

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER
Member Canadian University Press

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The Engineers

One of the most compact groups on this campus is formed by the Department of Engineering. These students are distinguished by their marked singleness of purpose and their determination not to be stopped by an obstacle, whatever it may be.

Their earnestness and unity are a direct result of the subject they study. Engineering is an application of the most basic of the sciences. The engineer is closer to nature than any other person. Not only is much of his time spent out-of-doors, but it is part of his business to observe nature, draw a plan, and then try to improve upon it.

No true engineer can remain small-minded, for engineers do things in a big way. While an average man might think a great deal about moving several shovelfulls of earth, the engineer comes along with modern equipment and blasts a roadway through a mountain.

In some professions, the good which is accomplished by the individual is often remote from the immediate task done and often difficult to discern afterwards. The engineer, however, can see plans which were born in his mind, spring into reality, and the end result blossom into a new road, railway, or building.

There are some people who regard engineers as God-less and without culture. They could not be more mistaken. How can a man who sees basic mathematical formulae work out in the miraculous manner that they do remain long an unbeliever in a Supreme Being? An engineer is a man who deals with plans every day, and they are not slow to see that there is a vast, comprehensive plan for the whole Universe.

Engineers may appear a bit rowdy at times, but this is often a sign of an aggressive spirit and an ambition to do great things for the benefit of mankind.

Canada is still a young country, and much on the Dominion is as yet unexplored. Ahead of civilization will go the engineers, the pioneers of this modern age, to build roads, lay out settlements, and bridge river valleys.

Moreover, our present-day cities and towns are by no means perfect. It will be the engineer who will make the plans for better, healthier communities for the citizens of tomorrow. Much of the progress which will be made in the next few years in the way of material advancement will be a result of the efforts of these students who are at present studying engineering in our universities.

The students who will graduate in Engineering from Dalhousie this spring, will in ten years be spread far and wide over the face of the earth. Wherever there is a job to do, a mountain to be blasted, a river to be bridged, or a forest be cleared, there will be the engineers, hard at work.

College Editors Defend Freedom

At the annual conference of the Canadian University Press the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas the function of the Canadian University Paper is to stimulate rather than to direct thought among the university students of Canada, the Canadian University Press, representing twenty Canadian University newspapers, affirms its desire to promote in the columns of member papers the fullest objective expression of opinion on controversial issues.

"The Canadian University Press further asserts that any attempts to suppress this full freedom of expression of opinion on the local, national, and international level will be strongly opposed by CUP through every means at the disposal of the members of the Association".

A CUP survey of Canadian University papers for the first month of the new year indicates that this resolution has been the major topic of editorial discussion from coast to coast. The specific issue was whether college papers should allow pro-Communist articles and letters to appear in print.

The editors at the CUP conference passed the resolution with only one opposing vote, that of Cy Grolet, editor of Ottawa's *La Rotonde*. While the conference was still in session, the *Ottawa Journal*, commenting editorially, said "Common sense shows the monstrous folly of opening college papers to the campaigns of those, who would make us all slaves to the Kremlin." The fight was on.

Toronto *Varsity* suggested that only by examining all points of view could we prevent the kind of one-sided thinking that now threatens us, ending dramatically with "the truth shall make you free." The *Carleton* of Ottawa rhetorically asked if our belief in democracy is "so weak that we cannot allow ourselves to study both sides of the question?" "We are sure that University students can maturely evaluate any 'objective opinion' whether that opinion comes from Communists, vegetarians, or Scottish Nationalists" asserted JMS of the *McGill Daily*.

Not all editors supported this view, and *La Rotonde* fought back saying that Communists, because the abuse the freedom of speech, must not be allowed to speak through such democratic organs as college papers. Many writers of "Letters to the Editor" agreed with this paper's stand.

The *Manitoban* ran a series of letters from one "W" criticizing U.S., U.N., and Canadian foreign policy and claiming that the *Manitoban's* editorials were "pompous and pontifical" dissertations on world events in the best (if borrowed) Liberal style. A Kingston student claimed that Communism thrives on the type of publicity given in the pages of the *Queen's Journal*, and suggested that the letter refrain from criticism of U.S. foreign policy.

To spread truth is to defend freedom and the consensus of opinion seems to be for a free editorial policy. This freedom is now being practised and college editors are striving to present both sides of the struggle between Communism and Democracy.



Engineers Sweetheart.—Lovely Barbara Quigley, above, has been chosen as the Engineers' Sweetheart for 1950-51. Barb will represent the Engineers in the annual Munro Day Campus Queen competition. She has been an active participant in many campus activities, and the boys down at the shack are confident that she will win her way into the judges' hearts just the way she did theirs.

Chemists Find Instructor Fallible

Chem 2 students have announced the findings of a momentous and extremely interesting laboratory experiment conducted last week. The object of the experiment: to determine if a lab instructor is liable to error. The conclusion: "A laboratory demonstrator, or instructor, or assistant is fallible."

All students in the lab section viewed the phenomenon of a "sucker" swimming in the distilled water tank. They were unanimous in their observation of a fish in the water. The lab instructor, however, reported that such was not the case. Can fifty students be so wrong?

Rumor had it that either the biology department or the Fisheries Experimental Station had found their present facilities inadequate for undertaking certain important studies on fish metabolism. Just prior to press time, however, it was announced that the experiment was undoubtedly planned and conducted by energetic students. These budding chemists evidently had a number of questions that only an authentic laboratory study could settle.

First, can a piece of paper resemble a fish? One of the fundamental observations of the experiment was the fact that, when viewed in distilled water, a piece of paper marked "sucker" can resemble a fish. On the other hand, a fish does not and cannot look like a piece of paper. All students observed the actions of the so-called fish and agreed that experiments previously conducted by ichthyolo-

gists about the action of fish in distilled water are valid.

It was noted that the fish did not swim very rapidly. Explanations suggested were that recent atomic tests in Nevada may have changed the distilled water in the Dalhousie labs into heavy water. It was thought that fish would have some difficulty navigating in heavy water. A further reason for the lack of vitality in the fish was the fact that it was a rather worn-out specimen with a very low basal metabolic rate.

Second, since results of titrations and other experiments performed by students usually differ from the data known by the lab instructor, is it not possible that the instructor is wrong? This is a very important point, for lab students in other sciences will be affected by the recorded observations and conclusions. Many students spend valuable time in repeats of experiments and such repeats would be unnecessary if the lab instructor were fallible. Perhaps students should check the instructor's lab book and give him the repeats.

Third, how gullible is a lab instructor? This problem involves a great number of variable factors such as the degree of curiosity of the instructor, his desire for knowledge, his imagination, and his previous experience with practical jokers. The laboratory assistant used in the recent experiment was just one particular type.

Because of the variables involved and since this was a single experiment, it cannot be conclusive. But it is an important step forward; there is always a first. For instance, only one dog in Pavlov's early studies showed "the usual symptoms of . . . acute neurosis." It is possible that further experiments will support the conclusions announced in this case. A lab instructor can be proved wrong.

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