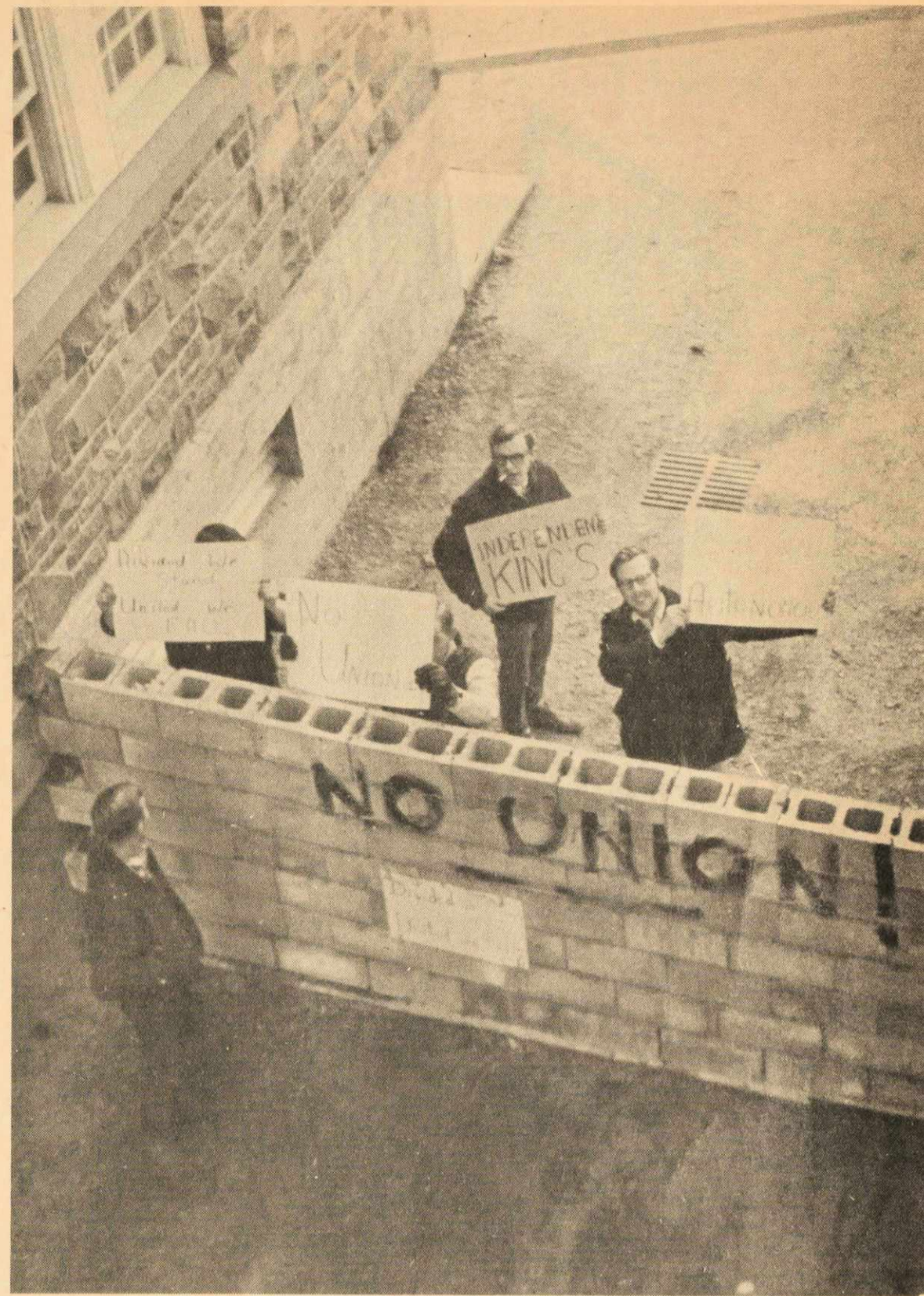
# The



# ING'S

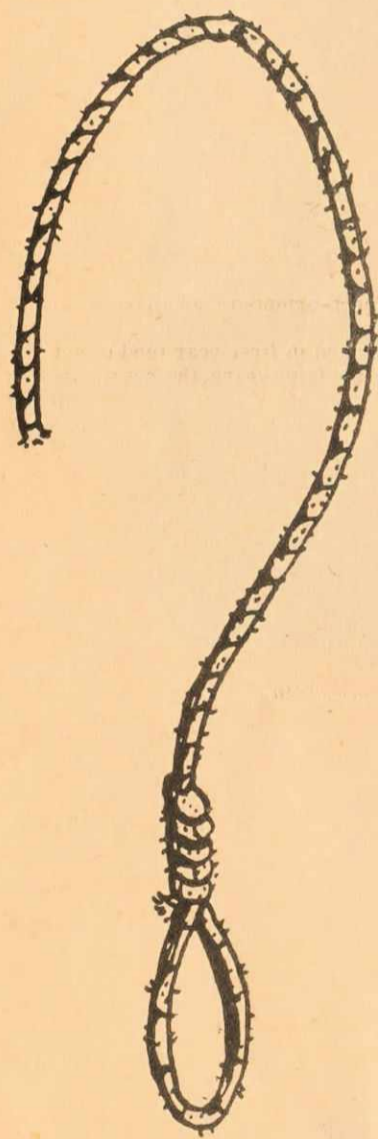
Drawings by SARTY

# Thing



Last year Dalhousie students attending courses at King's were forced to take the long way around as King'smen constructed this wall to show their feelings on proposed amalgamation with Dalhousie.

The University of King's College is facing, as it has for the past few years, the threat of being extinguished. Meanwhile, King's students prepare to fight the battle which may be their last. This article attempts to present the reasons for the "King's Thing".



The University of King's College is the oldest university in the Commonwealth outside the Great Britain. In 1925 its buildings in Windsor, Nova Scotia were destroyed by fire, and acting upon an offer by the Carnegie Foundation, the University moved to its present location on the Studley Campus of Dalhousie University. Originally an Anglican University, it now accepts members from all denominations.

The enrollment of King's is about two hundred forty seven students. Of these, the vast majority are registered in the faculty of Arts and Science. While the university includes a number of Day Students, most of its activities are centered around the residences.

The great Dal-King's question has arisen annually for a number of years. Until several years ago, the Dalhousie Student Union received an annual allotment from the King's College Student Union. In return for this, King's students were permitted to participate in the Non-athletic Dalhousie student activities.

In 1965 a different of opinion reached a climax. The King's students refused to pay the higher levy which the Dalhousie Student Union was going to charge them, and further voted against participating in the Dalhousie Student Union Building. They argued that their own residences and activities were such that they would first of all have no need for the Dalhousie SUB, and secondly, had so few students participating in the Dalhousie Student affairs that it was unfair to pay the new allotment.

In addition, it was decided that no compromise could be reached and no further discussions have been held. The situation has remained static under these terms ever since.

It now however seems likely that there may be an agreement not only to associate the student unions, but to have the control of University of King's College pass into Dalhousie hands.

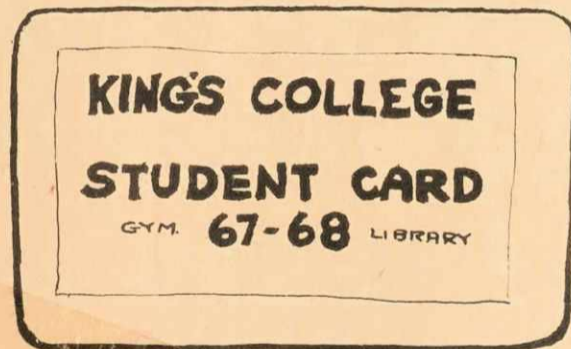
This has been forced by the university grants commission, who feel that the extra expense of having two administrations does not warrant the existence of a small university in association with Dalhousie. The administration at King's has therefore taken it upon itself to begin to draw up plans and conditions for an amalgamation.

Meanwhile the Student Union of King's College has taken strong objection to any proposed takeover, and

is preparing to fight for its life on this issue; for that, it appears, is what it will have to do.

Why is the King's student body so strongly opposed to any attempt to sell King's? After all, they have been taking almost all their classes at Dalhousie for a number of years.

Steve Hart, President of the Union, said, "All students know that there is something more to education than formal lectures. We feel that King's offers some sort of unique worthwhile educational experience on the campus, and that it therefore ought to be preserved."



... COLLECTOR'S ITEM ?! ...

What is there at King's which is unique?

Because of its minuscule size, King's has developed a sense of community which any larger institution would find impossible to match. For the students, this includes not only the benefits, but also the responsibilities, of living together. The sense of community manifests itself in many ways.

All are responsible in the decision making process of the student government. Major policy decisions are made by the student body meeting en masse. As a result for instance, The Student Union of the University of King's college adopted The Declaration of the Canadian Student as a student union, with discussion open to all members of the college. Dalhousie and almost all other universities in Canada which accepted the Declaration did so by a vote of the Student Council, without confronting the students with the issues and therefore creating little understanding.

When King's joined NSUS it did so, unlike Dalhousie or any other Nova Scotia University, after general and heated discussion amongst the majority of her students, which created an understanding of the Provincial Union and its purposes and goals. Because of this kind of decision making process, the issues which the student government deals with are more relevant to the student.

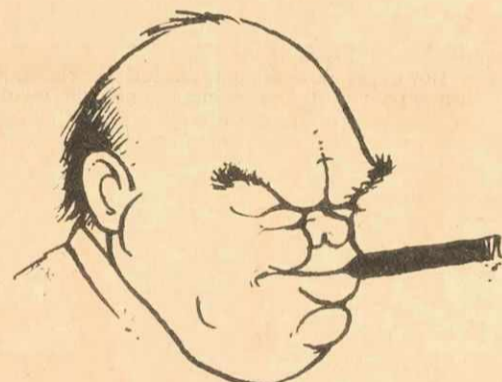
The sense of community is also valuable in that it leads to more relevant council sponsored activities. It is not a council operating from above, which decides on what students will be able to participate in, but rather it is the students themselves. The separate activities include CUS and NSUS participation, Drama Society, Quintillian debating society, The Halliburton Club, Canada's oldest society of this kind, both men's and women's sports organizations, the King's student newspaper, the Ancient Commoner, and an intricate Academic committee.

That these activities exist separate to those of Dalhousie does not necessarily justify the separate existence of King's. What makes them valuable is that they are more relevant to every student. The Drama Society, for example, last year put on a major production which rivaled Dal's in quality and directly involved more than half of the student body. The sports organizations take active part in almost all major sports, and this means, for a small college, that any one even with an minimum of ability, can take part on the intercollegiate level. The various parts of the residences, the bays and wings, also compete in athletics. The debating society holds weekly debates, between the bays and Wings in which every King's student is required to participate at least once.

King's also has an intercollegiate debating team which has enjoyed considerable success.

King's delegations to any conference, whether CUS or NSUS, are highly respected despite the size of the university, for they have a unique tradition of arriving well prepared, and with a specific and developed philosophy of student government. This philosophy is a result of the King's way of life.

When student leaders are forced to be able to defend their thinking on students affairs not just



... NEVER HAVE SO MANY OWED SO MUCH TO SO FEW ...

before the members of their fellow governing elite, but rather before the entire student body of the university, then they are obliged to develop their programs not just out of convenience to the students, or acceptability to the rest of the student movement, but from a fundamental philosophy. At King's this has led not only to a more responsible student government, but to an increased awareness of the political scene.

With the development of ideals on student government to come an interest in politics exceeded in few other colleges. Not only is the Left strongly represented in this dialogue, but there is also an articulate Right in opposition.

A major factor in the shaping of King's community spirit from the freshman's entrance into the university is the initiation. What was once a sadistic exercise for the sophomores and upperclassmen has become, in the past few years, something of real educational value. The students are now given academic counselling on the course they plan to take before registration. They attend lectures and discussions on student government and university government. They become acquainted with some of the major issues confronting student governments, such as academic democracy (Open Decision Making), and universal accessibility. Freshmen are given the opportunity to have discussions with all the heads of campus organizations and university officials.

During the week they also participate in some activities such as debating and sports. Almost every freshman participates fully in all the activities. Not only does this result in knowing more about the college than most freshmen elsewhere, it also results in a community where everyone becomes known.

This is an obvious factor in the development of the community.

The first week at King's has evolved until now it is less of an initiation than a valuable orientation. In the strictly Academic vein, King's has an active tutorial system which gives tutorials in almost all courses, operated by the students, and courses counselling to freshmen during orientation.

The students at King's will not, they have unanimously agreed, immediately accept any administrative agreement even though it might guarantee a separate King's student union. This is because, over a period of time, certain other changes, such as the structure or function of the college could be made, to make it ineffective as a small academic community, the one factor from which it derives its strength. They intend to use any means necessary to ensure that this does not happen.

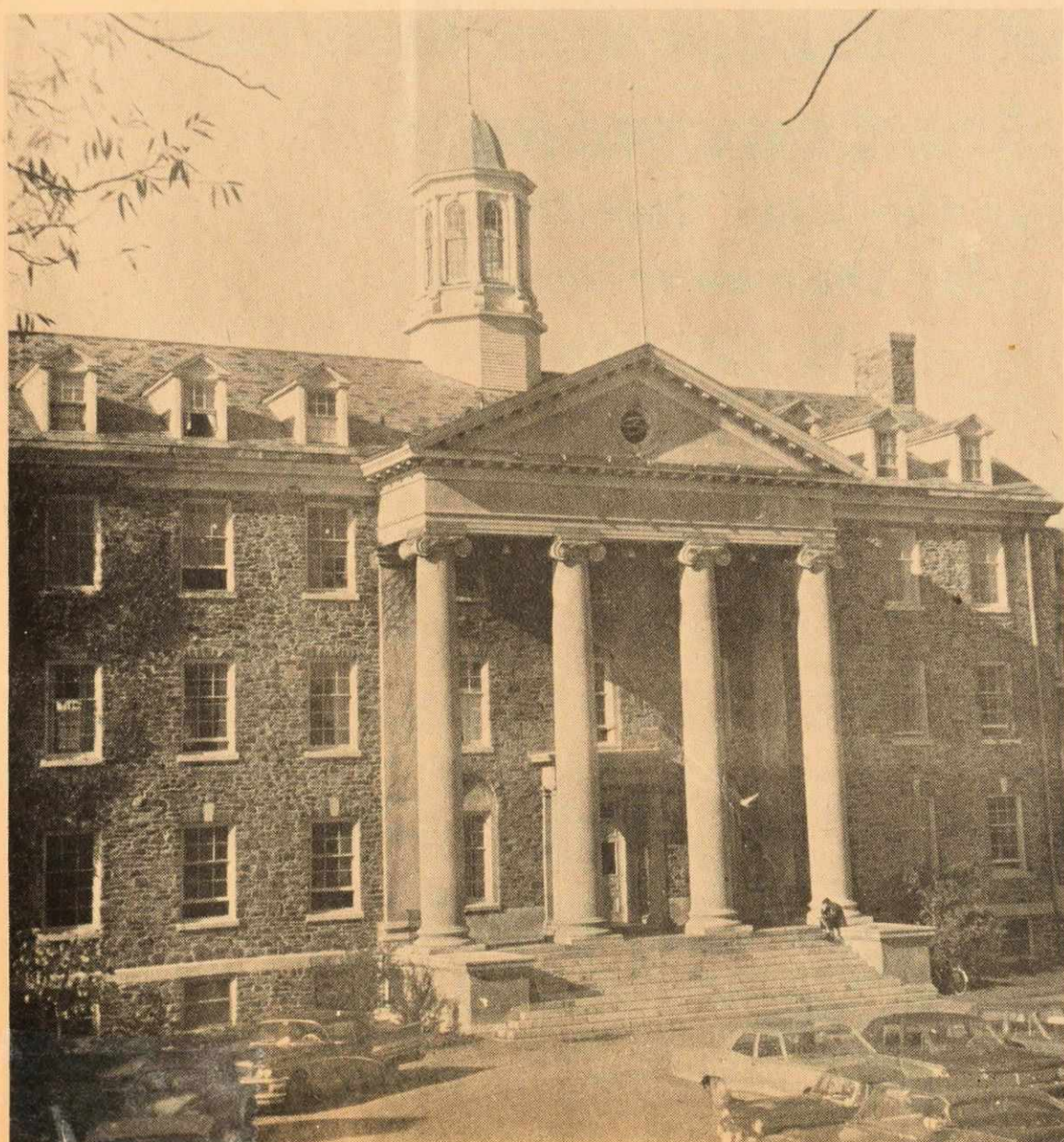
President Hart said, "The organizations and activities which we have developed at our university are unique in Canada. So is the level of participation in the activities. The things which make King's



unique and worthwhile in the North American community far override the slight extra cost which is involved in maintaining the University as a separate entity.

"Our whole approach is democratic and completely different, because we are lucky enough to be small, from the philosophy upon which the Dalhousie student Union operates. We simply will not give up what we have when that is what most other Canadian campuses are striving to achieve. We cannot see ourselves as ever being a part of the Dalhousie Student Union.

"It is clear that our students will not use the Student Union Building when it is completed, for it is a duplication of what we already have. We are not willing to put money into the Dalhousie Union coffers. The continuation and expansion of the benefits which derive to the members of the King's Community, and thereby to society as a whole (for we concentrate on external activities) demand that we remain completely and totally independent."



KING'S COLLEGE  
1968 test close  
DECEMBER 15