

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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## Let's Listen To France

Because there have been eighteen changes of Government in France since the end of the war people sometimes tend to doubt the ability of the French to manage their political system. Now we will not argue that point for lack of space, but we would like to point out that in spite of the apparent instability of the French Government there is much the western world can learn from the past record of French insight into the ways of nations and the coming events. For the benefit of those who view the French Government with amusement we would like to make known a few points.

In 1933 when Hitler put his first Air Force on display France cried loudly to England to pull the planes out of the air, but England said let them stay. Later those planes bombed Coventry quite severely.

In 1935 when Hitler's police-soldiers marched into the Rhur (with orders to retreat if any resistance was shown) France cried to England for advice: England said let them stay. Some years later it took the whole world to defeat them.

By the beginning of the cold war, when the United States was just waking up to the fact that communists were a menace, France was already fighting the communists with rifles and bombs in the Orient.

It is about time the United States forgot her gold reserves for a minute and England forgot about her skimpy pound long enough to listen to the voice of France.

France knows the world's danger perhaps better than anyone else, and in the past France has had the best solutions to avert some of these troubles. It would not hurt to listen to her this time because France is probably right again.

## Listen Uncle Sam

In a lot of Canadian and American publications there have appeared recently many articles and stories apparently gravely concerned with the effort Canada is putting into the current cold war. Now we do believe that it is quite proper to keep this question to the fore but we are more than surprised to see a lot of these articles are either in American magazines or written by Americans in Canadian journals: In the face of this we would like to ask one question of our neighbors.

"Where were you in 1939?"

Now that Uncle Sam has become the world's number one man he suddenly seems to be quite concerned with what the rest of us are doing to ensure the world's safety, although in 1939 it was not quite the same story. In 1939 someone else was taking the brunt of the thing.

Now the United States has the most to lose, since becoming the world power she is, and now finds it is quite another thing to be alone, figuratively speaking, and the champion against oppression and tyranny on whom the world depends.

This may have a kind of "living in a glass house", moral to it but we suggest that all the writers who have found occasion to criticize the efforts of other countries' cold war efforts had better examine the United States' past record before they write. As we said before, "Where were you in 1939?"

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

Congratulations on that rather crude but witty satire — "The Miracle of Sunova Beach". It is about time that people should stop and think. Here we are in the second half of the twentieth century and are supposed to be enlightened. But what happens? We are continually being fed with absurdities the like of which only the Middle Ages were credulous enough to believe. By that I obviously refer to the current movie — "The Lady of Fatima". Just because a mod of hysterical and religious fanatics allegedly saw the sun turn, we are supposed to believe that Mary did it. If for a moment we would believe in that nonsense, mentally we would relapse into the 12th century A.D.

Obviously, if we were to believe in that miracle we would also have to believe in the rest of what the Christian Church tells us. And what can be more absurd than that? I do not hereby presume that there is no Supreme Intelligence, for disbelief in Christ's divinity and all subsequent humbug has nothing to do with belief in God. Christianity is a man-made religion (as all religions are), it is based on the desire of most human beings to submit their lives and fate to any leader, and it was promulgated, purely by chance, during a critical period of history.

Who believes in fairy tales? Children. Therefore people who believe in miracles have not attained maturity of mind but remain children in spite of physically being adults.

O. U. P.

January 13th, 1953

Letters to the Editors,  
Dalhousie Gazette,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Sir,

On perusing today's issue of the Gazette my attention was drawn by two articles, one the Editorial which reads in part:

"It is easy enough to outline the desirable description that should fit a student publication. A college paper should, naturally enough, offer extensive news coverage, firstly of campus news and secondly of news from other universities. A college paper should also promote student interest in student affairs. Finally, a college paper should reflect student opinion, both criticism and support of student activities."

This editorial continues in like vein. Then on the third page there is a thing entitled "The Miracle of Sunova Beach" which for all practical purposes is unidentified as to author obviously because nobody holding himself out as a student at such a University as Dalhousie, would admit to such lack of quality.

The observation I make from my perusal is that while it may be difficult to have a college paper come up to ideals, it shouldn't be terrifically hard to have consistency between principle of information and product.

Yours truly,

R. Jeffrey Flinn,  
Law '53.

Sir,

Having read the story entitled "The Miracle of Sonova Beach" I was filled with disgust and contempt for the author who does not see to possess enough guts to put down his name behind that blasphemy. Also, I am shocked to notice that a college publication should sink to such a low moral level as to permit the publishing of such stories which every devout

## Is Our Civil Liberty In Danger?

Where are our civil liberties? Do we really value them? Are we aware of possible dangers to these liberties?

At a recent Eastern Conference of the SCM, civil liberties became a major issue. The question was raised in reference to the proposed revisions of the Criminal Code of Canada, which are now on their way through the Senate as Bill O. This bill has already passed two readings in the Senate and is now being studied by a Senate standing committee.

Pamphlets containing sections of these proposed revisions of the Criminal Code were circulated among conference delegates. Later, at a general meeting, opinions were expressed that these revisions showed definite trends towards dangerous infringements of the rights of individuals and groups in society for the sake of the security of the state. The state must be adequately protected but not by means which could actually destroy what we want most—our democracy.

Specifically, these new sections broaden the definitions of treason, sedition and committing mischief and raise the penalties considerably. The wording of the bill is vague, so that a person's life can depend on whether he is considered "to do an act prejudicial to the safety or interests of Canada." Another section deals with the RCMP and raised questions as to whether it is a civilian or a military force. There are other sections

which could endanger trade unions, particularly their rights to picket and strike. Changes are made concerning the Riot Act, arbitrary search of premises and the right of a fair trial. Here again there seems to be a possible infringement of the rights of individuals which traditionally have to be democracy.

The Montreal Star and Toronto Saturday Night say that "these revisions were drafted very hastily and at the urgent instigation of the United States," where similar laws have already been passed. The revisions have been criticized sharply by members of the Senate Committee on Banking and Commerce, which is now studying them in detail.

The Toronto Star discredited these new provisions as an effort to create a legal situation capable of dealing with the cold war." The difficulty is that by the broad and vague definitions of offenses many other people other than communists could be affected. Other people who are critical of the government and who protest and oppose its action could also be affected if Bill O is passed.

These are vital issues. They involve basic questions about the meaning of democracy. The SCM of Dalhousie thinks that these questions must be considered and it hopes that students will take an interest in the discussions. If we do not take an active interest in the freedom we claim to be defending in the cold war, we will have allowed it to go by default.

Mathias grinned and said, "Thanks, I promise I won't fumble"—and he didn't.

### At Pitt, A Black Eye

One of Pittsburgh University's governing bodies—the Men's Council—had trouble agreeing last week about discrimination.

One camp said: Fraternities at Pittsburgh discriminate, and something should be done about it. The other camp claimed: Most fraternities don't discriminate, so why stir up trouble?

A spokesman for the first camp complained that a survey taken to learn the extent of discrimination at Pitt "was not successful because the clauses in fraternity constitutions barring people for racial or religious reasons have strangely disappeared."

No action was taken, but the leader of the "let-it-alone" camp declared, "This whole issue is giving the school a black eye."

### At Albany, Five Black Balls

The Albany State Teachers college fraternity chapter of Kappa Delta Rho has resigned from the national fraternity in protest of religious discrimination.

A spokesman for the 62 former members said that national headquarters had blackballed five Jewish students in the past two years pledged by the Albany chapter. The bolting chapter has started a new, local fraternity.

### For An Old Grad

The Daily Princetonian has turned its back on its former managing editor, Adlai Stevenson, and has come out editorially in support of Dwight Eisenhower for President.

"We are sure that Adlai Stevenson would do his best to clean up 'the mess in Washington,'" said the front page editorial. "But it is nearly impossible for one man to do this job alone."

"General Eisenhower faces no such handicap," the Princetonian continued. "His supporters are not the men in power and he will owe these individuals nothing if elected."

## Notes From ACP

### The Officials Don't Care

Idaho University claims that it was the officiating that beat them in its 20-14 loss to Oregon State, but the men in the striped shirts have no grounds for complaints. They still get paid.

Officials nowadays have good reason to take grief in good spirits; they pocket \$100 for each game they work. In the East the loot is \$125.

### N.A.I.B. Now N.A.I.A.

America's largest collegiate athletic body changed its name from National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball to National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

The change was occasioned by the expansion of the group's athletic program. In addition to the basketball tournament, the program now includes national meets intrack, golf and tennis.

In 1953 the basketball tourney will be held March 9 to 14 in Kansas City, while track, golf, and tennis competition is scheduled June 5 and 6 in Abilene, Tex.

### Cure For Fumbleitis

Bob Mathias, Olympic decathlon champion and currently fullback on the Stanford eleven, seemed well on the way to a new fumbling record.

Against Oregon Mathias' fumbles set up two opponent touchdowns. In Stanford's next game he fumbled five times.

Stanford's defensive team—which has done a lot of extra work this fall because Mathias fumbled the ball into opponents' hands—gave their fullback a football with a handle on the eve of the Oregon State game.

Christian considers as a personal insult. We are supposed to live in a Christian country, yet such contemptible spiritual pornography is allowed to be circulated freely.

Name Withheld.

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