

**LETTERS**

**"The Future Lies Ahead"**

Prize-giving ceremonies are as undeniable at the end of school terms as turkey at Christmas. They are also inevitably tedious and longwinded. Even newspaper cov-

erages are sadly suited to the occasion, and this letter notes that the dubious art of redundancy written and spoken, enjoyed a healthy Munro Day renaissance.

Note also that the awarding of gold and silver "E's" was made only because of difficulty in obtaining "sufficient books which would be intelligible to the pupils." The writer suggests that with such a

precedent, THAT problem would never again arise.

Sir:

It was not without amazement that I discovered the following fragment upon the floor of the University library on Thursday, 10 March, 1960. It would appear to be a cutting from an early Nova Scotian School newspaper, giving an

account of a festal day, perhaps a celebration of the founder or benefactor, of the type celebrated at the turn of the century.

Since I am aware that **The Gazette** is interested in such items, I enclose a copy of the text; I trust it will be of interest to **Gazette** readers. Unfortunately the original is deficient of its opening and closing paragraphs, but that which remains may give some insight into the workings of the primitive society of the Maritimes. It begins thus:

"... were broken. At this point the chairman invited the guest to present the prizes. The guest was on this occasion Mr. Calvin Alexander, a distinguished local financier who has for many years interested himself in problems of education, and who has been frequently honoured by universities for his contributions to scholarship. Mr. Alexander presented prizes to those members of the school who had distinguished themselves in the

many activities of the past year. The actual prizes were merely symbolic this year, since there had been some difficulty in obtaining sufficient books which would be intelligible to the pupils, and so the staff had compromised by having a number of gold and silver E's prepared which stood not only for the name of the school but also for the effort which the recipients had revealed in their struggle to obtain recognition. During the distribution of E's there was prolonged applause from the excited audience as they eagerly showed their appreciation of those fellow-pupils to whom they had awarded E's by virtue of their service to the community, both on and off the sports team.

"When he had finished the distribution of the main awards, Mr. Alexander delivered a brief address to the assembly. He commented upon the significance of the act which he had just performed: "These young boys and girls have distinguished themselves in the (Continued on page 5)

**Our Appaling News**

Appearing on the opposite page is a letter from Dr. J. G. Kaplan in which he complains somewhat bitterly about inaccuracies in the reporting of a **Gazette** interview. Dr. Kaplan goes on to explain that such errors are not peculiar to this newspaper, but are common in professional dailies and the supposedly more responsible publications throughout the country.

As much as it shames us to say so, we can only agree that the quality of news reporting in Canada, and indeed, everywhere in North America is appaling. Anyone who has had occasion to know the real story behind some of the social notes in the local dailies will bear witness as to the frequency with which names are mis-spelled, dates are confused, cutlines wrongly placed, etc.

Admittedly the eccentric life of Halifax society is not world-shaking in its significance, but inaccuracies at this rock bottom level would seem to indicate similar faults in the more important fields of political and international news, fields in which the newspaper and the newsmagazines reign supreme as moulders of public opinion.

Moreover, it may be noted that on topics of a political or international character, reporting errors are made even more blatant by the social, economic, national and political bias of the writers and editors who have a hand in the stories at all levels. Reports on Khrushchev's travels in the East pass under the vigorous pens of many a Russian-hater before finding their way to the morning breakfast table. The extraordinary consistency of literary style in the various sections of prominent weekly newsmagazines will convince even the most doubtful of the extent of editorial re-write in news media.

It is not our contention that there is government supervision of news writing in Canada or the U.S. We are merely pointing out that the news you read in the **Halifax Chronicle-Herald**, **Mail-Star**, **Montreal Star**, **Montreal Gazette**, **Toronto Globe and Mail**, **Vancouver Sun**, **New York Times**, **Times Magazine**, **Newsweek**, **Life**, etc., can be nothing if not distorted by basic inaccuracy of detail, personal bias, desire to cater to circulation departments and advertisers, wish to conciliate the boss, and so forth.

Perhaps perfectly objective reporting is an impossibility, but there is little doubt that there is plenty of scope for improvement. In the meantime, it is well for John Doe Public to take what he sees in print with a shipload of salt.

**End of Act II**

It's been a strange year, with several spirited successes failing to obliterate a perceptible change in student attitude toward long established customs and organizations at Dalhousie. Far from disinterest, the attitude seemed to reflect dissatisfaction with belonging to things because one was supposed to, or doing things because they had always been done. It is possible it contained the subtle beginnings of concern about campus values; perhaps it meant nothing at all.

It is a difficult year to revue, because of its opposites. In October students seemed to be waiting for someone to cast a fresh mould for new activities, but leaders were hard to find. The shelving of Gilbert & Sullivan in favour of a Broadway musical was the first

step toward the new concept; it is probable that the success of that venture will close the door to any return to the old ways. The SUB campaign began with much more vitality than in past times, with the announcement that the Board of Governors would buy land for the student centre whenever money was raised for it. The **Gazette** poked its fingers into the political pie, and got them burned; yet here again there were signs of support for a freer and more critical journalistic hand.

Friday night dances, over-run by non-Dalhousians, waned. A half-hearted political election eased the Liberals into power, although neither side seemed surprised. A number of guest speakers visited the campus, but few students were attracted to hear them. Attendance at student forums was negligible. A Dean resigned and two faculty members announced their transfer to Ontario.

But there were high spots too; the Engineers stole the Dalcom flag, N.S. Tech stole our Tiger and The Boy Friend stole our hearts. The lively Students' Union Building campaign passed student referendum with flying colors, 83% of those eligible voting, and over 90% of those, voting yes. Formal dances were as colorful as ever, and Munro Day, with fresh ideas and imported talent, was much improved over previous years.

People had fun **individually**, but cohesive spirit was lacking. Attendance at sports events was not heavy, particularly indoor sports and interfac competition. Sodales, WUSC, NFCUS, and several other ancient and honorable societies registered no appreciable increase in student interest. The **Gazette** criticized the Student Council, and the council fought back.

Elsewhere in this issue the year's sports highlights are named. On the whole Dalhousie fared worse than usual in her major sports, although she boasted a strong second-place football team. Her tennis team took Maritime Intercollegiate laurels for the second straight year, her curlers the same title for the third successive time. Her coeds were more interested in social life than in titles this year, forgiveably so. Dal's hockey team started with power to burn, and burned itself out: her basketball team began the season with a fizzle, then caught fire. But the overall effect was that not enough students worked hard enough to produce a winning varsity combination in anything, although the potential is still there.

Students talked more, worried more, did a little better in their exams. What might be called a backwash of Beat philosophy finally seeped onto campus and voiced its improbable rebellion against Mom, Dad, Politics, Marriage, Organized Religion, Literary Elegance, Law, Ivy League Suit and Higher Education, the Automatic Dishwasher, the Cellophane-wrapped Soda Cracker, the Split-Level House and the H-Bomb, among other things. The subject-matter was not important, but the **reaction** was.

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With this issue the **Gazette** departs the stage. Her editors, bolting for the sidelines, wish to thank every student who either contributed physically to this year's edition, or who took a little time to comment, criticize, and discuss the topics he found herein. It is all a part of University. We have been surprised, and we have been rewarded; next year's Dalhousie looks like the best yet. Thank you for reading the **Gazette**.

And the world will survive, despite student journalism.

**Kibitzer's Corner:**

**Nobody Asked Me, But—**

By BOB SCAMMELL

And at the year's end we sing the Irrelevant Blues.

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT:—

Why do students at Dal put up with the system of BMOC inbreeding that permits the outgoing Council to cast a final vote of approval or rejection on candidates for election to the new Council and which further permits former presidents and other assorted-gauge wheels to introduce a candidate thereby swaying the votes of the ignorant masses that attend the student election forum?

**Room At The Top** should win an award for being the most over-rated, undersized, and having the most trite plot of the 1959-60 crop of movie tripe.

**PSYCHOLOGY  
"BLISSFUL  
IDIOCY"?**

"I don't know whether or not it is possible to predict anything in psychology . . . maybe physical scientists know where they are going, although I doubt it, but psychologists don't."

These were the opening remarks in a lecture given on Thursday, March 3rd, in the Memorial Room by Dr. Clarke of the Psychology Department on **Psychology and the Future**, the last in the SCM series on "Prospects on the Future."

"Psychologists, like all scientists," he commented, with subtle humour evidently appreciated by his audience, "can get rid of questions by asking new ones: To those of us who are not Freudians, the Truth has not yet been revealed. For Freudians, of course, this is part of a post-messianic age."

In a more serious vein, Professor Clarke then went on to point out the real danger of the future possibility of enormous control of man's intelligence by the use of psychology as a kind of technology and not a science. While not agreeing that the complete control seen in Skinner's Utopia of "Walden Two" is possible, the speaker did feel that the possibility of subtle control should not be ignored as it is in the theological premise that some part of man always remains free to decide. He pointed to the present movement among intellectuals, in which determinist thought has caused them to retreat into nihilism, fatalism or mysticism.

Another disturbing feature of psychological trends today, the speaker went on to point out, is seen for instance in the self-confidence of Huxley, who believes the "good society" can be developed by science, that values will develop as science develops.

"The truth is that a lot of psychology is working rather in the direction of blissful idiocy."

The speaker closed by expressing doubt that psychologists really could reveal deep insight into human life.

Why, at Dal, can't a candidate for —say—Council president be nominated by ten fellow students who are confident that he—if allowed to stand on his own ability, efforts, and personality—will make a better president than the organization-supported, Good Housekeeping Approved candidates we do get?

If DGDS productions continue to hit the standard of **The Boy Friend**, why can't they be produced in an auditorium which will accommodate larger audiences in greater comfort?

Dal students should revolt before paying another five-cent deposit to Roy Atwood just for the doubtful pleasure of drinking a bottle of moo-juice ten feet away at a table in that sump-hole he calls a canteen.

If he doesn't smoke, but starts carrying your brand; Honey, you got yourself a boy.

Why is it that little things—like razor blades—seem more costly to an English major than to any other type denizen of the campus?

Old Blusterpuss once declared, "I am the Pepsats." Since then he has announced that he is no longer connected with them: in one fell-swoop he has taken all the joy out of turpentine Pepsats.

Munro Day should not be abolished, but 53.2 per cent of the acts in the **Black and Gold Review** should be exiled to the bottom of Herring Cove.

Why do women spend four hours dolling up for a Saturday date then pull a face like they swallowed a tub of alum when one innocent bystander ogles them?

Dal students showed an uncommon amount of unselfish interest in the future of this place when they voted so overwhelmingly in favor of the S.U.B.

And a PUB in SUB has been proposed at many universities, but never with the single-mindedness from the Pubsters and the support from the would-be Tipplers that the idea is getting at Dal.

The future of Nova Scotia would be brightened with healthier tourist and cattle industries if someone would form a Society for the Stamping Out of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals and for the Total Annihilation of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Exams are the enemy of the shirking class.

Stay sober.