

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER
Member Canadian University Press

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Insularity

Since the beginning of the term an alarming situation has been noticed by the editors of the Gazette.

In keeping with the Gazette's policy of presenting news and editorial opinions on national and local student issues both on our campus and at other universities we have printed at various times controversial stories and articles. Among others the NFCUS conference and the ISS conference raised issues of particular interest to students. We expected and desired to hear from our readers on these questions but no letters to the editor or articles pro and con were forthcoming except from the members of the particular organization at which the stories and editorials were aimed.

We are forced to wonder if the students at Dalhousie are not interested in such matters or if, more serious still, they are not interested in any question outside a strictly Dalhousie application. If the latter a deplorable isolationist sentiment has appeared.

The NFCUS question of whether or not Russian students should be asked to visit Canada was not just a problem relating to the executive body of that group or to Central Canada where the conference was held. It had much wider implications. Whether Canadians are going to allow themselves to be browbeaten into following the mass hysteria attitude towards Communism prevalent in the U. S. depends on just such decisions as that passed at the conference and NO opinions are worse even than a negative one as it allows us to adopt a false attitude by default. NO opinions, however, were forthcoming except from the President of the Dalhousie NFCUS group whose letter to the editor was printed on the editorial page.

Again at the ISS conference several controversial issues were raised. The ISS endorsed the Russian student visit and also announced that the European student scholarship plan would come to an end next year. Again no comments were forthcoming from any except members of the ISS Dalhousie group.

The members of these organizations are not the only ones capable of speaking on the subject, indeed should take a back seat in order to more closely appraise the opinions of the students whom they represent. Yet Dalhousie students apparently feel that there was no need or desire to make their attitude known on such national issues.

The purpose of a university itself is to break down regional barriers and to foster a national feeling by bringing together students from all parts of the country and all parts of the world. If this is not achieved then a major part of a university education fails — learning to understand humans as well as the Humanities.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Madame,
Where does John Sinclair get the nerve to rationalize by describing the Twirp Season Fiasco as a "bit of a bust"? Let's call a flop a flop.

According to John's letter in Tuesday's GAZETTE the writer of "Twirp Season Flops, Few Gals Take Guys To Game" did the Freshman Class a grave injustice. The objections he raised deserve answers and comments.

It is only natural that the president of the Class of '55 should be annoyed at the degrading publicity given to its first project. However, he cannot be forgiven for excusing the class on grounds of lack of time and consequently poor organization. Well-planned does not necessarily involve weeks of preparation as John suggested. Many projects such as the Twirp Season Affair have been booming successes simply because the members have not had time to lose enthusiasm. Since the motion to have the Affair was carried, the entire class should have accepted the responsibility of turning out for the football game.

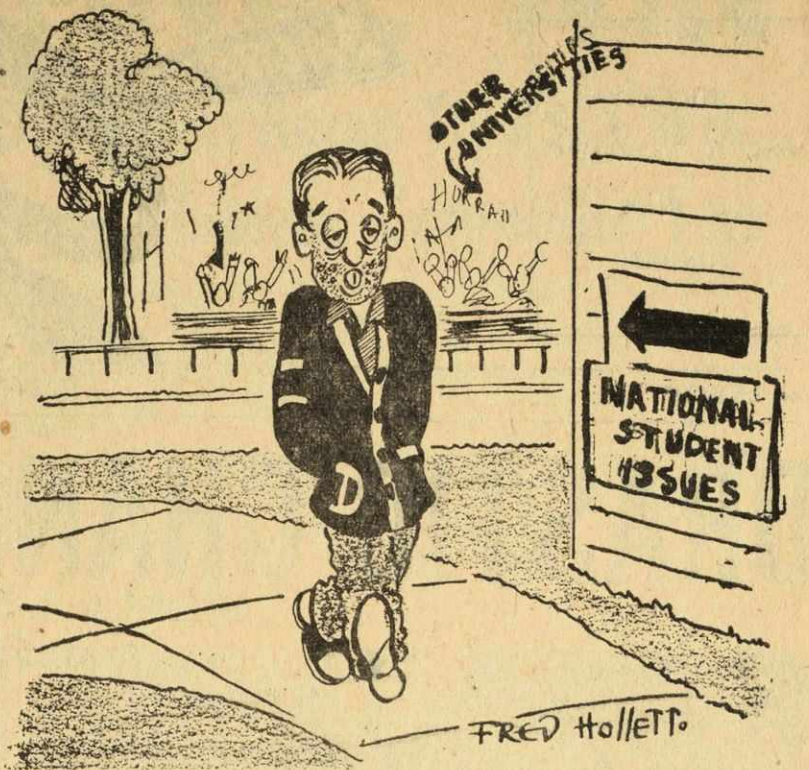
Realizing success depended upon the girls' asking the boys to the Cornwallis game, I can understand why John blamed the Freshettes for the failure. But he is not justified in completely absolving the boys, for not one of them appeared wearing a dink; one girl did. I think Mr. President was unfair, unchivalrous, and undiplomatic in making this statement.

John Sinclair further stated that "such journalism only encourages the mentioned 'student apathy'". How can anything or anyone encourage apathy that fell short of reaching its extreme by one dink?

The article wasn't a criticism of the Class of '55 but rather a report on the Twirp Season Affair. A news report is not the place for constructive criticism.

N. H. M.

If War Came He'd Still Look Like This



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Urge Students Plan Russian Exchange

VANCOUVER, Nov. 5—(CUP)—University of British Columbia students have proposed to the Soviet Union a plan whereby four U.B.C. students would study in Russia and four Soviet students would come here for an academic session.

U.B.C. is still awaiting a reply to the offer from Soviet Higher Education Minister S. V. Kaftonov.

The plan, initiated by the editors of The Ubysey, the student newspaper, has received the backing of the University administration and the students' council.

The editors made the proposal three weeks ago in answer to a request from the Moscow Journal News for constructive suggestions to ease world tension.

Under the proposed terms, U.B.C. would pay expenses of the Russians, and the Soviet Government would provide tuition, board and room, and travelling expenses for the Canadians.

The editors wired Mr. Kaftonov nine days ago, but no reply had been received up to late yesterday.

U.B.C. President Dr. N. A. M. Mackenzie said the University administration would "give all possible support" to the plan provided the Soviet students were able to meet necessary academic standards.

Student councillors said they could not guarantee financial support but that they would do all they could to make the scheme a success. U.B.C. has a nine thousand dollar fund for foreign exchange scholarships. The fund is built up through a one dollar per student levy collected with University fees at the beginning of each session.

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