

DALHOUSIE Gazette

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THE STUDENT AND THE PUBLIC

Some imputed to the NFCUS Conference the fear of offending the public when it turned down affiliation with IUS at the Christmas conference. The unfavourable publicity the project received last year, it is said, was a considerable factor in their decision.

Again this year it seems the right time to repeat President Kerr's statement, which found its way into editorial columns all over the country then, which was in essence that students were both by right and tradition free to determine their own course of action on any matter which was their own concern alone.

If the public regards with pious horror the idea of their students associating themselves with an organization known to be "Red", that is their concern entirely. If students turn down the idea for purely practical reasons let no one breathe a sigh of relief, and assert that at last our students have become respectable.

One of the great purposes which a University must try to fulfill is to instill a sense of independent criticism into its students. Freedom, to a University, is more important than propriety; public opinion or private opinion should never see itself justified in attempting to impose a ready-made code on an institution whose very purpose is to seek out the truth. The fact that our Universities must depend upon private subscription for their very existence is one of the great tragedies of our culture—that the very institutions supposed to propagate freedom must depend to a certain extent upon private pocketbooks.

It is perhaps a sign of the times that students and student organizations are sometimes criticised for impropriety, for lack of respectability and, indeed, for independence. A group of students at the University of Western Ontario criticised the editors of their student publication because, in criticising an industrialist for some statements he had made, the paper was jeopardising the chances of their getting jobs from the man. Whether or not the statement was true did not seem to bother them; bread and butter came first.

The watchword of the day is "security", the great desirable. The very people who criticise what they call 'socialism' are the first who expect the government to watch over their security. This might be very well for the man with the worries and cares which the outside world imposes, but for a University student to place security ahead of truth in the very institution trying to promote the search for truth is an impossible situation.

As we have said before, it is not in the fat years that democracy must prove itself, but in the trying years ahead, when the temptation to discard our ideals will be great. It is first to the Universities that people have looked for freedom and truth, and it must be the concern of students as much as of anyone to assist the Universities in retaining that fundamental characteristic without which they lose their purpose, which is complete freedom of thought and expression.

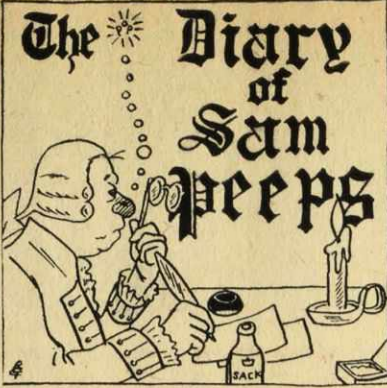
TRANS-ATLANTIC DEBATES

McGill (CUP) — Trans-Atlantic debates between McGill and British universities, not held since the outbreak of war in 1939, will soon be recommenced, when a three-man team, already on its way to England, renews the practice next week. The three Canadian students selected to make the twelve-day tour of British universities are Isadore Rosenfeld, Ted Hugessen, and Sydney Phillips, who were chosen from a group of over fifty debaters.

The debates will be carried on in parliamentary style as developed by the Oxford Debating Union. All the debates will be on International topics of current interest.

McQUINN WINS

Bob McQuinn, a pharmacy student at Dalhousie, won a drawing held by Diana Sweets last Wednesday, and carried off a beautiful Philco AC and DC portable. The drawing was held in support of the Dal Grads Basketball team.



In which he discusses . . .

The Tsetse Fly A Son-Of-A-Fergus Treason --

Saturday, Jan. 15—Dear God, has ever man before led such a life? Walking through the streets this day, and on the campus of the college on the hill, I am congratulated on all sides by those who speak of my recent death, which methinks, is odd, for I have not been dead.

In truth I was in a stupor—but not dead. As I have explained to many in the taverns and coffee houses, I suffered from sleeping sickness, the result of the bite of a most rare little gnat, known as the tsetse fly, of which there are not many in the town, but still a few I think.

I should have gone to a just reward, though, if it had not been for the succor of my great and good friend Captain Josiah Morgan, commander of the frigate, HMS Bacardi, recently returned from the Demarara run. He did force me to partake of several canisters of a strong physique of a queer brownish color, newly brought from the Indies, which did cause my head to spin mightily. After a violent attack of mal-de-tete I am pleased to say that I feel my old self again, except for a strange taste on my palate, which a good bottle of sack will erase, I hope.

Sunday, Jan. 16 (Lord's Day)—Up betimes, sickish, and regretting the carousing of the night before, did make my way to the chapel at little Oxford where were gathered all the seminarians, sickish too, at the early service, which same was most dull and did me little good until one passed me a lozenge. It was a most strange white, little pill called an aspirin which helped to make me better but tasted strange. Afterwards learned that it was to be swallowed whole, and not gargled around in the mouth.

In the afternoon to the house of Dr. Otto, with several from the Spectator (early edition) where all was pleasant and a right good round of conversation. Did partake of the new drink, "tea", which some say is injurious to the health, but which I found did not cause me any ill effects, except a slight tendency to belch—perhaps brought on by greed.

Fell in with Jacques Hensbill later in the day, and he did lament loudly over a fine put on the residents of little Oxford by Father Diehard. It was levied as a penalty for great disturbances which took place in the cloisters there before Christmas. It was alleged by some that those in the Bay near the Chapel did drop things down the stairwell, especially gourds of water and other liquid which did cause much anguish among those on the lower level, and on the higher level too, judging by the fine. They say they will not pay it, but they will, or be forced to leave the cloisters, methinks. They are a poor lot anyway, always drinking of coffee-over. Hensbill did say that it was all the fault of one who lives in a dimly-lit cave across the hall from him—one whom he did call a son-of-a-Fergus, and his friend in crime, Lusty Rounds.

Monday, Jan. 17—Great rumpus at the college on the hill today, where some are trying to introduce into the theatre near the gym inn a play about the enemy—the dirty Americans—who have claimed to be independent of us, which is not true, the King says. It is about a scurrilous knave, a general and leader of the colonials named George Washington, and some sleeping around he is said to have done.

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