

DALHOUSIE Gazette

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WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

Last week there were manifestations in a disturbing trend. People in authority were busy being self-appointed censors of what a University student may or may not think. These self-appointed ranged from Students' Councils to Presidents of Universities, and included people who have nothing to do with Universities at all.

The Toronto City Council gave Varsity \$2,000,000. This very generous gift was made the occasion for one of the City Controllers, a Mr. Balfour, asking for an investigation of staff and students of the University of Toronto (all eighteen thousand of them) "to assure they're being taught the democratic way of life."

At the University of Washington three Professors were relieved of their positions for their belief in their right to join the Communist Party or similar organizations.

At the University of Montreal the student newspaper, Le Quartier Latin, one of the best known and most outstanding student literary journals on the continent, joined the ranks of student newspapers in bad odour with their student councils when its entire staff were discharged. One of the reasons was the fact that they had devoted a great deal of space in one of their issues to an article dealing with André Gide.

* * * *

And the trend apparently continues. Here and there an individual or a group of individuals are taken to task for exercising too much freedom in their political thought, or in their outlook generally.

The disturbing thing about it in this country is the fact that it is in Universities that this suppression is being carried on. Not necessarily in political matters, but in anything that does not conform more or less to the established norm, students are criticised for independent views.

It is one thing for a government to decide that its employees shall be loyal. It is quite another think for students to have their thought regimented along "conventional" or "respectable" lines, generally by people, like Controller Balfour, who are quite unqualified for such a general censorship.

To quote the Toronto "Varsity", "if a University has to function on Controller Balfour's type of 'freedom', if the thought of its undergraduates is to be stifled and subjected to the narrowness of such men, then that university should close its doors because it has already ceased to function."

This applies to any University.

A Letter To Sam Peeps

Dear Mr. Peeps,

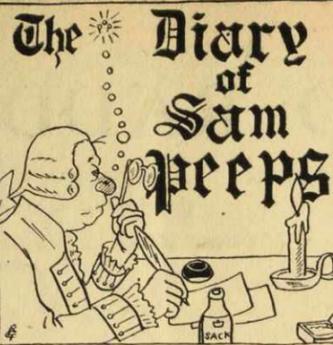
Having perused the pages of the Spectator (Early Edition) for many years and having indeed contributed to this great organ on occasions of grave emergency, I have ever been astonished at the lack of comment upon the notorious activities of one scurvy fellow Knave Flusher, famous at the College on the Hill, in the offices of our new city journal and similar low places.

This omission has been seriously discussed by the scholars at the Gym Inn and it is only through the clamorous appeals of the same that this letter is addressed to you.

It is commonly rumoured that this Flusher fellow has great influence on the Spectator (Early Edition) and it is assumed by some that this is the reason why you, Mr. Peeps, do not refer to this scurrilous fellow. It is also reported to me, privately, that he was heavily involved in the recent student elections at the College on the Hill.

We hope, Mr. Peeps, that you will give this matter your attention and although we know that this low cad will attempt to buy you off with great quantities of sack. We are confident, however, that you will turn aside any and all such scurvy tactics.

Yours sincerely,
Birdbrain Absurdy.



Friday, March 4 — Up betimes and out walking in the brisk air, when I did overtake two persons, Musty Mullen and Coy Rambell, discussing the new students' parliament and the election or appointment of a member at large. Musty did say to Coy, "The member at large is usually the defeated candidate for the Premiership". Coy did say, "Is that so"? Musty replied "Certainly, and the man this year is "Honest John" Seenya — you ought to nominate him for the position."

Much incensed at this skull-duggery, I left.

A letter today from Birdbrain Absurdy in which he berates one Knave Flusher. He says that Flusher will attempt to bribe me to keep his name out of my diary. And Flusher did, but I drank all his sack and then wrote about him here. Absurdy did say that Flusher was heavily involved in the recent student selections at the college on the hill. Flusher says this is so, but remarked to me; "Guess who was on the right side"?

Finally to home, where I did find my wife using Pond's which I did tell her would not help her as she is neither lovely, nor engaged.

Saturday, March 5 — Nought Drawers has been plaguing me with his troubles this day until I am no longer fit to speak to, so mad am I. Apparently he has fallen out with his lady love, some fisherwoman, or fishwife, or Queen of the Sea, or something. She has treated him badly, methinks. Her name is Surely Fifty-Seven.

Great wonderment today about Jackanapes Loud, the accountant of nought, and puzzling of students' heads as to the answer to the question, "How long will he stay"?

Sally Oldwoman is taking very seriously her appointment to the Parliament I see. Yesterday she did attend several meetings, and she has been seen reading "Parliamentary Procedure."

Have heard from one Scarlet Lightert that he did cast a ballot for the President of a girls' organization known as Felta Gamma during the democratic elections. He would not say which girl he chose, but in any case I see that the votes were tied, and if he had not voted, one of the girls would be president now. It is a difficult situation.

To St. Anne de Sackville today in preparation for Morrow Day which is Tuesday. There I did meet two men with a truck. They were loading it with great cases marked in bold letters "Cheval Noir"—"This Side Up". I understand the cases did contain bottles of vitamin water. The two sickly men were the notorious "Big Red" McDullard and Groundhog Petesdaughter.

Rocket "Dutch Treat" Sheet and Mary the Highlander from the chorus line at Pasha Deadwood's revue are on the outs again. It doth seem that the Scots girl is a devotee of the new gambling game, Bridge—Rocket, on the other hand, is not.

Sunday, March 6 — Great to do among the pharmacists. It seems that one Shovelled Screamon was missing for a week. The McNitemare did post a notice asking for information as to his whereabouts, and could only learn that he had been ice-bound somewhere. It is a great mystery which bothers me mightily.

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