

The Dalhousie Gazette

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THINK — THEN VOTE

From its first beginning, Dalhousie University has produced learners in every walk of Canadian life. Her graduates in medicine have become leaders in that profession; her law school graduates have become judges, leaders of political organizations on both the federal and provincial levels. Her graduates in other faculties have taken their places at the head of large industrial and other business organizations.

It is not surprising, then, to note that the original NFCUS brief concerning federal government grants to needy students was prepared under the leadership of a Dalhousie student, Richard Love. Nor would it be surprising, should the proposed scheme be put into operation, to find that some of the future leaders of Canada graduated from Dalhousie University with the assistance of grants provided by the federal government.

At the present time, a sub-committee of the Dal NFCUS committee in co-operation with members of the faculty of Commerce, is making a statistical survey of the effects of finance on the attendance, failure, non-attendance, and dropping out of university students. There would be little point in trying to second guess the results of this survey, but from personal knowledge it is quite apparent that there is a need for a system of direct grants to young people with ability.

In the Medical and Dental Schools, there are students who are being financed part way through university by one or more of the plans offered by some branch of the armed services. The same thin gapples to Law School and to some of the other faculties, although perhaps to a lesser extent.

On Thursday of this week, you—the students of Dalhousie University—will be asked whether you think this student body should remain a member of the National Federation of Canadian University Students. In effect, you will be replying to the question: "Are you in favor of a system of government grants in aid of students who could not otherwise finance a university education?"

It is not the purpose of this article to say that you should vote in favor of NFCUS. That is for yourselves to decide, but it is our intent to urge you to give the question some thought between now and voting time. It is also our purpose to urge you to exercise your right to take part in the voting. If the majority of the students at this university feel that NFCUS is not undertaking a worthwhile project, then, according to our democratic principles, Dalhousie should cease to be a member of that organization. If, however, only a small percentage of the students vote, then obviously the vote results will not be a reliable indication of the opinions of Dalhousie students. It is important that you should cast your vote in the referendum on Thursday.

Letter to The Editor

The Editor
The Dalhousie Gazette
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Sir:

I am writing in connection with the article by "Penhead" titled, misleadingly, "We Like Art But Keep It Light," on page five of your January 11th issue, in which he attacks the idea of the University providing pictures for the walls of the newly-renovated canteen. In doing so the author exhibits a not uncommon attitude towards the role of art in society in general and in university education in particular, that I think warrants some comment.

There are many facets to the education of university students. One of these is the development of their aesthetic faculties. In some parts of the world the appreciation of art and the development of in sight and subtlety that stems from it comes as a matter of course from continued contact with it in the everyday life of all classes of society. Under such conditions, no particular effort is necessary to cultivate it in educational institutions. However, in this part of the world where aesthetic pursuits are not an inherent part of our tradition, this cultivation does not take place as a matter of course in the daily lives of students. Nor are any fine museums near at hand where students of this particular region can readily see examples of the best of the art of other times and places. If we did have such a tradition students would not likely adopt Penhead's hostile attitude towards paintings or reproductions of paintings being hung in rooms set aside for their recreation, but would welcome their presence. They would, however, rightly be concerned about, and critical of, the particular pictures selected. As it serves a community without this tradition, this university is currently trying to fill this gap in many of its students' backgrounds in a number of ways.

A faculty sub-committee on art was set up about two years ago to nurture interest in art at Dalhousie. (Recently an invitation was issued to the students through the Students' Council to work with this committee.) Since that time the University, largely through this committee, has done the following:

1. Exhibited travelling collections (about four a year) in the Dalhousie Art Gallery on the second floor of the Arts and Administration Building.
2. Built up a loan collection of small reproductions which students may, for a small fee, borrow from the library to hang in their rooms. The response of the students to this has been very enthusiastic.
3. Begun a permanent collection of original paintings by purchasing eight water color and two oil paintings by Canadian painters, to be hung in the Gallery when it is not being used for travelling exhibitions.
4. Begun a collection of large reproductions of paintings of old and modern masters which are to be hung in various parts of the university where students may have repeated contact with them.
5. Held a highly successful student-faculty art show. Another will be held this year.
6. Sponsored open lectures by Eric Newton, the distinguished English art critic, and his wife, Stella Mary Pearce.

Funds for the purchase of pictures were very generously provided by the Class of 1915 and the Dalhousie Alumnae.

And in addition, I now learn that the university, quite apart from the art committee, plans to provide reproductions of paintings for the admittedly bare walls of the canteen. In performing such functions, the University is not trying "to push art appreciation down the students' throats" (to

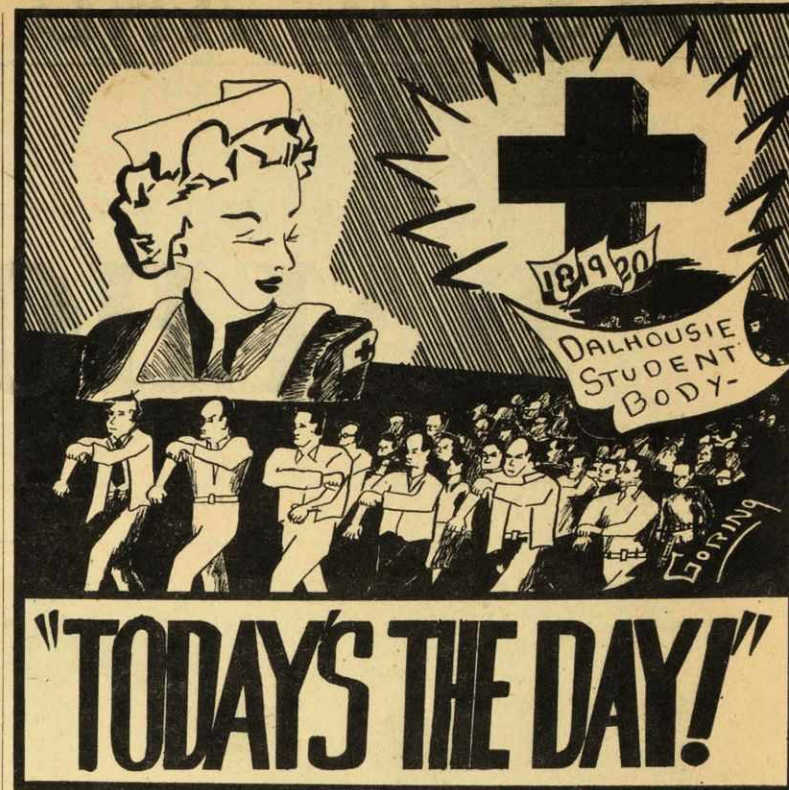
use one of Penhead's phrases); it is rather discharging one of its responsibilities to the students it has undertaken to educate.

The impression I get from Penhead's article is that he regards art as being something in which a student takes an interest only deliberately and on particular occasions rather than something that forms part of his everyday life. This impression is supported by his proposition that an interest in art is an "aesthetic complex," a phrase he uses which suggests that there is really something abnormal, even undesirable, about being interested in art. It is further supported by his assertion that the canteen is not an appropriate place for hanging reproductions of paintings.

I should like to make it clear that I am not questioning the merits of Penhead's constructive suggestion of using pennants of Canadian universities to add some color and life to the canteen. In fact, I think his idea is a good one. Perhaps it would be possible to use some of the space in this way. And I am not here concerned with the quality of the particular pictures selected, which I know nothing about. What I am questioning are his proposition that the canteen, which is one of the centres of student life, is not an appropriate place for hanging pictures and his limited conception of the role of art in the university and in society.

I should like to add that this is not in the least written to discourage criticism or controversy—there is not enough of either among the students at Dalhousie—but rather to question the basis of this particular criticism.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. GRAHAM,
Dept. of Economics.



MED CORNER

Recent deliberations on the Med Campus resulted in Janet Conrad being chosen to represent us in the elections for Campus Queen. Well-known at Dal she hails from the Dominican Republic. Of Spanish-Canadian parents she claims to speak Spanish better than she does English. In 1953 Janet was chosen "Queen of the Sea." Tall, blonde and beautiful, with a scholastic record envied by many she plans to make a career in Medicine. We'll be glad to have her join the fold and I'm sure she'll be a credit to the profession.

Turning now to the sport front 8-0. Dents went down to a tune we got off to a fair start in the of 7-3. Scoring was fairly even-interfac league. In hockey we ly distributed with Morris and dumped A&S&P by a score of (continued on page 3)

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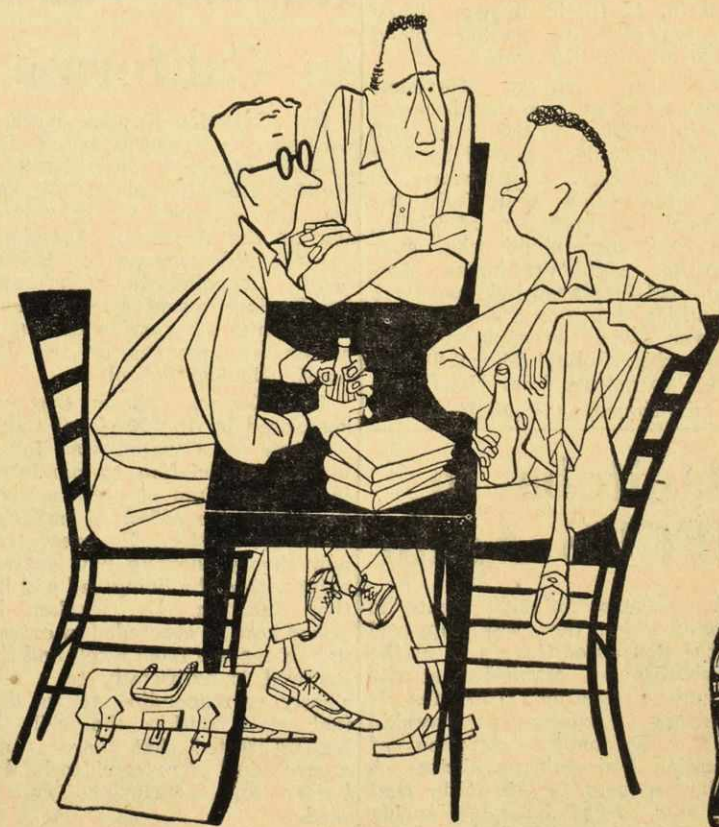
The Civil Service Commission, Ottawa

Act Now — For Most Positions, Applications Should be Filed in January, 1955

Five Receive Certification

Five residents in psychiatry, enrolled at Dalhousie University in their final post-graduate year, have received certification from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, it was announced yesterday. They are: Dr. Reginald Eaton, Superintendent, Provincial Mental Hospital, Campbellton; Dr. O. R. Smith, Chief, Mental Health Clinic, Saint John; Dr. Ralph Townsend, Nova Scotia Hospital, Dartmouth; Dr. Myer Mendelson, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; and Dr. Archibald MacVicar, P.E.I., Mental Health Service, Charlottetown.

Dr. Eaton is a native of Canning. Following naval service during the War, he received his degree in Medicine from Dalhousie in 1949. Dr. Smith, a native of Moncton, graduated from Dalhousie in 1950. Dr. Townsend, a native of Louisburg, graduated from Dalhousie in 1949; Dr. Mendelson, whose home is in Moncton, graduated from Dalhousie in 1950. And Dr. MacVicar, a native of Sydney, graduated in Medicine from Dalhousie in 1952 and, after service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, returned to the University for post-graduate studies.



Campus capers call for Coke

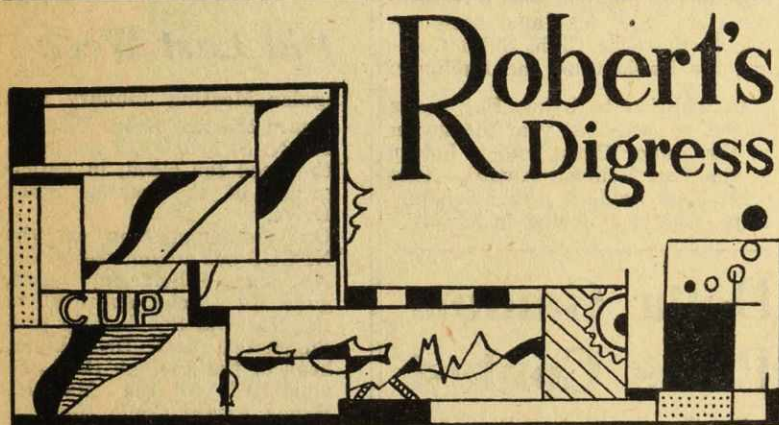
Everyone enjoys the break between classes. The lid's off for a time and relaxation's the mandate. What better fits the moment than ice-cold Coke?



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I would like very much to tell you that thousands of letters were received here at the office, asking the editor why "Robert's Digress" did not appear in the last two issues. But this would be a big fib. As a matter of fact it looks as if nobody cared if this column is published or not. You will admit with me, that it is not very tempting nor very amusing to write a weekly column when so little interest is shown, but nevertheless—here it is!

News from other Universities

Undoubtedly, there is news from the other colleges in Canada; but since I have not been getting around too much lately, I can't tell you very much.

Probably the Sheaf is still printing the now famous Campus Cow; The Quebec Papers are still clamouring against Hon. Maurice D.; UNB is still going all out for his Lordship; the Ryersonians are still being plagued by their profs, for not wearing shirts and ties; UBC are still having Fraternity Troubles; etc., etc.

I shall do my best to be a little better "cued-up" next week. In the meantime, think this one over: (overheard in the men's residence): "Hey, you guys, cut out that sweating—I've got a woman in my room! This one too: "Mary to Sally: Do you neck? Sally: That's my business! Mary:

Oh a professional!

No sense trying to get away from it any longer. I was supposed to publish a detailed report of what went on at the National CUP Conference held in Ottawa during the Christmas holidays. But due to uncontrollable circumstances, it is impossible for me to do so. But it is my most sincere hope that such a report will be made available for you by next week.

But here are some of the highlights:

The Carabin (Laval University) in Quebec city, was named next year's host paper.

The Manitoban (University of Manitoba) is our new executive paper.

The Saint Mary's Journal will continue as an affiliated member for another year.

The wire system for news-exchange was revised.