# DAL GAZETTE

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#### **EDITORIAL**

# What is Wrong with the DGDS?

It is generally agreed by the majority of those who saw "The Little Foxes" when it was staged by the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society a few weeks ago that this play was not well produced. We are not judging the D.G.D.S. production by professional standards as our knowledge of professional dramatics is very sparse. We are judging "The Little Foxes" by the few dozen amateur productions we have seen and by comparison to the vast majority of these we consider Dalhousie's most recent dramatic production definitely inferior. And as we implied above we are not alone in this opinion.

What was wrong with "The Little Foxes"? Assuming that the play itself cannot be blamed as it appears to have been well received when professionally produced, we have no choice but to draw the conclusion that the production of the play by the D.G.D.S. was poor.

We have no desire to be unduly critical of David Murray and the enthusiastic little group of thespians who performed in "The Little Foxes" but since the age of the fearless and uninhibited dramatic critic appears to have passed, and the D.G.D.S. is supported by the studuent body we feel obligated to express several criticisms which we do not think will be us deemed unjust by the unbiased observer.

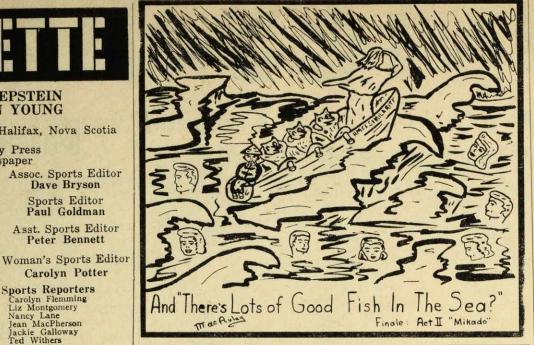
Firstly, it might be suggested that something a little less of ambitious should have been chosen for performance by an photographs that would depict amateur group of the calibre of the Dalhousie company. We must concede that there is some merit in producing a play original to the local dramatic scene but we feel that it is preferable to do Gilbert and Sullivan well than Mozart poorly, as the director of the D.G.D.S. musical productions appears realize. Comedies are much more appropriate to the collegiate stage than serious or even semi-serious drama.

Secondly, although Mr. Murray is quite possibly a very talented director, it is our opinion, and that of many others who know far more about the dramatic arts than we do, that it is very difficult for even experienced professional directors to direct and act in a play at the same time, and that Mr. Murray was simply not able to do so was painfully evident during several scenes in "The Little Foxes". We do not consider this the fault of Mr. Murray for we understand that nobody else could be found to take the part which he played and we doubt if anyone else on the campus could have played it any better than he did under the circumstances but we do consider it a very poor reflection on the D.G.D.S. that being as it is, a major society on the campus, it cannot inspire sufficient enthusiasm in the student body to bring an adequate number of people to its dramatic try-outs to fill the dozen or so parts in the average play. This situation might be remedies in large part if the standard of D.G.D.S. productions was raised to a level which would elicit a little more enthusiasm for dramatics among the Dalhousie student body.

It might be suggested with regard to improving the quality of dramatics at Dalhousie that the D.G.D.S. dramatic productions would be much more satisfying to audiences and more profitable to participants if they were directed by somebody with more experience in dramatics than the average student, preferably a member of the faculty or some experienced member of a local amateur dramatic group. We are not implying by this suggestion that Mr. Murray is an incompetent director. On the contrary we feel that both Mr. Murray and the dramatic group which he directs must be very talented to perform as well they do without the benefit of experienced direction. However, we are suggesting that the D.G.D.S. is at fault in making no apparent effort to obtain furnaces of our "educated" socilood," and a "sister-hood," and a "sister-hood, and the services of a capable non-student director for their productions. Has the D.G.D.S. asked the University to provide them with a director? Has the D.G.D.S. approached any of the local dramatic groups and asked for the assistance of somebody experienced in producting amateur plays?

The reception given student productions at the majority of other Maritime universities far surpasses the response of the Dalhousie campus to D.G.D.S. productions. Is this because the Dalhousie student body is less interested in the arts the preceding sentence, for it panion ships and fellowship. generally or dramatics in particularly than the students of Acadia or Mount Allison or even Kings or Saint Mary's? We think not, and we suggest that it is the duty of the D.G.D.S. to bring dramatics at Dalhousie up to at least a passable

E. T. B.



# **Letters To The Editor**

February 11, 1956. Valley Stream, N. Y.

The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette. Dear Sir:

the beginning of her letter.

much to write you on this subthe problems that are met with in everyday life.

Again thank you for the copy of the Dalhousie Gazette. With kindest regards, I am,

> Very truly yours, Eli Ide, M.D., Dal. '40.

> > February 9, 1956.

Toronto, Ontario.

Editor, Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir:

We have received a letter from the External Affairs Chairman at the University College of the West Indies, Jamaica, informing of an International Photographic Exhibition to be held at UCWI during the first week March. He has requested ities, and I should appreciate if forward to him direct any photoare available and can be spared. firm beliefs within your sorority, I understand that all photographs will be duly acknowledged and ly fits the scene. We, who dare they should be sent is:

Mr. P. J. Patterson, Chairman, External Affairs Commission, University College of the

West Indies, Jamaica. In view of the kindness and generous hospitality extended by the University College of the West Indies to the Canadian students who visited their University in last year's WUSC Study Tours, I earnestly hope that you respond to this request promptly, and I should be grateful if you would let me know if

you are sending any pictures. With many thanks,

Yours sincerely Lewis Perinbam, Executive Secretary, WUSC.

ED. NOTE. Interested students may forward their exhibits directly.

> 3 Berlin Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia February 13 ,1956.

Editor. Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir: doing has been not only scorched,

tries to show Jesus that it is im- my dictionary is not an author-

really explains the situation.

possible to allow Him to go about preaching the Word. It would bring the organization tumbling to the ground. "All has been given by Thee to the Pope," the Many thanks for the January Great Inquisitor remarks to the 11th issue of the Dalhousie Gaz- Son of Man," and all, therefore, Even the screaming head- is still in the Pope's hands, and line "Tigers Have Boston Tea there is no need for You to come Party" did not mar the thrill of now at all. Thou must not meddle reading through the issue! Even for the time, at least . . . Thou an occasional copy would be most didst Thyself lay the foundation for the destruction of Thy King-Janet Conrad's "Letter to the dom, and no one is more to blame was most interesting. for it . . . I swear, man is weaker There is so much said, and so and baser by nature than Thou much not said, that I would like hast believed him. Can he, can very much to receive a copy of he do what Thou didst? . . . We your editorial on Greek Letter have corrected Thy work and Societies to which she refers at have founded it upon miracle, mystery and authority Should my schedule afford have taken the sword of Caesar, ample time I would like very and in taking it, of course, have rejected Thee and followed him. of Greek Letter Societies Oh, ages, are yet to come of the confusion of free thought, of their science and cannibalism . . . And all will be happy, all the millions of creatures except the hundred thousand who rule over them. For only we, we who guard the mystery, shall be happy . . . What I say to Thee will come to built. I repeat, tomorrow. Thou shalt see the obedient flock who at a sign from me will hasten to heap up hot cinders upon the pile which I shall burn Thee for coming to hinder us. For if anyone has deserved our fires, it is one has deserved our fires, it is a medical fraternity. Only Medical Students, i.e., future of is a medical fraternity. Only Medical Students, i.e., future you will burst!"

ish students, nor ...

Yet, it has been the policy to pledge only Jewish male students. Is this not discrimination? The second fraternity I am a member of is a medical fraternity. Only Medical Students, i.e., future you will burst!"

"Do not try to fill the puddle; "Do not try to fill the puddle; "Do not try to fill the puddle;" pass, and our dominion will be built. I repeat, tomorrow. Thou shalt see the obedient flock who

Here, we have the primordial conflict, two worlds unalterably opposed. The educator is striving toward the one, the propagandist contentedly dwelling in the other. Permit me to draw an analogy.

you would be good enough to Miss Conrad, I analogize you to Jesus; not because you are a degraphs of campus activities that vout Christian practicing your returned. The person to whom and desire to lift up our pen and scratch our paper, are, The Great Inquisitor. The analogy now speaks for itself. We out-number you; quick, gather your sheep before they are led astray

Miss Conrad, I congratulate you for your defense, (which appeared in the Gazette February 1, 1956) which you so rightly ruined, (and I do not mean the Gazette). We have taken you into custody, nay more, into close custody. We bid you to repent

articles, to take great pride in commit a dangerous and sinful not look beyond the circle to the belonging to a sorority. I can not act (as the Bible so emphatically life of which it is a part." blame her, if she rightfully practices "her" Christianity there; for where else could she display her dous kinetic energy. In order to palatability'

According to Funk and Wag-nalls New College Standard Dictionary, of which I trust Miss Conrad can obtain a copy, a "fraternity" is defined as, "a conditernity" is defined as, tion or relation of brotherhood; brotherly affection; a literary and social organization of male It is interesting to note that students . . . usually . . . having this discussion on prejudice and secret rites"; and to "fraternize" discrimination among sororities means "to bring into brotherly eties, has been brought to light. further defined as "a body of Miss Conrad appears to have sisters united by some bond of added water to the fire, in an at-fellowship," and "fellowship" is tempt to put it out; but in so defined as "the state of being a companion or fellow; but burnt. Since no one else tion." Nowhere, yes nowhere, in "dares" to support her loquacious these definitions is religion menassertions, I therefore direct this tioned. The members of these orletter to her. Perhaps I should ganizations are united by a comhave used the word "desires" in mon bond of friendship, com-Surely this is a prime ideal com-In The Greater Inquisitor, by Dostoevski, he has Jesus reappear in the 16th Century Spain. The Inquisition takes Him into custody and in the ensuing exam- nor is there place for, religion in ination of the Great Inquisition a sorority (or a fraternity). (If

# **National Debate** All Set To Go

"International Rivalry still holds more Promises than Threats for the Future of Mankind" will be the National Debating Topic for this year. This resolution will be the topic of debate during the National Finals at Western University, tomorrow, Friday and Saturday. The winning team will receive the McDonald-Laurier Trophy, emblematic of debating excellence in Canada, and an airplane ticket to meet the best debaters in Europe.

tional Championship Team.

versity were declared the 1955 syste winners at McMaster University in ada.

Hamilton. Mount Allison, a mem-

NFCUS Sponsored

Ivan L. Cody, President of the NFCUS Debating Association, has announced that Doug Hammar of Western will be the Chairman of the National Finals and His Worship, Mayor Ray Dennis of London, will be Honorary Chairman.

Sponsored by the NFCUS Debating Association, the National Finals will bring the winners from Canada's four debating leagues to the Great Hall, in Huron College the Great Hall, in Huron College will be selected shortly. The parat Western to determine the Naticipants are expected to arrive to

Last year, Len St. Hill and Wendall Fulton of Mount Allison Unihas been the adoption of uniform system of debating rules for Can-

anything about fraternities and/ should become a universal law. or sororities, and am just perti-I do not profess to be a Kantian, nacious against them. If this is but I do declare that we, who I shall not mention, for obvious such a maxim. reasons), but I belong to two traternities. When I first came to Dalhousie University, three she was in error in writing what years ago, I was made aware of the fact that I could not pledge to any Christian undergraduate fraternity. Sure, I could eat and drink there, but that was about all. Is this not discrimination? This appears to be the fate of all Jewish male students at Dalhousie University. Twenty-four years ago these students organized their own fraternity chapter, to help maintain their identity on Dalhousie Campus. Yet, there is nothing in this fraternity's ideals, rituals, creed or for that matter any written administration of the fraternity, that restricts it to Jewcoming to hinder us. For n any one has deserved our fires, it is Thou. Tomorrow I shall burn Medical Students, i.e., future medical doctors, and not Dental, medical doctors, and not Dental, and the medical doctors. Pharmacy, Commerce, Arts and minor nature in comparison to

avoid this we should practice,

ity, please forgive my despairing not only in theory, but in actual remarks.)

fact, Kant's maxim, "Act only on Perhaps, Miss Conrad, you are that maxim through which you now thinking that I do not know can at the same time will that it your present thought, I am one make up the masses of society, tep ahead of you. You belong to could improve this chaotic world one sorority, (the name of which in which we live by adhering to

In recapitualting, my intentions were to show Miss Conrad that she did (i.e., in short that a religion and race prevents her/or a sorority from pledging non-Christians and non-Whites and that this is by no means discrimination), and that prejudice and discrimination do take an active part in fraternity affairs. In no way, in case I have, did I intend to slander Miss Conrad on her religion for which I have the utmost respect, or any sorority or fraternity for that matter. My intentions were clear-cut and without malice. I trust I have succeeded.

In closing, I would like to remind Miss Conrad of a quotation from Which Way Paranassus?—

try to fill yourself instead. To Science students are pledged by explain my meaning, permit me this fraternity. Is this not discrimination? If it is not, then pray tell, what is it? These are water calm. A weak swimmer, if water calm. A weak swimmer, if only two of nine fraternities and he has the eagerness or the sororities on Dalhousie Campus. brashness to try, can swim across Their discrimination is of a it and around it if he battles hard enough, or has the right others; and serves as an example kind of water-wings, but that he to what other sororities and fra- wins races in the still waters of ternities do, as Miss Conrad so the university puddle is no eviinadequately tried to occult in dence that he can swim beyond the breakers of the great ocean. From this it appears that we all Try to learn a stronger stroke, can take a lesson. Everyday we one fit to breast turbulent waters discriminate; if you write your and heavy storms. Practice in the lecture notes in ink you are dis-criminating against pencils; if only a puddle, a swimming-pool you wear your red sweater in- where you have time to learn stead of your white one, you are your stroke and try your strength. discriminating; if you use this The pool is lovely, the waters tooth-paste and not that you are pleasant, the sport delightful. discriminating; if you like Sally Dive deep, swim hard, but aland not Janet you are discrimin-ating; in short, discrimination is our way of life. Yet, if we keep far - flung boundaries of the this discrimination to ourselves, world. They form a little golden for fear that you bring your applying it only to ourselves, circle within a greater, a limit-organization tumbling to the then, and only then have we a less circle. Swim in it, play in Miss Conrad appears, from her discriminate against others, is to your play will be futile if you do

> Sincerely and fraternally yours, Yale C. Kanter, Medicine '60.

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