

SATURDAY BEANS

by Bonnie Bryans

Bonnie Bryans, a fourth year Arts and Science student, last year went to Dalhousie university in Halifax on a NFCUS exchange scholarship. While there, she was still counted a student of U of A and, as such, attended the fourth annual NFCUS seminar in Hamilton this summer.

After a year spent at Dalhousie as an exchange student, I think it is impossible to overestimate the value of the NFCUS exchange programme. Besides covering university fees and travelling expenses, an exchange scholarship provides the opportunity to spend a year at another Canadian University.

Generally, I think the most beneficial aspect of the exchange is the opportunity which it provides for comparison. During the first few weeks at the exchange university it is impossible not to evaluate everything new in terms of your own university, but, as things become more familiar, it is equally impossible not to re-evaluate your own alma mater



BONNIE BRYANS—
EXCHANGES SCHOOLS

in view of the differences which you have noticed between the two. Being able to compare your university with another results in a critical attitude towards certain features of your own campus which you had perhaps before accepted as necessary, and at the same time, a more appreciative attitude towards some features which you had perhaps before taken for granted.

As an example of the first case, a comparison of the Dalhousie campus with that of U of A, shows that the construction of new buildings which not only match each other but also blend in with the older ones, is something which is actually possible and which in one case has been achieved (at Dalhousie). However when comparing facilities on campus for the students' comfort, the U of A student suddenly becomes very appreciative of the coffee, soup and coke machines which are found planted strategically on this campus, for there are no such conveniences in any of the buildings at Dalhousie.

The opportunity to make comparisons is especially valuable in trying to assess the advantages which are offered by a large university compared to a smaller one. There is no doubt that students at a university the size of U of A have better library facilities and a wider selection of courses than the student at a university the size of Dalhousie. However it is the student of the smaller university who has the advantage when the size of classes at the two universities are contrasted. In two of my classes at Dalhousie there were approximately 25 people, in the other

three, there were less than 7. Because the classes were small, the professors knew each student, and several classes took the form of seminars rather than lectures.

Besides offering a chance to become familiar with another university, the exchange programme enables the student to become acquainted with another part of Canada. However, far more important than knowing a geographical region is knowing the people themselves, but, when comparing Nova Scotians to Albertans, few differ-



DON BISHOP—
BECOMES ANNOYED

ences are to be found for, with the exception of the old Nova Scotia custom of beans every Saturday night, and the old Nova Scotia custom of referring to any area which lies outside the boundary of the province as "Upper Canada," the Maritimers seemed much like other Canadians, and certainly the Dalhousie students are much like those at U of A.

IDIOTS

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did not agree in their appraisals of the students from other parts of the country.

Don was "annoyed by the feeling of superiority seen throughout the group." He remarked that there was a tendency in the east to confine NFCUS to a certain group—a prominent NFCUS type, who have attended many conferences. "Alberta and B.C. had better representation."

Bob observed that the reactions of the delegates varied across the country, the Maritime students seeming more interested and better informed.

Ross commented on the extraordinary calibre of students. "I think in general Canadian students are pretty tame but these were very vocal and political-minded." He felt that the Albertans were neither less nor more informed than the others.

Roberta thought some of the delegates could have been better chosen. "Some of them were idiots," she declared. "I'm sure everyone who was there will know what I'm talking about. It was apparent from the beginning that some of the students were not conversant in the subject of the speeches but made a concentrated effort to impress upon their fellow delegates the vast extent of their reading."

SAUDI INCOME

by Kathy

NFCUS is not properly appreciated according to Roberta Sheps, official evaluator for the seminar. "NFCUS is rather disparaged here, I think. This seminar alone should be justification for its existence."

She felt, however, that the seminar was too long. "I have been to several seminars and the shortest were the best." The impact would be greater if the delegates were forced to spend every working minute over a short period thinking hard about what is said.

"The Students should have had to work harder for what they got." For a \$23 registration fee, the delegates got round trip plane fare to Toronto, free room and board at the university, parties, a trip to Stratford, a trip to Niagara Falls or Toronto and speakers who are brought in at considerable cost.

Roberta observed that the speakers rarely spoke on specific topics and that some people complained of this. "I don't think it mattered because the value of a seminar like this is in talking to other people, person-to-person." She did concede, though that a few speakers should have directed their speeches in another line because what they said was of no general interest. "At the time, few of us were interested in how great a percentage of the population controlled what amount of the national income in Saudi Arabia."

The greatest benefit, Roberta felt, was gained from the discussion groups where the students exchanged opinions and were allowed to discuss anything. It was here that discussion of the "Individual" was emphasized.

McMaster University in itself played a large role in the success of the seminar. "They have better facilities for their 1800 than we have for our almost 7000," Roberta observed. "A utilitarian campus is fine but there has to be some aesthetic value somewhere."



ROBERTA SHEPS—
SE FAIT ASHAMED

The McMaster bookstore, which impressed all the students, has "absolutely everything from Thurber to beer mugs."

Most of the students found the organization of the seminar admirable but Roberta thought it could have run more smoothly in some respects. She complained of annoying little things such as an undue delay in delivering baggage and a shortage of keys to the residence. The horrible weather was, of course, no fault of the administration.

TRIAL

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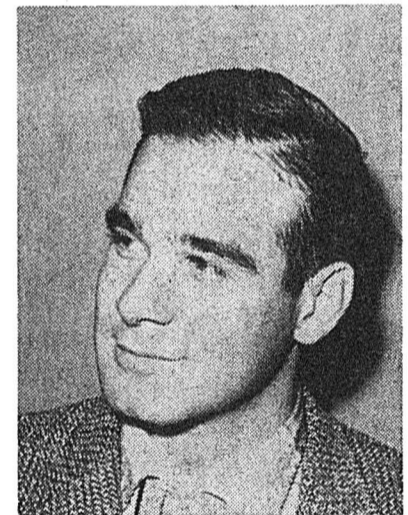
tween the western world and the USSR.

Dr. Seton-Watson, termed by Bob "a brilliant thinker who knows the Soviet mind," is a specialist in Slavic Studies. Dan Hays deemed his 20-minute speech on the Soviet Challenge, specifically about the Berlin Crisis, as making the whole trip worthwhile in itself. Speaking of Berlin, he stated the only things to fear was hysteria. Bob commented that this idea was forcibly impressed on him by a visit he made to the US where he saw newspaper headlines "screaming hysteria." "This for me, was the most educational part of the trip."

Rudeness was observed from some students toward Sidney Hook. According to Don Bishop, his American manner and the fact that he "talked strong" alienated some people and brought on strong rebuttal.

Hook maintained that, since the communists feel history is moving their way, the US must not concede to the USSR any feeling of superiority. Don Bishop summed up his speech in these terms: "We must maintain our strength at all times. Unilateral disarmament is bad. Any advocating of weakness on our side weakens us, so we must talk strong." "Cold war and peaceful co-existence mean the same thing."

In a panel on religion, Prof. K. Stearn of the University of Montreal made a deep impression. During a discussion of Christianity and Love, a student commented on Dostoyevsky's statement, "Hell is the inability



DAN HAYS—
COMES OUT OF THE DARK

to love." Dr. Stearn replied, "Yes, and the inability to love is hell." In Dan's opinion, he was the only member of the panel who knew what he was talking about. "All the others were in the dark."

In a panel on "The Political and Military Implications of the Soviet Challenge," Prof. J. G. Kaplan of Dalhousie University, who was violently anti-nuclear, made a strong impression. He contended that the powers that be, in making mass decisions, forget that they do not morally have the right to make decisions for so many people. He expressed disgust with the way the Americans handled the Cuban situation. "A great deal could have been done to thwart Castro if they had been nice to them." Although a lot of what he said was greeted with dismay, he received a standing ovation.

As to the effect of the seminar on individuals lives, Bonnie concluded "It is hard to evaluate the merits of the seminar. Its benefits are not felt immediately and may only appear 20 years from now."