

EDITORIAL . . .

Glee Club Does It Again

The Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society has done it again. Lately it has come up with three situations that we feel require some editorial comment.

Let us say at the outset that the *Gazette* has no bone of contention with the Glee Club, nor are we "against" it in any way. There are many Glee Clubbers both past and present on our staff, and we have gone out of our way to give DGDS activities more publicity than they have sometimes deserved. But we are unhappy with what the Glee Club has been giving us; and remarks we have heard from many others leads us to believe that the campus is also less than content with the DGDS.

In our view, none of the Glee Club's productions this year has come up to the standard that we have a right to expect. Despite valiant efforts by some people, who are to be commended, things have just not come off well. And perhaps the things that could have come off were not even attempted. This is written before *Pirates of Penzance* appeared.

This situation in itself left the proverbial parsnip taste in the mouths of many, but it is three more recent happenings that have given rise to this editorial comment.

Not content to leave the comments appearing in *Alpha and Omega* of February 14th where they lay, DGDS President Jim Holland wrote a letter to the editor, attempting to defend his executive's decision. The criticism levelled by the writer of that column was, in our opinion, justified, but at any event it represented only the views of the writer regarding the choice of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

To attempt to justify an inconsequential comedy on the grounds of what was said in last year's *Gazette* about two serious plays is evading the issue. To say that the campus demanded a frothy comedy says little for the intellectual capacity of the students of Dalhousie. Honest attempts at worthwhile plays are far more satisfactory than the same kind of attempts at Kaufman and Hart.

Then there is the Connolly Shield, an annual competition of one-act plays, which this year attracted only three entries. It seems to have reverted to the state of affairs in which it found itself four years ago. In subsequent years the executives of the DGDS were able to arouse enough interest to have a two-day festival of six or seven plays, but the executive this year appears to have made no effort even to inform possible entrants that the competition was being held, with disastrous results for what could be one of the Glee Club's most important services to the campus.

The three groups that did enter plays found very few arrangements made for them on performance night. Although the Glee Club had reserved the stage for three nights, there was no rehearsal time allotted, and when the plays were to go on there were no make-up, no stage crew, no assistance of any kind, and not even anyone to welcome or thank the judge. We really don't think that the DGDS executive has shown sufficient interest in the discovery of new talent, which is the prime purpose of the competition.

The final straw is one that is not yet well known on the campus. Last week the Glee Club reallocated funds within its budget for a most unusual purpose. (Reallocation is a means whereby organizations that want money for a certain purpose can take it from another part of their budget with Council's approval; the Council has not yet approved this one.) Two of its projects folded. It is unable to have its drama workshop, one of the best ideas it has come up with for many years, because the only director capable of doing this job had to direct *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. And its radio show, planned with no conception of what it involved, will not be heard this year. And so it took the money it had received from the Council for these purposes and put it toward a trip to Truro, where it planned to produce *The Pirates of Penzance* at a financial loss.

In the past the Glee Club has taken several of its productions to Truro, a distance of some 60 miles. The presentation have always been successful there, and the Dalhousians have enjoyed the trip. Some organization in Truro, such as the Kiwanis Club or a chapter of the IODE, sponsored them, paying the Glee Club usually \$100 and expenses, and making a profit for itself. But this year the Glee Club told the Council president that the best arrangement it could possibly make, after much trying, was to get \$100 from the Truro Kiwanis Club, which is not enough money to pay expenses. So the executive planned to go anyway, and to lose more money.

The Kiwanis Club decided last week, just in time to keep the matter from coming before the Council meeting on Saturday, that it could not, for other reasons, sponsor the Dalhousians. The Council thought the matter had been dropped. But now we learn that the Glee Club, apparently at the instigation of its musical director, who has no power to enter into agreements to bind any Dalhousie organization, has approached another Truro organization. It asks to be sponsored, and it asks only for \$100 and no expense money.

The prime purpose of the Glee Club is not, of course, to raise money, but it should not go out of its way to lose money, either. If a precedent like this is established, it will have dangerous consequences in the years ahead.

We are not suggesting any solutions, if indeed there are any problems. But we hope that the new executive will be able to plan a more successful program. Perhaps the fault lies not in the executive itself but in outside influences upon it.

The Glee Club productions this year have not been as bad as they could have been, but neither have they been as good as they should have been. The DGDS, although its members do work hard and long, seems to be uninspired and unfortunate. We wish them well, and will do all we can to help them, but we feel that they are in need of a boost to help them along their way. We hope that they will accept our criticisms without taking offence; they bear no malice, they are sincerely intended, and they merely question the wisdom of three actions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wroclaw, Poland
16th February 1957

Our Dear Friends,

In our students' paper "Viles" we have found your address, and we decided to write to you.

We are two Polish physics students of the University in Wroclaw, and we beg you to aid us to bind the correspondence with students in your country.

For many years we had been cut off, from the whole world, and it wasn't safe for us to try enter into connection with you. Now it is possible and and we should longed to learn something about your life and your country.

We beg you to make easy to us, if you can do it, of course the binding of connection with Canadian students, which would wished to correspond with us. We are interested every matters of your life and we can give you some impressions of our life and work. We can also exchange post-cards, photos, magazines, book, etc. We should be very thankfully to you, for going to help us in this matter.

All good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Andrzej Miecznikowski
Yerzy Urbanik

* * *

This letter was forwarded to us by the executive-secretary of the National Federation of Canadian University Students. With the recent governmental changes in Poland it is difficult to imagine a more interesting part of the world in which to have correspondents.

Anyone interested in writing to these two Polish university students should get in touch with the National Office of NFCUS, Carleton College, Ottawa, which has offered to forward any names received.

-Ed.

* * *

51 Seymour St.,
Halifax, N. S.
Feb. 22, 1957.

The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette
Dear Sir,

I cannot let this opportunity go by without stating how heartily I agree with my friend Mr. Bernard MacKinnon in his letter entitled "no queen for me," published in your Feb. 21 issue.

The only trouble, old boy, is that you don't quite go far enough, let's abolish everything English, not only Her Majesty, and be real red-blooded Canadians.

I would start first with the English language. How can we be true Canadians when we speak the language of England? Then let's abolish the Anglican Church. How can we be true Canadians if we belong to the Church of England? And, while we are at it, let's abolish the United Church and the Salvation Army. How can a real Canadian tolerate such institutions — English you know. Then, of

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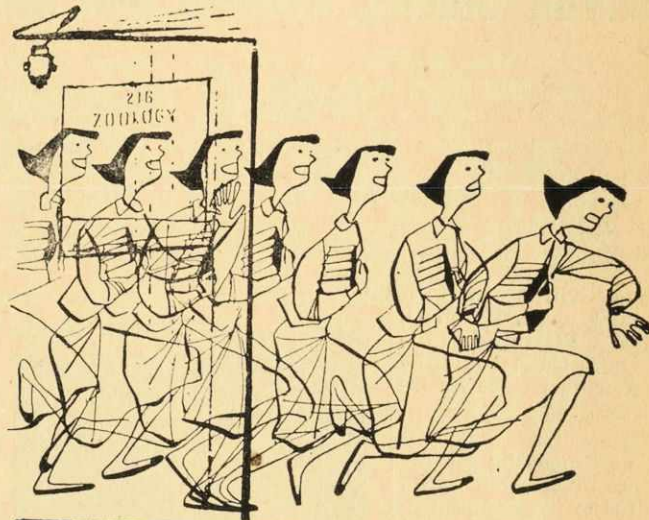
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RULES FOR STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

- (1) The Fourth Annual Exhibition of pictures, drawings, prints and sculpture by members of the student body, the alumni, the members of the staff (and wives or husbands) will be held in the Art Gallery (Room 225) in the Arts and Administration Building, beginning on Monday, March 18. You are invited to submit not more than three works (pictures, drawings, etc.)
- (2) As far as possible, all works submitted will be exhibited.
- (3) While we do not make any binding rules, it is recommended that, if possible, oil paintings be framed and drawings or water-colours matted or framed. Stands will be provided for any sculpture submitted.
- (4) All works must be delivered to the Art Room (Room 225) Arts and Administration Building, on or before Friday, March 15, 1957.
- (5) The back of every work must bear clearly the name and address of the artist.
- (6) Every artist must complete and hand in an entry form. Entry forms will be available in the Art Room from Tuesday, March 12. The Art Room will be open for the purpose of receiving entries, and entrants are requested to leave their works there and to complete an entry form and leave it in the box provided on the table in the Art Room. Members of the Art Committee will be on duty in the Art Room for part of the time. If no one is on duty please leave work and complete entry form yourself.



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