

DALHOUSIE Gazette

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VOTE

Wednesday, students will go to the polls and vote on the question of the Russian student exchange. The decision they register will be the one forwarded to the N.F.C.U.S. central office in Ottawa for reference to in any future decisions.

If any prediction judging by the turnout at previous Student Council elections can be made, a vote of 60% of the student body would be considered excellent but it will probably be closer to 50%.

Our system of government is based on the vote, on the free choice by the people of the men and policies they want. The same principle is followed in our student government and it is as important that every student make known his opinions as it is for every citizen. It takes only a few minutes and, however, you vote—vote.

A Suggestion

Canadian students have a more general knowledge of the United States than Americans do about Canada, a recent editorial in the Financial Post stated but concluded, "ignorance on both sides of the border is appalling."

Thus it appears, that our age old jokes about the American tourists who inquire in the middle of July where the nearest place they can ski is, or how much taxes we pay each year to the King of England, can be reversed as well.

But while the situation provides its humorous side there is a much more serious aspect. "Barriers between countries . . . may often develop out of ignorance of the common bonds existing between nations bordering on one another."

A joint committee set up to study the situation laid the blame at the door of education and suggested remedying it through this same channel. Textbooks and supplementary reading lists for schools could be changed and special texts dealing with Canadian and American life supplemented. University professors particularly at summer schools could be exchanged and universities sponsor conferences dealing with mutual problems between the two countries. Lastly it was suggested that an exchange of school students in border cities be arranged for short periods.

But why confine it to public and high school students as is estimated? Surely more could be accomplished through the exchange university students.

The question of such an exchange arose at the NFCUS Conference last summer and received a hearty endorsement by that organization. It was felt, however, that too many technical difficulties stood in the way of its immediate accomplishment but it was hoped that within the next two or three years these could be cleared away and a workable scheme arranged.

Perhaps if NFCUS approached the committee, aid in removing these obstacles might be forthcoming. Certainly in their studies they have forgotten one of the most important groups in relation to its size in educational circles. We would draw it to their earnest consideration.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Madam:
We would appreciate your publishing this letter in reply to Mr. Janigan's magnificent outburst of last Tuesday.

First of all, there were about three forms of entertainment being offered to the public at the same time as the Glee Club's production of "Captain Applejack" not the least of which was the production of the "Marriage of Figaro". This, combined with the fact that it was the first major job of a relatively inexperienced Publicity Organization made us quite happy with the size of the audience that did attend. As to the audience reaction, including Dalhousie students, it was thought that this particular play was "the best comedy that has been produced at Dal in the last six years".

Secondly, regarding Mr. Janigan's enthusiasm for the production of a popular musical. This matter was considered at some length both by the executive and the musical director, and it was found that the royalties of the least expensive musical would not be less than two hundred and fifty dollars per night. Can you imagine the Council of Students being able to sanction such a tremendous initial outlay with such a terrific decrease in the working capital as there was this year? And furthermore, since Dalhousie students do not seem to realize the obligations involved in attending rehearsals regularly for a comparatively simple musical, it would be ridiculous to attempt anything so difficult as Mr. Janigan suggests. Professor Hamer is one of the outstanding authorities on Gilbert and Sullivan in Canada. His time is valuable and he cannot afford to waste it on an unappreciative student body—surely this is the only conclusion that we can draw, when, out of a male student population of almost eight hundred, only thirteen will turn out once a week for rehearsal. We must be assured of co-operation before we

can set our goals too high.
Another integral part of any musical production is the orchestra. There, have been approximately nine musicians turning out regularly for orchestra rehearsals. Can you imagine producing a show of the calibre of "Oklahoma" with an orchestra of this size, or we should, perhaps, have a piano accompaniment? Music is music, and regardless of what type, it cannot be played without the necessary instrumentalists.
Thirdly, regarding dramatic presentations. It must be realized that this organization has obligations to those who are interested in acting as well as to those with

vocal talents. Another important fact is that although many of us, like Mr. Janigan, have been around the University for some time, the average age of the students has dropped considerably. For this reason, we lack completely matured players and our choice of plays must be governed accordingly. It is not good enough to have just one or two of these unique individuals—the cast must be balanced. We shudder at Mr. Janigan's statement that talent should be our least concern.
To conclude, we do not wish this reply to be misunderstood by Mr. Janigan. We appreciate his ad-
(Continued on Page Three)



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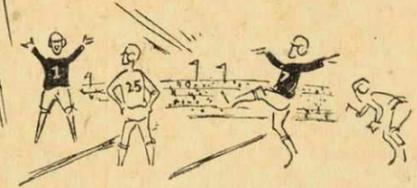
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