

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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MISCELLANEOUS

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CULTURE AND APATHY

(The following is an editorial which appeared in the University of Western Ontario Gazette, on the occasion of their Humanities Issue. It applies equally as well to the Dalhousie Gazette, and to student affairs in general.)

This issue is grandly labeled the Humanities Issue of The Gazette. In theory this means that humanities students pour forth their culture into its pages — in practice it signifies that half a dozen or so overworked English and History students, most of them previously connected with The Gazette anyway, will try to fill up several dozen columns with whatever they can muster. What the result will be is rather frightening to think of.

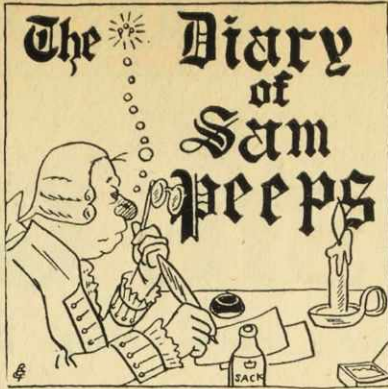
Like every group, The Gazette does the best it can with limited support. This issue, the Humanities Issue, emphasizes what is apparent to everybody, and has been for a long time. This is the lack of interest, or lack of co-operation, shown by many of the best students in school activities.

In many respects The Gazette is the most important of all student organizations, since through its pages students can express views which can influence, and change the outlooks, not only of fellow students, but of faculty, administration, and the general public as well. Consequently, it is essential that gifted and intellectual students should contribute to The Gazette as often as possible.

This clearly is not done. Canada and the world are today faced with crucial problems involving economic and political decisions, yet there has been little if any discussions of them, or elucidation of them, in the Gazette by either economics or history students. A student column on world affairs would be a valuable asset; unfortunately, history students, who should possess the requisite knowledge and background, do not seem to possess the enthusiasm to go with it. Editorials featuring the scientific attitude to basic modern problems would be welcomed by The Gazette, science students apparently have not been interested in writing them. Modern planning, socialism, communism, capitalism, all involve ethical and moral consideration — where are the students in philosophy who might comment on them? In the Folio, book reviews and critical articles have been sought after with desperation, yet to obtain them from English students is like pulling teeth.

The Gazette, and especially the editorial page, should be a student forum. At present, it is no forum, since there are few participants, and most who can and should participate unfortunately do not. It should be clear that any university students worth his salt should have mature opinions on subjects in his own field, and when this field involves the welfare of all of us, he should contribute his views at least occasionally. History students should have well balanced opinions on world affairs; economics students should have opinions on the Marshall Plan, on European recovery, on socialism and capitalism; English students should know and understand modern trends in literature.

If democracy means anything, and we assume it does, it is essential that leading students play a much larger role in the future, both in the formation of student opinion and in the analysis of contemporary problems. The Gazette is the ideal place where such contributions might be made, and if humanities students, and especially those working in economics, history and philosophy, would express themselves as they should, then The Gazette would assume a more mature and valuable position in university life.



Friday, Feb. 10, 1950.—Up betimes and walking about the town. Did obtain a copy of the Spectator, Early Edition, and did see therein that a new political party has been formed by the scholars at the Law School. Did hear that this new group, led by Lord Misfits Patricks has aroused great consternation among the ranks of the party that is to form the Government, though the outcome is still in doubt.

Did walk about the campus of the college on the hill where I found many of the scholars. The young gentlemen did look rather worried about something, whilst I could detect a gleam of mischievousness in the eyes of the damsels. One of them did remark to a desperate-looking young male, 'I'm from the West and can lasso and tie a steer; wait til next week' . . . Another did say "What do you think we girls have been taking archery for all year?" At this several more timid-looking young men did leave hastily.

Still rather puzzled at all this I did walk about. I met Miss Wasabelle Bustle, who did carry in her hand a bear-trap, and did ask her the reason for all this menacing activity. She did relate to me a story of utmost confusion, telling me that in honour of one Miss Gladie Crowins all the damsels do, during one week of the year set aside for that purpose, cast aside their modesty and turn the aggressor, endeavouring in all ways fair or foul, especially the latter, to entrap and enslave a man. I did innocently remark "And what is so unusual about that?" It happeneth all the time." Whereupon she hurled at me the bear-trap, leaving upon my cheek a peculiar mark that I will be hard put to explain to my wife.

Did meet Joe Lightdaughter who is the head of the AINT. I heard that he has a mania for the accumulation of autographs, for he desires to collect the signatures of all the scholars, hoping that in future years many of the scholars will become famous and that he will be able to support himself in his old age by the sale of these signatures which will then have become valuable by then. He is doing this by the ingenious pretext of soliciting funds for the AINT, thus helping the organization and furthering his own collection.

Next did meet Miss Wouldn't, the Editor of the new Far-off. She did have a bundle of papers under her arm and did look very efficient. She did smile sweetly and did say to me "Good morning Mr. Peeps". I asked her how her new work was progressing, to which she replied that she could do with some assistance from members of the student body in compiling the work. Just then an apathetic looking lout ambled up and said 'Miss Wouldn't, when is last year's Far-off coming out?' The poor damsel muttered "I don't know, next week perhaps." She did tell me in confidence that she spent much of her time answering such questions.

Monday, Feb. 13, 1950. — Did have a heated debate with my wife about the proper place of women. She did point out the behaviour of the Dullhousie damsels, who are permitted to shamelessly pursue men during one week of the year.

I did decide to put a stop to this, if I could, and hastened to the offices of the Spectator to enlist the aid of my journalistic friends in this noble endeavour. To my horror I found I had been too late and that the office was filled with women who were working on the publication of the Spectator. I asked for my friend Loose Block-head, but they said they did not know where he was. However, I did hear a muffled voice crying out
 (Continued on Page Three)

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