

Where are they now?

Al Capone's bodyguard collects tattoos

By DAVID DAY - Associate Editor

LONDON (STAFF) - Hyde Park Corner is the most fascinating citadel of free speech in Great Britain.

For more than 100 years, members of the British House of Commons, students and professors, clergymen, lawyers and world-weary "beards" have ranted and roared their opinions here from soap boxes, biscuit barrels and stepladders.

Whenever the weather is conducive to speech-making, an orator is certain to appear at Hyde Park Corner to address whomever cares to lend an ear.

He may exalt the virtues of free love or denounce Britain's policy toward Southern Rhodesia. He may decry the appearance of the mini-skirt while shouting insults at lady passers-by wearing the higher hemline. He may even exhort his audience to stage a public hunger strike against the sweater and trouser fashions designed for horses.

Several hundred listeners may flock to hear and to question the speaker. On the other hand, the speech-maker may wait on for an hour without any audience present.

(When Anthony Stodart, a member of Parliament from Scotland was rehearsing his first speech for the House of Commons two years ago, Hyde Park patrons ignored him and he proceeded to address a group of pelicans at one of the nearby Royal Parks. The event earned him international press coverage.)

Probably Sunday morning attracts the largest numbers of speakers and the liveliest audiences. About 11 a.m. the orator stands atop a makeshift platform just inside the park gates on the edge of a major London traffic intersection, and commences to shout. There were six speakers breathing fire and fury on a recent

Sunday morning while more than 600 people looked on. There was one Londoner who claimed to be a well-qualified liar, and a South African who protested women wearing tight pants.

Then there was a stout, balding fellow by the name of Jacobus Van Dyn, a native of South Africa, who presently resides in a London suburb. He was pleading the case of the honest criminal "who takes from the rich for the poor."

Once seen, Van Dyn is a man not soon forgotten. He claims the title of the world's most-tattooed man. Exotic pigments, particularly flowers and insects, cover his body, including his face, neck and scalp. One enormous, copiously-designed tattoo on his chest is 10 inches broad and 9 inches long.

He told me he acquired his first tattoo "as a lad while in a reformatory."

Van Dyn came to London from South Africa in 1913 and five years later he travelled to the United States. In Chicago he found employment as the bodyguard of gangster Al Capone, drove trucks loaded with prohibition liquor into the city at night to replenish Chicago's "speak-easies," and acted as a courier.

"We got involved in a few fights here and there" says Van Dyn, "but the police took the attitude that as long as we hurt each other and no one else it was alright by them."

In 1930 Van Dyn returned to Britain where he earned a living by wrestling under the title of the "Masked Marvel."

"It was at this time," he told me, "that I got down to the business of collecting tattoos seriously. They provided my gimmick in the wrestling rings in London."

Van Dyn supplemented his income performing as an escapologist, freeing himself from padlocked chains before audiences in London parks and squares.

While he was in London, Van Dyn says, he was charged in the

Old Bailey, with the wounding of a man in a nearby community. He says he was convicted of the charge and sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

"After five months in prison," Van Dyn says, "my innocence was established and I was released. I claimed all along that I was in London when the offence was committed."

For more than 30 years after his conviction in 1931, Van Dyn recalls, he has applied to a succession of Home Secretaries for a Royal Pardon from the alleged crime. "I even tried to get in to see the Queen, but I wasn't permitted" Van Dyn lamented. In August, 1961, he abandoned all hope of receiving the Royal Pardon.

Shortly after his release from prison, claims Van Dyn, he returned to the United States where he says he joined the United States Merchant Marine until the end of the second World War. Then he was involved in an armed hold-up. He was apprehended, pleaded guilty and was gaoled for 7-1/2 - 20 years. He served eight years of the term in the Sing Sing Prison, New York, and six more years in other penal institutions.

In 1959, Van Dyn recalls, "I struck a bargain with the Parole Board. I told them that if they let me out I would return to Britain. They agreed. My parole ended in 1959 and I returned as promised."

Today, Jacobus Van Dyn is considering the possibility of opening his tattoo shop in London.

Meanwhile, he spends his weekends, advocating the merits of the honest criminal, from his stepladder on Hyde Park Corner.

EDITORS NOTE: The Gazette's Associate Editor Dave Day spent several weeks in Britain and Western Europe during the past summer writing travel stories for The Evening Telegram, St. John's, Nfld. When he visited "Speaker's Corner" at Hyde Park one Sunday morning in June, he met a onetime body-guard of Al Capone.

Urges foreign students become more outward going

By ALEX PETT
Gazette News Staff

A foreign student must have an outstanding personality to emerge from the little groups and cliques of non-Canadian students on campus and mingle with Canadian students.

So says the president of I.S.A., an organization whose membership includes more than 250 students with homes in places outside Canada.

Dalhousie University has the largest proportion of foreign students of any university in Canada," said Cheeh Kee Salk in a recent interview. But a truly cosmopolitan atmosphere is never achieved because students stick to people of their own country, he said.

"It is twice as important for a foreign student to be outgoing and to become involved in campus activities as it is for a Canadian student," Kee said, stressing that few foreign students, with the exception of those with unusual gifts ever acquire a large circle of Canadian friends.

I.S.A. consists of three smaller groups - the West Indian Society, the Chinese Society and the African Society. Programs are held every two weeks in room 21, Arts and Administration building.

When one society presents a program, members of this society show up, but not generally otherwise", said Kee. "If some one comes from, say, Hong Kong, bang! He sticks to other people from Hong Kong."

The big brother, big sister program this year ran efficiently, with one drawback. Foreign students instinctively wanted to find others from their own country. Often, says Kee, the students were self-conscious, and were afraid to ask questions.

"I know very many Canadians who want to meet foreign students, but both sides clam shut", said Kee. This he attributes to a simple misunderstanding.

"Foreign students are often disappointed when Canadians do not express an interest in foreign countries, while they themselves are not as interested in Western life as they should be", he said.

"Foreign students stay away from the canteen. They feel it is only for Canadian students. Many are not interested in Western spectator sports or in Friday night dances", says Kee.

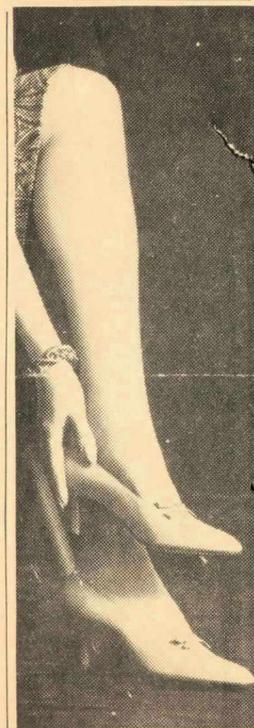
Kee says, however, that he feels that foreign students are now less isolated than they have been. He says that I.S.A. has widened its programs fantastically in its seven years as a campus society. Kee, a first year medical student from Malaysia, was publicity director for I.S.A. last year.

"I don't give new members of I.S.A. a chance to stick entirely to people from their own country", he said.

Kee says housing is only one of the problems which face foreign students during their first few weeks on campus. "Food is a big problem", he said. "It takes a while to get used to Canadian cooking." Many never entirely become accustomed to Western food and welcome the opportunity to buy their own ingredients and cook the type of food eaten in their own countries.

Dates are another problem. "I know everyone in I.S.A.", says Kee, "but I can't act as match maker."

Meng Hee Tan, president of the committee, reported a decrease in the number of new foreign undergraduates, but a corresponding increase in the number of new graduate students. Of the 350 foreign students at Dal this



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Dalhousie parking regulations outlined

Are you bothered by a little brown man? Does your car lack that extra special something? Do parking tickets mysteriously appear on your windshield?

The latest status symbol on campus, a specially allocated parking spot, will solve your problems.

This year, four special parking bays behind the Arts Annex, have been allocated to the students council and distributed at the council president's discretion.

There is some confusion here for Prof. Chisholm, the spokesman for the University Parking Committee, understood that three spots had been assigned to them while Mr. Walsh, the parking attendant, understood there were to be four.

The original terms of the parking regulations allowed for only the president of Dalhousie to be

given a definite, named, parking area. Other persons had to rely on finding space in the areas marked Staff, General, or Special. Lately several name plates have appeared and special areas have been set aside.

Prof. Chisholm said that it has been understood that student council would either receive staff stickers or special parking places. This year it is the latter.

The general teaching staff or student is required to purchase a parking permit at the rate of \$8 for the September 1 to June 30 period of \$10 for the full year. This enables one to leave

his or her car in the appropriate Staff or General area, without fear of penalty, provided one can find a vacant spot.

Those who park without the required permit are liable to a penalty of \$2 for each offence. The penalty is increased \$1 if the fine is not paid within 48 hours and after repeated violations, the car involved will be towed away at the owners expense.

There is an acute shortage of parking space on campus either because of illegal parking or the fact that the traffic office has been over estimating its space.

Provinces approve teacher exchange

VANCOUVER —Canada's 10 provincial education ministers recently endorsed a proposal by the Canadian Education Association for a large-scale exchange of teachers between English and French Canada as a 1967 centennial project.

The ministers approved the scheme in principle following two days of closed sessions of inter-provincial education problems.

The teachers exchange project was outlined in a brief submitted by the CEA to the ministers' standing committee on education.

"The exchange of teachers between the two principal ethnic groups is bound to promote a certain cultural unity," the association said in its brief.

"We believe that a teacher with a French cultural

background could bring to—and back from—an English environment knowledge and personal impressions that would foster respect, understanding and co-operation between the two groups.

"This would apply equally to teachers with an English cultural background who spend a year or two in a French school."

The brief recommended:

- Recognition of teaching certificates issued by one province as valid in another;
- Creation of a special fund to support the exchange project, to be maintained by grants from the provincial governments and with possible financial participation from the federal Department of Citizenship.
- Payment of a cost of living allowance of up to \$500 annually to exchange teachers, depending on varying standards of living, and payment of travel expenses.

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