

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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A Coincidence

Was it just a coincidence that the Russians wired their willingness to participate in the exchange of university tours, just when the discussion was at its peak? Was there some sympathetic observer in this country who had the power to persuade the Russian student organization to send their telegram with such perfect timing? It seems rather strange that after a full year of refusing to reply to NFCUS correspondence regarding the now defunct tour, the Russians should submit their reply during the recent Canadian students' conference.

Russian-Canadian Student Exchange

From Montreal Star

The National Federation of Canadian University Students did the sober, prudent thing when it rejected a proposal for a Soviet-Canadian student exchange program. A majority of the delegates decided the scheme was not worth a threatened walk-out by such institutions as Laval, Dalhousie and Ottawa, and moderate views prevailed. The typical, sensible Canadian spirit of compromise was in action.

We can understand the eagerness of many students to try and find out for themselves what the Russian student was like, and what life in the Soviet Union was like. Some of them might regard this a good gesture of friendship. We can appreciate any campus feeling which regards advice from elders as being of the rather fuddy-duddy variety. If students were not like that, college life would be pretty dull. But we can't help feeling too that the supporters of the exchange hardly took into full account the way in which Soviet propaganda agencies, domestic and foreign, would use the occasion.

To begin with, the Canadians returning from Russia would have full liberty to tell all in this country. As the Russians would see to it that all the visitors saw and heard was favorable and good, the accounts of their experiences would be of valuable propaganda for the Russians. The Russian students, on their return, would not have this freedom. They would either be mute or they would be given a line to peddle, or, alternately, the Russian authorities would see to it that the students they sent here would be "regular".

In other words, we would be opening a new door to Russian propaganda here, while the avenues into the minds of the Russians would be kept closed. There would be just the old one-way street.

As to the gesture of good-will, we should draw a clear line between being men of good will and mere suckers. The day may come when there will be real Soviet-Canadian friendship. In our free society that friendship can start at the bottom. In Russia it must start only from the top. There is no sign yet that top Russian circles want friendship at all. They do, however, welcome help given by suckers.

The phrase of Mr. Duplessis on the subject contains the wisdom needed. "I would never trade a Canadian for a Russian," he remarked. This, under present circumstances, sums it up.

Why Not Read the Rag

At the recent student forum a reference was made to the "trash" on pages two and three of the Gazette. We sincerely hope that the speaker accused in a misguided moment.

Maybe "trash" is published on the Feature pages. But isn't that a result of the very student apathy that was deplored? We advertise for reporters, for stories, for articles—but the response is almost negligible. The work falls on the shoulders of the editors and a few reporters. How can they be expected to fill sixty-four inches of space twice weekly?

Also was the speaker sure of what he said? Does he even bother to read the Feature pages? Often there is good material published, which is never even scanned by the average reader, who devours pages one and four, then throws the paper away.

If the student body wants to brighten up the feature page, by all means let them contribute some material. But please do not criticize destructively and ignorantly!!

Features Editors.

Apathy Once More

It is a known fact around the Dalhousie campus this fall that the students are not supporting the Gymnasium dances on Friday nights. There have been several complaints about this matter but the attendance at the dances has not changed.

Last year there were many complaints about not having dances on Friday night. This year the various organizations have each arranged to sponsor a Friday night dance. Are we so encumbered with homework that we can not find time for social activities? We do not think so. Are the male students socially inclined to be somewhat bashful about such delicate matters as asking a girl to a dance or are these dances a financial burden on their purses.

Many complaints have been heard around the campus concerning this matter and I would like to say that the greatest complaint of all is that the girls are not being asked to the dances. Some boys seem to think it is a burden on them to dance with one girl for a whole night. Others feel they do not know enough girls and still others feel that the dances should be a Social Gathering where they can dance with different girls. Some girls feel too proud to come to a dance stag, but a great many say they would go stag if it were an accepted practise of the girls on the campus.

The committees of the various organizations are using their time, talents and efforts to make these DALHOUSIE dances enjoyable for ALL, so we hope the students on this campus will appreciate this fact and come to the dances where you will have a wonderful time whether you come STAG or DRAG.

The NOVA SCOTIAN
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CLIPPINGS

From Coast to Coast

Football teams and NFCUS (running poor second) have left little space for articles of interest (sic) in university papers lately. Now that every student on every Canadian campus has blown his top because he wanted to be visited by a group of Russian students, or did not, or wanted to visit Russia himself, things will once more return to their normal complacent pre-blow-up state. Attention will again in college papers be focused on the torture of freshmen, involved inquiries into the sex-life of the gnu (not to be confused with a Nue, which is not an extinct animal, but a very live one found in a place termed by Americans Pig-Alley) and such incursions in the realm of fantasy. I spare you what I read in CUP about Ye Olde Schule Spirite or Charles Mattress being elected president of the local Alcoholics Unanimous Chapter.

Let's get it over with: Again the only news we have of Acadia University is that it is still there.

University of Manitoba celebrates now its 75th birthday. St. Michael's College of Toronto, its centenary.

The Georgian, of Sir George Williams in Montreal says in reference to NFCUS that the tail has been wagging the dog for some time. Bill informs me the dog refers to Canadian students and the appendage to their representatives.

Le Quartier Latin quotes Maurice Sauve, the man who put NFCUS on its feet a good many years ago: "I have the firm conviction that NFCUS has been altogether on the wrong path these last years." The Montreal paper has not repeated its savage and unethical attack on Laval's Le Carabin. It is difficult to understand the Quartier Latin. They are one minute violently abusive, the next exceptionally childish. To them everything is a joke: their university, president, city. To me, Le Quartier Latin is a big joke.

New regulations at Manitoba U. now outlaw hitch-hiking on the campus. What with crops this year, we thought students out West all sported new roadsters.

While Queen's in Kingston boasts television in its Union building, Carleton College of Ottawa proudly displays a university

charter granted recently by Ontario Provincial legislature.

The Argosy of Mt. A. in Sackville published recently the list and addresses of all (female) undergraduates. Copies may be purchased from Robert Coates of Law II.

The McGill Daily refers to unity within NFCUS as "paper unity". No doubt a sound bit of observation.

In London, Rawhide, alias Max Ferguson and onetime resident of Halifax, now with CBC Toronto, was featured as m.c. on Western's latest show. Also in London, The Gazette welcomed Toronto students in town for a football game: "We'll fight them in the streets, in the trash cans, in the incinerators and on the grid-iron. All hail Toronto." Give me my black-jack, mother, I'm going to the game.

Queen's apart from television, owns and operates its own radio station. Also way down in Kingston there are tears of lament, because the Boyd gang, invited to attend a formal dance, has regrettably declined. Alonzo is said to have stated: "There is no other place I would rather be on the evening of the 15th!"

The McGill Daily published a guide reviewing campus organizations. Sample: The COTC is a philanthropic organization devoted to the cause of relieving the misery of South Korean and other oriental peasants.

The laugh of the week however, comes from Alabama where the (male) students of the Polytechnic Institute of Auburn were getting a new insight into the make-up of the female of the species.

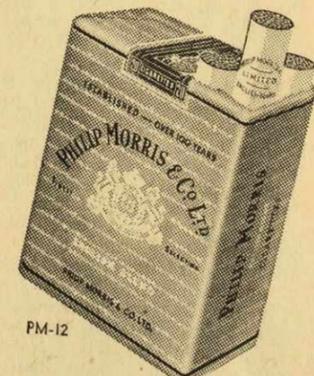
One-way vision windows in the five new girls' dormitories were installed backwards so that the co-eds couldn't see out, but anyone outside could see in. Until the discovery, the girls had bathed, dressed and gossiped behind the fancy frosted windows, assuming that no one could see them.

Well, since Bill threatens to shoot me if I say any more, I think that will close our glimpse at Canadian campi for this week.

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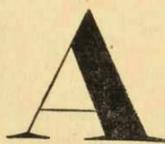
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