

'Mikado' Rated Successful

by Jim Faulds

One of the most enjoyable evenings I have spent in some time was last Friday night at the performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's light opera "The Mikado". It was performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights before enthusiastic audiences in the gymnasium as this year's major musical production of the Glee and Dramatic Society.

"The Mikado" is without doubt the most popular and celebrated of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. It has delicious humour, sparkling music, and is endowed with the ever intriguing and delightful flavor of the Orient. The performers are to be congratulated for the excellent manner in which they captured the spirit of Gilbert and Sullivan, as well as portraying the atmosphere of the Orient, although we would like to have seen the chorus a bit more "in the act".

The acting was convincing and always handled with lightness and good taste. There were some rather good voices and the singing was fresh and eager. The convincing characterization, the colour and grace of oriental costumes, the superb facial make-up, the imaginative scenery, and effective lighting combined to make this performance fascinating and delightful.

The leading tenor role, that of Nanki-Poo was played by John Phillips who turned in an outstanding performance. His singing is always enjoyable, but frankly I think he surprised most of us with the ease and exuberance of his acting. Kay Fraser, starring in the role of Yum-Yum was captivating. She was pert, capricious, and extremely graceful, with a light and very pretty voice. The comic character Ko-Ko, The Lord High Executioner was well portrayed by Jim Holland. Jim is a new comer to our opera productions and we can only hope to see a lot more of him.

The title role was ably performed by Dave Peel; and as for his convincing appearance the make-up artists are to be congratulated. Here indeed was the Mikado of Japan in all his regal splendor. The Three Little Maids were played by Kay Fraser, Joan Phinney, Janet Christie, and Mary Chipman alternating in the role, and were at all times gracious and lively. Carmel Romo played the aged but ambitious Katisha, and we were particularly delighted with her splendid performance in the delightful and amusing courting scene with Ko-Ko. A fine performance was also turned in by Bob Waterman as the character Poo-Bah, and by George Phillips as Pish-Tish.

The orchestra added immeasurably to the performance and was for the most part quite good, although one wondered at times if the brass section were not a bit ambitious for the light rhythmic melodies of Gilbert and Sullivan. As for myself I would like to hear this orchestra. Perhaps it would be a good idea to give them a chance to play something other than Gilbert and Sullivan sometime.

We know that our director Graham Day worked hard with this production but I am sure that "The Mikado" presentation of last week must have made him feel his efforts were amply rewarded, and he deserves to be congratulated. Cast, chorus, and orchestra worked very hard and last week's outstanding performance was the result. The few flaws which did occur served only to emphasize the impressive calibre of the whole.

In closing, may I say that the odds were against a successful performance due to the many difficulties in a building such as the gym, so poorly adapted to any form of singing. This challenge was met with and well handled. Nevertheless, I sincerely hope that next year our glee and dramatic society shall see its way clear to employ a more adequate auditorium for its production and may that production be up to the standard of the "Mikado".

Letter to the Editor—

(Continued from Page Two)

of expressing the courage of man in facing an irrational world and pointing a way for society—as the intellectual class so pitifully failed to do in the 1930's—then we have had enough of it.

If I controlled the Glee Club I would insist on the undoubted talents of the members being trained to perception of their society's needs by memorising one year's production of the hit parade to understand the yearnings of the great mass of society immature as it may be in its expression and outlook; attending for one year at the legal aid clinic in this city to understand how pitifully incapable as yet this society is of living up to its responsibilities; and living for one year in Africville to ensure it sinks in.

By then, perhaps, they would be living up to their responsibilities in a truly mature fashion, and not seeking an escape in a baroque intellectualism.

Malcolm Smith.

The West Indian Club

by Dennis Madden



One of the oldest and least known organizations on the campus is the West Indian Student Society. This organization was founded in 1925 by a student from the West Indies to foster better West Indian-Canadian relationships and to assist students from the West Indies during their stay at Dalhousie.

While the West Indian Society has a very limited membership, it does play a very important role in

the lives of those thirty members while they are attending Dalhousie. Students from the West Indies like other students from abroad, often find themselves confronted with problems unknown to Canadian students. There are problems which occur as a result of differences in cultural, religious racial and educational backgrounds. The Society does much to help its members in solving these problems.

During the past few years the club has been very active and has

acquired a house on Robie Street, which serves as a focal point in the off-campus lives of its members. It is used as a meeting place, social events and more important, it serves as a home away from home for all members.

The society carries on a two fold programme of assisting its members to adjust to the life on the Dalhousie campus and secondly it enables its members to foster a greater interest and understanding in West Indian-Canadian relations.

Why Not Go To Europe?

by Pat Eaton

Few areas of the world are more ideally suited to the type of ("off the beaten track") adventure travel that we believe in than Europe. Why don't you go?

Last summer in her Junior year ANNE THOMPSON went to Europe under the University Tours Limited. ("It is the way to go for the first time"), Anne says. She was thoroughly impressed. Her tour, made with 31 other girls was 81 days, including the voyage across and back, and took her to nine countries.

Among other points of interest in England, Anne visited Stratford and at the Stratford-on-Avon Theatre she saw the play All's Well That Ends Well. On the Sir Walter Scott her tour took her through the Trossachs. Bonny Scotland was at its best as the tiny lake steamer wended its way through Lake Katrine and Loch Lomond. On to Holland where there are ("72 canals alone") in Amsterdam; here the girls purchased tulip bulbs. The trip down the Rhine from Koblenz to Mainz was an experience in itself; Anne was much impressed with the high banks and the castles. In Bonn they visited the home of Beethoven. From Germany and Heidelberg the tour continued on to peace loving Switzerland where ("people are sports minded and prices are high"). At Lucerne the girls ate a Swiss meal and listened to the yodelling and hornblowing, and watched the flag throwing and dancing at the Casino. And in Geneva they toured the U.N. Buildings. Austria was much the same as Switzerland and in Venice Anne rode in a gondola and visited the Bridge of Sighs. In Florence they visited the art galleries and churches; in Rome there were the fountains, gardens and

beautiful monuments, the Colosseum and St. Peter's Cathedral. Then on to ("gay Paris") where Anne was not ("too impressed"), and where the people were ("money grabbers"). After sight seeing in France ("it was really heart warming to get back to London where the people spoke English").

Suzanne Farrer, Arts and Helen Scammell, Education, too, were in Europe last summer. They made the tour under the University Travel Club. This tour was made with 12 others, sailed June 21, arrived back in Montreal on September 1, and took them to the same countries Anne had visited. Unlike Anne, Sue was thrilled with Paris. Seeing Paris at night on an illuminated tour was ("simply fabulous"). The Bohemian section of that gay city, Mont Martre, was filled with shops, sketches and artists. ("Travelling through parts of Germany and Italy which had been so badly bombed, Switzerland seemed so completely untouched"). In Rome they walked through the Catacombs, and in Florence they visited the famous Straw Market. Their tour took them through the Pompei ruins, and they saw Cortina where the Olympics were held this year. This is only a part of Europe that was seen by university students last summer.

The three services also provide the opportunity to see that continent. Officer cadets and lieutenants in C.O.T.C. may apply to go to Germany for their third summer's training. These young men are selected for the most part on their academic standing from university students across Canada. Their training period lasts approximately four months, from the middle of May until September.

N.P. 2nd Lieut. R. Hatten, who graduated last year, went from

Dalhousie. Maneuvres enabled him to see a great deal of Germany—that part of Germany that individuals on a conducted tour would perhaps not see. These men got to know the Germans on exercise. In the early morning German youngsters would exchange eggs for the soldiers sandwiches. Out in the country, the Germans who were often thought of as ("hard-bitten—nothing but discipline") were riding on bicycles, and these were the Germans that 2nd Lieut. Hatten and those with him became to know. While abroad on duty the men are entitled to a seven day leave at their own expense. Most often they take the advantage of seeing more of Europe and go to Italy or Switzerland.

The airforce reserve, U.R.T.P., was started in 1948 to further national defense in case of emergency. For three summers it gives undergraduates, both men and women, a chance to look at the service, to give them a better understanding of it, and see what they were up against. At the same time the airforce has seen the undergraduate for three summers. Corresponding to university courses there is complete training in particular branches; new this year is the fighter controller branch. Each year, two or three Flight cadets from each university may be selected to take their third summer at an overseas unit. Like C.O.T.C., it is for a period of about four months. There are fighter bases in Germany and France, with Canadian Joint Staff at London, and headquarters in Metz, France. Sunny Dowell, Law, was in France last summer with the airforce. During his stay he lived with a French family. During their training period a two-week leave is granted.

Another Letter to the Editor

Feb. 26, 1956.

Editor-in-chief, Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir:

I would like to draw attention to the editorial "What is wrong with the D.G.D.S." which appeared in the Feb. 23 edition of the "Gazette". In my opinion the writer showed poor taste in her choice of words and her incompetency in the field of dramatic criticism. The people who matter on this campus realize this editorial as the plain drivel it is, but for the outside readers of the "Gazette", it should be made quite clear that this spurious bit of writing in no way reflects the true state of dramatics at Dalhousie.

In the first place, it is odd that E.T.B. should take offence to this particular production, because in the minds of the cast and of many of the spectators, this was the best bit of the season. Observers whom I spoke to—and whose opinions I respect much more highly than our self-appointed critic, agreed that the cast held a good pace through-

out the play, seldom went out of character, and successfully developed the suspense element. In short, it was an enjoyable evening's entertainment, and the fact that it was not seen by many students reflects, not on the standard of the D.G.D.S., but on the obvious indifference of the majority of Dalhousie students towards drama. I would be very interested to know what Maritime amateur group E.T.B. has in mind to which this D.G.D.S. performance was "definitely inferior". That group, if it exists, would be well worth watching.

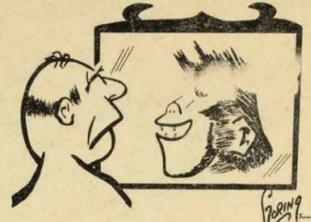
A very strong argument can be raised for getting a capable non-student director to produce university plays, but an equally strong one can be voiced for letting a capable and ambitious group, like the one existing at Dalhousie, grapple and solve their own problems of stage production. I will be among the first to admit that a finer polish and finesse could be attained in D.G.D.S. productions, but I strongly submit that "the enthusiastic little group of thespians" as

our critic calls them, does more towards spirited and intelligent interpretation of a play, and hence good entertainment for its audience than any other Maritime university group. I might add that the people who found David Murray's inability to both direct and act "painfully evident" belong to a very small and very unimportant minority. E.T.B. adds that she is not alone in her opinions—this only means that her ignorance is shared by a few others. To be quite blunt, E.T.B. is just as unqualified a critic as she makes out to be, but it is unfortunate that her critical failings are not matched by a corresponding good sense to keep it quiet.

Our critic points out that it is the duty of the D.G.D.S. to bring dramatics at Dalhousie up to a passable. I suggest that they have surpassed this level and, in so doing, have left behind a great number of students who prefer a cartoon at the Capitol to serious drama at Dalhousie.

Sincerely, David Pigot.

LET'S FACE IT



By Anne Coburn and Libby Mayall

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

The front page of last week's "Gazette" carried an editorial on the "series of successive boos" made recently by the Student Council. The problem which faced the Council was whether or not late nominations for positions of President and Vice-President of the Student Council should be accepted. In deciding the issue, the Council admittedly blundered, and consequently "made history!". Why? Because the circumstances had never before (in the memory of all the Council members) arisen. Neither can the author of the editorial recall any such case. Nevertheless every member of the Council was painfully aware that the complex problem before them seemed to have no clear cut solution.

The question which remains is why was there any problem in the first place?? Where was the obvious answer, and what were the consequences?? There can be only one reason why this problem ever arose. The Constitution is not stated clearly enough for a universal interpretation. One of us was at the Council meetings on Thursday and Saturday; she heard the many discussions as to constitutional interpretation. Our surprise at the variety of viewpoints expressed was mild compared to another outlook taken—that the Constitution is not a binding thing, but merely a guide or general outline. Perhaps this viewpoint is justifiable, inasmuch as there are many constitutional points which apparently have not been adhered to for a number of years.

The lack of a clear and concise constitution adhered to in the strictest possible sense can only result in unpleasant consequences.

The confusion in the minds of many is typified in the editorial. The author states that the Council's mistakes are a "complete disregard as to the practice of previous years and the intention of the constitution, the establishment of dangerous precedent and policy... and generally confusing the election picture on the campus." Why and how is this so?

If the Constitution were stated clearly, there would have been NO disregard of previous practice, NO "establishment of dangerous precedent and policy", and NO abnormally confused election picture. These questions have only arisen as a DIRECT RESULT OF

CONSTITUTIONAL FALLACIES.

How would you interpret the "constitutional loopholes"? Firstly, article 7, section (a) states that "There shall be at least two nominees for the office of President of the Student Body and the Council of Students". (Same provision for Vice-Presidential candidates.) Does this in any way state that there cannot be more than two nominees? It does not. Any number may run, if they are properly nominated. Yet the editorial says "there was no need for the Council to nominate people... This had been done already. The Council's prerogative through a constitutional loophole, should be exercised only when these jobs are in danger of being filled by acclamation. Here we disgrace an interpretation of the Constitution. Why?"

Article 7, section 1 (c) states that "Nominations of candidates for the position of President of the Student Body and Council of Students shall be made by the Council of Students." (Likewise for Vice-President nominations.) Thus, if you interpret, "shall be made" in the imperative sense, Council is obligated to nominate candidates every year. If another interpretation is intended, the section should be reworded. The issue arose mainly from the Council member's interpretations of these two sections and their corollaries.

There is another clause which further confused the issue. Nominations have to be in at a certain time; this deadline was officially publicized in the Gazette. If all societies had complied with this regulation, the matter would never have arisen. Thus perhaps the Commerce and Engineering Societies have done Dalhousie an unintentional favour. We know now that there exist six students who "were not prepared to see the very 'heart and guts' of the constitution tossed out the window to condone what they considered a flagrant violation of the constitution." These six are to be commended for their actions; they were placed in a nasty position of voting against the nominee in order to uphold their personal convictions regarding constitutionality.

We have presented some of the angles of the problem, for which the Council could find no obvious solution. We are neither condemning nor condoning the action taken. There is always a first time for everything. There is also a last time. We sincerely hope that the incoming Council will revise the wording of the Constitution, thereby removing all doubts as to interpretation. By so doing, it will greatly strengthen student government on the Dal campus.

The U.N.T.D.'s have not been in Europe since the year of the Coronation. This year, however, there are 21 navy ships on the coast, five of which are for the University Naval Training Division. There are rumors that this factor might increase the possibility of a cruise across the Atlantic. From the best divisions, representatives from each year go, and the cruise lasts for about a month.

Dalhousie will be sending one student, Dennis Madden. Dalhousie's representative will be qualified to represent Canada, as well as his Alma Mater, abroad. After a month of touring one of the Balkans, Yugoslavia, Spain, Portugal, Germany or Russia, a three-week Seminar will commence in Germany.

Through cooperation with counterpart student organizations in other countries, N.F.C.U.S. offers student tours, ("to further international good will and understanding"), at low cost non-competitive rates. These tours have been devised to suit every taste and purse. Perhaps you will join the ranks of those travelling this summer. Whichever way you go, you will want to go back.

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