



Beauty... and the beast

The Camel On The Flagpole

I know it's old news, and I know it's a bit boring, but I must bring up the subject of the camel again.

Everybody knows the facts. About three months ago the sun rose on the Arts and Science Buildings, the Gym, the Library, the Canteen, the Law Building, and a camel hanging by one leg from the top of the flagpole. I saw it as I came down the library steps, and, grasping my companion by the arm, I hoarsely yelled: "My God, a camel on the flagpole!" My friend looked up and nodded with a knowing smile, "Yes," he said, "I saw him myself an hour ago."

I strode quickly up to a position fifteen feet below where the great beast swung gently in the breeze. He seemed to me a perfectly normal camel, though the spasmodic workings of his mouth betrayed a certain agitation. I winked up at him urgently and sympathetically, and accosted a group of students wandering across the campus. "We must get his poor creature down!" I cried.

They glowered at me in astonishment. "Whadya mean?" said one, "I didn't put him up there," and he and his friend, surrounded by two wounded airmen, walked off towards the gym. The third person had a class in five minutes, and the other two girls had an Exec meeting at Shirreff Hall. I hung round the flagpole confusedly for ten minutes, and then went to the canteen.

The camel swung placidly all afternoon, and for some days to come.

I do not mean to imply that nothing was done, or that the campus did not take an interest. You all know what happened during the nine days that the camel was with us. For instance, camels became an outstanding topic of conversation in the canteen, and quips about

humps and deserts were hurled back and forth over the coffee cups for hours on end. "What is a camel?" people asked, and "Why?" and conjectures flashed about guised in both philosophical niceties and Frat-English. Sex and study habits of camels were discussed, in the Hall and in the dressing rooms and even up to the V.P.'s Office. The cult of the camel spread, and he became the symbol for the next dance. From nine to one on Friday night spotlights illuminated his great, implacable, swaying figure, and two camel hairs, got at the greatest risk, were the price of admission. I stood in the dusk and watched his twitching mouth. — "Why?"—I asked.

Of course, the officials got to work. There was some talk of getting him down, and amongst the highest holders of authority the morals of camel-moving were discussed. The Council rose to the occasion, and gladly deferred conclusive action to the next meeting. Four white-coated Science students lugged exotic equipment to a point four feet from the base of the flagpole, the strength and flexibility of which they calculated in relation to the dangerous weight under which it was bending slightly. A sign was erected: "Danger Camel Falling, Aug. 13, 1960."

And then, overnight, the camel disappeared, as strangely and as silently as he had come.

Let me apologize once more for rehashing old facts. But I watched the camel for nine days, and I should like to present some new facts. Every afternoon, I stared into his limpid eyes, I tried to fathom his depths, and I tried to interpret the strange perpetual twistings of his mouth. When I awoke on the morning of the ninth day, a powerful intuition began to grow in my mind, and it was with a sort of fearful conviction that I made my last rendez-vous. "Is it true?" I stammered, "Is it true?" as I glazed up at his eyes, and he winked back, and chuckled. Then I knew it was true.

The camel had been laughing, laughing with supreme joy, at the campus. He was enjoying himself more than I have ever seen anyone enjoying themselves, more, indeed, then I have ever enjoyed myself.

I was busy over the holidays. I located the camel, and he is meeting me at midnight by the flagpole. He has a strong back, he likes me, and he does not mind pulling a rope.

See you tomorrow morning.

—John Clambers

INTERFAC DEBATING SCHEDULE

Schedule of debates for the first round of the Bennett Shield competition. All debates will be held in the West Common Room of the Men's Residence:

Monday, February 1—1-2 p.m.:

Resolved that gambling should be legalized
Zinck (to be announced)—Affirmative
Mitchell and Logan—Negative

Tuesday, February 2—12-1 p.m.:

Resolved that campus politics do not fulfill the purpose for which they were designed
George Cooper and Mike Steeves—Affirmative
Jim Hurley and Reid Marden—Negative

Wednesday, February 3—1-2 p.m.:

Resolved that the best deterrent to World War III is the nuclear submarine
Dave Joudrey and Pete Goddard—Affirmative
Dan Campbell and Ram Rai—Negative

Thursday, February 4—12-1 p.m.:

Resolved that co-education is a good thing
Harrison and J. MacKenzie—Affirmative
Rorai and Ritchie—Negative

Friday, February 5—1-2 p.m.:

Resolved that the Dalhousie "D" Award system should be abolished
Betty Archibald and Anne Mason—Affirmative
Bill Dixon and Greg Murray—Negative

SATURDAY'S DEBATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

DALCOM Shows The Way

The Dalhousie Commerce Company is one of the most active organizations on our campus. It is constantly thinking of new and better ways to serve the student body. The following is a review of their activities in the past, and their hopes for the future. The GAZETTE hopes that the other, rather dormant, faculty societies will do their best to match the Dalcom effort and thus justify their existence.

The Dalhousie Commerce Company was started seven years ago by an industrious group of commerce students who wanted to build an active, and self-supporting organization for their faculty. The Company has grown from then to become one of the most active and profitable societies at Dalhousie and its future looks very promising.

Once the Company was organized and standing on its feet it looked to the needs of the University in such fields as public relations, scholarships, sales promotions for Halifax business organizations and Operation High School. The latest innovation of the Company has been to start a film society on the campus for the benefit of the students.

The year has been one of the most successful periods in the Company's history, so much so that for the first time it is declaring a dividend to all SHAREHOLDERS. Shareholders are those members of the Company who buy, at the first of the year, shares from the Comptroller. These shares have a value of \$2.50 and for this the member receives 300 shares in the Company. This year the dividend will be a nominal one, probably 1/3 cent per share.

In the way of sales promotion, the Company conducts surveys for various Companies in the Halifax area and for this the members receive financial rewards. One of the most recent efforts in this line was a survey conducted by Commerce

students for Dominion Molasses Company, the President of which is Mr. Ken Mounce, a past-president of the Dalhousie Student Council and past-president of Dalcom.

This year the organization is trying to bring to Dalhousie students something new in the way of a Film Society. This effort is being run by the Dalhousie Commerce Company in co-operation with the University. The idea of it is not to bring into the DALCOM CO. any great reward in the way of money, but rather to bring to the student a reward in the form of a place to go before Friday night dances and at a very low price. So far in the undertaking the Company has broken even which is their main ambition. Looking ahead to the future they see that an operation like this could be of invaluable assistance to other organizations on the campus as well as to DalCom.

Already they are working in conjunction with Delta Gamma Fraternity, the girls' Fraternity, in providing for them a film to be shown Thursday, January 21, in their Sadie Hawkin's Week. Other organizations will also benefit if they wish to work with DalCom in this effort. English students, for example, will benefit as plans have been made to bring in movies of the plays and novels which they are studying.

Dalcom has come a long way in the past seven years, but their drive and initiative should carry them to far greater heights in the future than those already achieved.



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