

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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Don't Just Stand There

Sometime ago the chairman of the Dalhousie NFCUS committee submitted a recommendation to the Council of Students advocating the election of an additional council member as chairman of the NFCUS committee.

The report was given to the secretary-treasurer of the council with the expectation that the council would take some action on the matter.

So far the council has done nothing. It is only fair to the local NFCUS organization as a whole that they either accept the recommendation or reject it entirely.

As was pointed out earlier by the local committee chairman, the election of an additional council member as NFCUS chairman would give the committee strength by having the support of council in NFCUS objectives. Only by having a strong local committee can the aims of the national organization expect to have any sort of success.

Perhaps if the local committee set up a platform of concrete objectives to be sought on the local, the students would see the benefits that could be achieved — material benefits which would ease the pressure on the pocketbook of Dalhousie students. The committee backed by the Council of Students could lobby local organizations for lower admission to live theatre productions, lower city transportation, cheaper admission prices to motion picture theatres.

These are the suggestions on the spur of the moment. They may or may not be worthwhile. If they are not, there are others which are and are rightly within the provinces of NFCUS.

Another suggestion would be the sponsorship of exchange visits among the various universities of the Maritimes.

Granted that many students are familiar with some of the other universities, but there are still quite a few who are not.

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Words and Music

By IZZY ASPER
(From the Manitoban)

In their annual poll of 1952, Billboard called Joni James for the No. 1 spot in the list of new artists. With her hit disc, "Why Don't You Believe Me", still riding high, it seems the editors picked well.

Ironically enough, this pretty miss hoped to make her dent on show biz by her dancing. Miss James got her intro into the entertainment field via a ballet stint with an opera company. Unnoticed she toured parts of Canada with this company.

Fortunately for her career, Joni was hospitalized with an appendectomy operation and it was during her convalescent period that she began singing. The response in Chicago, her home port, was encouraging and she decided to continue. Even more important, she was given bookings.

Not neglecting her turpishorean ability, Joni built her new act into a soubrette, including her singing and dancing. However, her voice took over from her feet and slowly she was on her way. Chicago critics hailed her long before she made the country sympathize with her "... Believe Me". Previous to her platter success, she had once appeared on TV with Johnny Ray. Undoubtedly this set her career back somewhat.

But she recuperated and was signed by MGM execs a few months ago. The rest is disc data. Her first release was "... Believe Me", which was, and still is tops.

From all indications Joni is going to be around for some time.

Platter Chatter

Still checking statistics from '52, we see in the annual poll that the fans chose Blue Tango as the best all-around hit of the past year. This is history-making in that it is the first time that an instrumental has topped that honor. The most played disc on the juke boxes last year was Johnny Ray's "Cry".

Still in a statistical vein, we have very sad news for songwriters. Last year, for every song that clicked there were 35 also rans. Those are pretty tough odds. But of 2,868 slicings published, only 81 caught on. In the field of hits, Columbia discery showed its heels to the others and held the most top tunes, followed by Capitol.

A recent report from the House Un-American Activities tells how by their quick action last year they prevented the record industry from being "taken over" by communism. We should daily thank the Almighty that the U.S. has such a sterling group that has again saved up from listening to "communist inspired" music. And to think that Columbia uses a red label!

A genuinely sad note was heard in music circles recently when the passing of Hank Williams, renowned folk composer-singer, occurred. Williams wrote many hits last year, including "Jambalaya", "Half as Much", and "Cold, Cold Heart".

Picking up the crystal ball, it looks like there will be a few new discs filling the airwaves soon. Giselle has come up with a new ballad entitled "Gone". It should sell.

Doris Day's snappy novelty etching, "Mister Tap Toe" could be another "Guy Is a Guy". It's Day's best release in a long time.

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Our Mentally Juvenile University Students

Canadian university students are among the most disgusting people I have met. That appears to be a rather sweeping statement because I have met only students from the nine provinces of Canada and some from the United States, and there are quite a few people in the world outside of Canada and our cousins to the south. Perhaps most students in other part of the world are just as disgusting; I don't know. And I admit there are exceptions.

By "disgusting" I refer to their refusal to think in other terms other than mathematical or scientific. In many cases they refuse to think in any terms whatever but rather are content to look on while their scientific friends "explain" their mathematical truths. They refuse to think or express an opinion or an idea because they are deathly afraid. They are terrified of expressing any kind of opinion or idea because they may be wrong. By "wrong" they mean that they are unable to "prove" mathematically and scientifically that they are "right". Granted, that ideas or opinions must be outside the realm of mathematics, there still remains many more important fields which would receptive to the presentation any thoughts. The thoughts would not necessarily be true but they would be a contribution toward the discovery of what is true.

Merey because our scientific friends have been able to split the atom and create a missile which can destroy thousands of lives at a blow is no reason to worship their feats as the last word in truth. Merey because they can control a number of factors and produce a definite and predictable results is no reason why their methods should be transferred beyond their rightful sphere. Yet that is what students are doing. True, most other people do the same thing, but if anyone should question the merit of using the

scientific method in attempting to prove unscientific truths about it should be the university students—of good, or average intellectual capacity.

If you doubt the presumption that people—which includes most university students are an unthinking lot — then glance around you and try to discover substantial amount of evidence to the contrary. How much worthwhile, thoughtful or thought-provoking literature do you find in our newspapers, periodicals and radio programs? Isn't the majority mere descriptive drivel? Isn't the majority of it concerned with facts of science, and money? Aren't the majority of our publications concerned only with the end of money and material benefits in mind? And this isn't because the readers of such publications are concerned only with material benefits? The publications—all kinds —are catering to the demands of a materialistic public, a public which thinks (if at all) only in terms of the dollars and the number of bombs the dollars will build in order that their materialistic society may be preserved against whatever threats it has or are imagined.

As Bertrand Russell said in "Why Men Fight": "Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth—more than ruin, more even than death. Thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible; thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habits; thought is anarchic and lawless, indifferent to authority, careless of the well-tried wisdom of the ages. Thought looks into the pit of hell and is not afraid. It sees man, a feeble speck, surrounded by unfathomable depths of silence; yet it hears itself proudly, as unmoved as if it were lord of the universe. Thought is great and swift and free, the light of the world, and the chief glory of man."

ACP Notes

Ah, Those Good Old Traditions . . .

A fraternity man at the University of Oklahoma now knows that you can carry this "tradition business" too far. He complained to a student court that after his pinning, fraternity brothers tossed him into a pool and assaulted and injured him.

They said the dousing was a post-pinning tradition. The student also complained that his "friends" took his clothes and left him in the pool. "I had to walk five blocks to the house in wet underwear," he said. "I was very embarrassed."

Finders Keepers . . .

Classified ad in the Daily Northwestern: "Lost . . . Beta pin. Last seen on a westbound Alpha Chi. Finder may keep pin, please return girl."

Winter Blunderland . . .

Fraternity and dormitory men at Northwestern university staged a series of spontaneous snowball fights two weeks ago. When the

fun was over, about 200 windows were broken.

The dean of men says repairs will be paid for by everyone concerned. Meanwhile, with as many as 64 windows out in one house, members are enjoying the fresh winter air.

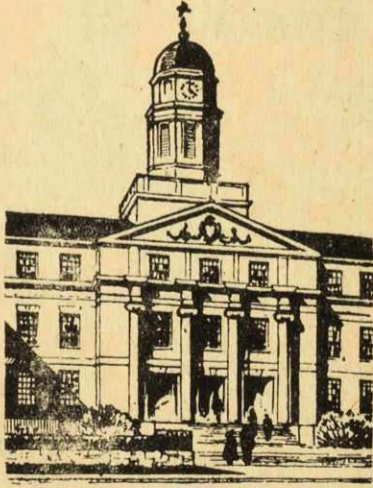
Another Two Inches . . .

Columnist William Morris of the Daily Texan tells about a basketball game slated during the Christmas holidays between Center Hill and Stone college.

"It so happened that Center Hill went to Stone and Stone ended up at Center Hill. net result: Disgruntled players, baffled coaches, amused spectators and another two inches in this doggone column."

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