

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER
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EVEN IDEAS ARE WORTH WHILE

From time to time there is a general cry of alarm that the Gazette is prone to print what are known as "ideas," that the Gazette prints thoughts that are not in accord with accepted traditional beliefs.

There was even one student of Medicine who, last year, wrote, "when the Gazette departs from news and starts to print ideas it ceases to be a college paper," or words to that effect. Ever since we have felt very sorry for that student who could not bear to see "ideas" in print.

But even more deplorable was a student who held that if the Gazette must print "ideas" they at least ought to be those of the majority.

Well be it known that the Gazette will continue to print ideas and thoughts whether they are of the majority or not, and whether the submitted ideas and thoughts are signed or not.

It is not important who wrote a particular piece, but rather has it any informative, provocative or literary worth.

Great thoughts are not usually the product of a majority nor seldom ever of a group, but more often they are the result of one man's through lengthy thought and examination of what things ought to be or what they might be.

The philosophy of Plato, or of Socrates was not that of a majority. The belief in one God over all mankind was originally only the belief of a distressed minority. Christianity was certainly the outgrowth of one man's thoughts and visions and yet it seems to have thrived in spite of that. The famous Magna Carta was the product of a few men's beliefs and it too has endured.

Therefore it would seem that even as humble a publication as the Gazette might in a small way be denying mankind if we did not permit to be printed "ideas" which are perhaps held only by one, or a few, men. The majority, the "great majority," already knows what it believes, else it would not be the great majority; it would seem the wiser plan then to listen to unknown or individual beliefs if we wish to hear of things of which we were not already aware.

Granted many personal beliefs are not worth printing, but until the Gazette is capable of rendering absolute decision on the objective right or wrong of any subject or viewpoint we will continue to print even those things which we know to be at variance with popular belief.

THE GREAT "CONFORMITY" MYTH

Many men today, in offices, in universities and on the streets take it to themselves to decry what is popularly called "orientation of the masses" or "the great God of our conformity."

It is now time to examine this "orientation" to see, firstly, if it really exists, and secondly, to see why it has come about.

Well then, it appears that the most obvious conformity is in our way of dress, our cars, our habits of recreation, and many more.

The next question is: why it has come about. It has come about because we in North America are of a hundred different origins; our fathers came to this continent with a hundred different ways of life; with varied manner of dress, with different languages, histories and religions. In all we were a conglomerate people with nothing to bind us except a common destiny in North America. As a direct result we ridiculed each other for the way we spoke, we laughed at each other's clothing, we sneered at each other's racial inferiority; in fact we are still doing it today although more quietly and politely.

Therefore, because we had to try for the sake of national harmony to try to become in a few ways at least, if only superficially, a house united. And it is only superficially that we have conformed and orientated ourselves.

Deep down at the bottom of the river of human destiny there is a basic and more worthwhile variation among us than has perhaps ever been in history.

For in spite of our outward uniformity we follow a dozen different religions; we hold a thousand different philosophies; we cling to a multitude of ambitions and desires; we differ in our moral outlook. In fact we differ so widely in so many places in our intellectual, mental and spiritual outlook that it is a wonder there is any unity or accord in our national way of life.

By way of contrast let us look at the Province of Quebec. There for example we have a people of one language, one religion, one racial origin and one political view; all this, because of the basic stability it affords the people has given rise to that admired and pleasant individuality of personality that is so characteristic of the Quebecker's way of life. On the other hand it has not produced any of the active thought and lively differences that are so characteristic of the oriented mass of North America.

The mass conformity of the North American may seem to be a distressing thing to some but somehow in those things of the mind and soul, which really matter there seems to be sufficient variation and disorientation among us to leave room for positive achievement before our civilization completely disintegrates.

Hands Off!

Everyone has heard of fortune tellers who claim they can reveal our characters and futures from the lines in our hands, but did you know that the shape of the hand itself can be mighty revealing if one knows the meaning of its contours? Sneak up on the person in whom you are most interested and look at his hand, keeping your own well-hidden in case he has similar ideas about you. The most elementary student can tell at a glance whether the owner of a particular hand is addicted to washings or not, but the purpose of this discussion is to untangle the less obvious characteristics hidden in the hand.

If the hand under suspicion is square, with fingernails as wide as fingers, its owner is bound to be practical, realistic and conscientious. The wider the fingernails and the squarer the palm, the more pronounced are these characteristics.

If the hand in addition to being square, is squat, with the main finger no more than two inches long and nails so wide that they have hardly any height at all, its owner is approaching the beast, and probably is childish in anger, fear and other emotions which owners of more streamlined hands can control.

The long, slim hand with long, knobby fingers is a sure sign of the philosopher, the dreamer who idealizes and doubtless writes modern poetry for the "Gazette" and other exclusive papers. In its pure form, it is rare.

A hand having long fingers without knobby knuckles is the hand of one who loves and appreciates the arts. Contrary to popular belief, this hand is not a sign of the artist. Its owner would like to paint and play the violin, but has not the necessary drive to do so well enough to satisfy his high standards. Unless coupled with square fingernails, its owner is usually disappointed in his lack of artistic ability, but let him not be discouraged! Those who appreciate art are as necessary as those who perform.

Any of these characteristics can be modified in the light of the thumb. Get your victim to extend his thumb at right angles to his hand. If it forms a definite downward curve, the char-

Defence of English

Tut, tut, my friends! What wild ideas are these, springing up in the midst of us? Will not everyone agree that a University is the stronghold of the study of English language and literature? Are not University graduates, of all people, supposed to be able to express themselves clearly both in writing and speaking?

Yes, yes, true thought this may be, there are churls and varlets seeking to poison the very roots of the study of English in our own University. Do not condone them, my friends, I beg you, when they urge a spishod language in place of a clear one. The vague, groping, mis-spelled English they use to put forward their argument is that argument's own downfall.

INITIATION ON WAY OUT?

Probably never since its inception many years ago has initiation at Mount Allison come so near to the brink of obliteration as it has this year. The members of the Senior Class have witnessed the decline of initiation from a fairly rugged ordeal, which was, perhaps, the most talked of event of the year to last week's disappointing farce in which the Sophomores half heartedly tried to settle the question as to who was master of the situation. (And often the answer was vague.)

The whole spirit of initiation seemed to be lacking this year. It seemed to be more of a general feeling than a laxity of individuals. The Freshmen were on the campus—and that was all there was to it—No one seemed to give a hang. And yet this ghost of initiation took up as much time as a good one would have. This brings us around to thinking about cutting it out altogether. Other universities are doing away with it. Dalhousie, for example, has abolished their "hazing" (as they call it) down there. Why do we have initiation at all? What is the purpose of it?

Initiation is supposed to denote a beginning, and your Freshman year certainly is a beginning. It is the beginning of an entirely new level in your educational stairway. You can easily see that you want to get started in the best possible way. Initiation should bring to the forefront the qualities most desirable in a college student. Perhaps the most important and best liked quality of all is humility. You are all familiar with the High School "big wheel" type of character and there always seems to be one or two in every freshman class. There is no place for this kind of person at college. Initiation is usually a humiliating experience and should let a lot of hot air out of the "big wheel." Many a conceited high school senior has come consequently to a really good head. At college, the emphasis is moved from the individual to the class. (Sometimes to extremes). The feeling of pride derived from belonging to a class, as a whole, seems to be more important than personal egotism.

Initiation also serves another purpose, this time with the Sophs as beneficiaries. It is the first thing that the Second year students do as a class. It should help them to work together, an essential thing for later enterprises such as the Junior Prom. Incidentally this co-operation factor may also appear in the Freshmen Class while they are taking initiation. Probably the most practical part of initiation, especially at Mt. Allison, is the wonderful means it affords for the upper classmen to get ac-

quainted with the new students as well as the new students to get acquainted with each other. If initiation is run properly it certainly can be a valuable experience both for new students and the old students alike.

I would recommend that question of initiation be investigated seriously, and if it can be made to serve its purpose, revived next year, if it can't be made to serve its purpose let's abolish it completely. But please, let's not slowly bore it to death.

ATTENTION:

**K.C.S. OLD BOYS
OLD BOYS' DAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**
For Transportation Call
W. BLISS LESLIE
Plan To Attend

HALIGONIANS FOIL AMOUROUS FEATURE WRITER

During the Dalhousie versus Cornwallis game, two beautiful, well-dressed girls were approached for an interview. Posing as sports editor of the Dalhousie Gazette, the interviewer listened patiently to their comments and then inquired their names, (in order to forward their views to the Gazette.)

The girls calmly informed him that as he lived in the Men's Residence and as he would undoubtedly give their names to the other residents, and since they had no desire of being phoned for dates they had not met the answer was NO.

The crestfallen writer returned to his room and faced the consequences of washing each room in the Men's Residence. He had made a bet with some chaps that he could obtain the names and addresses of the attractive girls—and lost.

The Gazette will be holding a dance on the thirtieth of October in the Dal gym. Keep your eyes open for further announcements about the gala event.

Letter from A Newfoundlander

Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette,
Dear Sir:

After further consideration of the article on Newfoundland (Oct. 9) called "The Squid Jigging Grounds," I've come to the conclusion that the writer may have been a little more well meaning than I've at first realized.

For years Dr. Grenfell, a missionary in Northern Newfoundland had to exaggerate Newfoundland conditions in other parts of North America to collect money for missions. That probably started the myth of our being a land of "codfish, fog and rocks." Actually the writer's own province is just as backward and probably less wealthy than Newfoundland. Personally I've seen more fog in Nova Scotia

than I saw in Newfoundland this summer although I spent two thirds of my time in Nova Scotia.

I've never been in the extreme North of Newfoundland or in the wilds of Labrador; so that the conditions mentioned may apply there, as far as I know.

I was greatly amused when a girl reporter from Toronto visited Newfoundland looking for an article on the poverty stricken areas of Newfoundland. As a press correspondent, I interviewed her and among other things she said: "You know I expected to see poverty here but everywhere I turn I see prosperity." Mr. D. M. might probably get the same surprise when he visits Newfoundland some time.

Yours truly,
Charles Hillier

A Letter to the Editor What to do About Cockroaches

The Editor,
The Dalhousie Gazette,
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Sir:
I was profoundly disturbed by the report carried in the October 2nd issue of your very fine weekly on the cockroach situation on the campus and particularly in the men's residence. I was not hitherto aware that this problem had reached such serious proportions. Indeed even after perusing your revealing article I was unable to believe that the conditions described therein were not somewhat (if you'll pardon the expression) exaggerated until I had myself made a few discreet enquiries. In the course of my investigation I was actually informed by an acquaintance of a highly reliable character that when he entered his laboratory in the mornings he did not consider it unusual to find as many as three or four cockroaches availing themselves of his scientific facilities and without even profering him the courtesy of asking his permission. However what he found most distressing about this whole affair was the consistency with which they obtained better results than he did.

This incident alone was sufficient to convince me that your

strongly-worded report was entirely justified, and inasmuch as I have recently attended another Maritime university where a similar problem was met and dealt with in a very satisfactory manner I feel obligated to offer any assistance I may be able to render in eliminating these insects which have obviously become a menace to the peace and security of the university.

In the university which I have had the privilege of attending during the past three years the problem was solved by a simple regulation laid down by the university authorities stating that cockroaches resident in the university for a length of time exceeding 14 days and not registered in a course of study approved by the Committees on Studies or in the employ of the Burser's office or other individuals or groups of individuals recognized by the university would be obliged either to legalize their presence on the campus according to the above stipulations or run the risk of being turned over to the Biology Department for experimental use.

Within a week 77% of the

illegitimate cockroach population of the campus had applied for emigration papers while 22.3% registered in approved courses of study. (It might here be mentioned that these latter individuals acquitted themselves with unexpected distinction. Several stood quite high in the year-end standings in the Home Economics course in which the greater part of them registered.)

Of course there were certain difficulties to be met in such a solution to this universal problem, principal of which was the strong objection raised by the S.P.C.A. to the turning over of the few outlawed insects which were captured (2) to the proper authorities for purposes of scientific research. However on the whole the measures adopted were marked with singular success and I feel sure that a similar expedient might be profitably employed on this campus as well.

Thanking you sir for the valuable space in your very fine weekly (or did I say that at the beginning?) I remain,

Your humble servant,
H.Y.

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