

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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REPORTERS UNDER THE TABLE

Several undergraduates spent the summer acting as guinea pigs at the Common Cold Research Unit. During the past few weeks we have all been acting as guinea pigs for the features editors of the national press.

Driven mad by the constant repetition of interviews with Miss Jane Russell, these learned gentlemen have of one accord shouted at their minions, "find out what the youth of the country thinks." Within minutes the railway tickets have been bought and the newshounds are on their way to Oxford and Cambridge. Within hours the phrases roll back "These seem very young old men. . . I told these young men and women about the middle classes. . ." etc., etc.

There is a tendency, on the part of all writers dealing with undergraduates, to think of us as a group, with group views and group interests. This may well be true of lighthouse keepers, deep sea divers, or winkle sellers, but it is not true of undergraduates. There is no such thing as "undergraduate opinion"—except on college food—but there are a great many individual opinions held by individual undergraduates.

There also appears to be an alarming idea abroad that all undergraduates are "the leaders of the future." Some undergraduates undoubtedly will be successful in their careers, but it is equally certain that a great many of us are going to be failures. No one can say with any certainty which of us are going to be leaders and which the failures.

The depressing fact is that undergraduates are for the most part normal young men and women who happen to be at a university. We do not have the discipline of earning our own living and our intelligence is probably a bit above the national average. However, the majority of us probably have the same tastes and ideas as those of our age who are not at a university—Betty Grable is a bigger draw than Raimu, crime is of more interest than Plato, Cardiff rugby team will outdraw any professor by more than fifteen to one. Conversation at the Dot. is no deeper than at the Hammersmith Palais.

There are a lot of eccentrics in Cambridge, but then there are a lot at Tooting. There are many earnest young men and women here, but so there are in Huddersfield.

Any editor who wants to know what the "youth" of the country thinks might as well save money by asking the office boy. However, for the time being you had better be careful of what you say, even in your own room. There is probably a reporter lurking underneath the table.
—The Cambridge Varsity

Letter to the Editor

November 17, 1949.

The Editor,
The Dalhousie Gazette,
Halifax, N. S.
Dear Sir:

I am writing with regard to your editorial entitled "Pathetic Fallacy" (Gazette, November 15). The issue is a serious one, and cannot go unnoticed in these troubled times.

Our popular reactions to the Red Scare have become too much a thing of fear and too little a thing of objective reason. In Spain they wave the red flag to annoy the bull, but the most common use of it in certain North American quarters is to use it to sling the bull. I would not minimize the terrible danger of any materialistic atheism, but would suggest that ideas must be combatted not by the sword but by better ideologies.

One cannot intelligently evaluate any ideological movement by looking at only the side ones prejudice favours. Like the physician or scientist one must know all the factors on both sides in order to seek a solution or cure. To refuse to try to understand the other side

denotes not only a closed mind but a lack of faith in the strength of our own system, not to mention a contradiction of our own fundamental belief in the freedom of speech so well defined by the late Justice Holmes, who said that "Freedom of thought is freedom for the thing you hate".

We believe that the hope of the world is a positive Christianity that goes forth, and not a retreating Christianity. Dalhousie S.C.M. voted to send delegates to the World Federation of Democratic Youth not only to give the other side a fair hearing, but also that we should not fail to show the Christian way of life.

It is encouraging to find an open view existing in the Gazette towards the action of the S.C.M. in trying to convert the "hard-boiled, goose-stepping activists of the festival to Christianity". This was to us the only intellectually and morally honest path to follow. Christ came for Communists, too.

Yours truly,
Douglas R. Jennings,
President,
Dalhousie S.C.M.

News . . . Views and Jottings

Arts and Science . . .

The Arts and Science Society finally settled the constitutional controversy last Thursday at a meeting held in the basement of the Arts Building. Jan Robertson, President of the Society, presided.

The controversy was over changing the dues which had previously been one dollar for membership in the society till graduation. The Constitution has now been changed whereby members entering the society now and henceforth must pay one dollar per year to retain their membership. The amendment was ratified by the Students and the Society.

The Arts and Science dance to be held in the Gym on January 13 discussed. Joan McCurdy was elected Chairman of the decoration committee.

Georgia Wooton was then elected to the Social Events Committee to replace Newcombe Bloomer. Eric Richter is Chairman of this committee.

Anita Simpson was elected manager of Dramatics and Bob McInnis was elevated to the position of Debating Manager.

At the next meeting of the Society only those holding membership cards shall be eligible to vote.

N.F.C.U.S. Brief . . .

TORONTO — (CUP) — A brief dealing with federal aid to education to the Royal Commission on the Arts, Letters and Sciences now being prepared by the National Federation of Canadian University Students will to a large extent reflect the opinions of "each and every Canadian university student," Richey Love, NFCUS national president, told a Toronto committee meeting.

Love, a Dalhousie University law student, was meeting the Toronto Committee as part of his tour of central Canadian campi represented in NFCUS.

He described the work on the brief being done by various NFCUS committees to show the extent to which it will be the result of the work and opinions of all Canadian university students.

Love said the brief will be divided into three parts. The first would deal with scholarships. "The main aim of our work is to make it possible for students who cannot now attend university because of financial reasons to do so in the future," he commented.

Research was being done on all campi to discover how many scholarships were available to a Canadian student in his own university, in Canadian universities other than his own and in foreign universities.

Love said the second section of the brief, being prepared by the University of British Columbia NFCUS committee, will be on student opinion concerning national institutions like the National Film Board, the National Gallery and the National War Museum. U.B.C.

The third part of the brief is to deal with Canadian participation in the United Nations Educational Social and Cultural organization.

Attention Writers . . .

The Editors of the Northern Review have announced two awards of one hundred dollars each, one for poetry and one for fiction. These prizes will be awarded on the basis of work published in the magazine during the coming year. The prizes have been made available by the generous donations of persons interested in encouraging Canadian writing.

The Poetry Award will be made to the author of the best poem or group of poems accepted and published during the next six numbers of the Northern Review, beginning with issue for October-November 1949 and concluding with the issue for August-September 1950. The fiction award will be made to the author of the best short story or selection from a longer work of fiction published during the same period.
(Continued on page 3)

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