

# Letters

A University paper is supposedly a reflection of University students' opinions, but I comfort myself after reading several articles in the Gazette that in reality this is not the case. In truth it is often times the sounding board for outspoken radicals or ultra-conservatives who have a drum to beat to the world. The rest of the population are just living normal day to day social and academic lives in the vast area between extremes. They are too busy to be out crusading for anything. They are satisfied with accepting the status quo as long as it does not immediately bring them any physical or mental anguish.

### Condemnation

I will admit to being in the latter class as far as letting the immense problem in the headlines affect me. Leaving it to those who have been here longer than I, and know the whole situation, to fight that issue. I am at the moment more generally concerned over the overall negative attitude expressed in the Gazette. The attitude passed from the normal and usual one of condemning the administration to condemning public radio broadcast to condemning the University spirit in general. According to one article the few souls who are trying to put anything back into the University in the form of all out support are to be criticized because they are annoying this benighted milk toast. You must admit this is not exactly the "Esprit de Corps" that one might expect of Canadians between seventeen and twenty-five. I rather felt before coming that this would be a University not a rest home for the invalid aged.

In beginning to question the bold quote "Answer to God and Religion", I would state that I personally have heard a better defence for Atheism given by high school students. They were trying to outgrow their diapers by "proving" their independence by a lack of need for anyone or anything and at their age probably knew as much about God as Mr. Kekes. This fellow has apparently not read past the introduction to the Old Testament.

### Definitions

Let us look at Mr. Kekes "definition" of God. He calls God "Omniscient, Benevolent and Omnipotent." These certainly would be a part of the Christian definition of God's attributes, but it is not a complete one as anyone who wishes to avail himself of the nearest Bible can easily assert for himself. You may say "but Mr. Kekes didn't mention the Bible, he just mentioned God as perhaps a term for a supernatural being." I agree he handily overlooked the Bible, but he stated he was giving a Christian description of God. The Bible, I assert, is Christianity you cannot define, Christian God apart from it; you cannot believe in one without the other. For if you do not believe in the Bible as being the true revelation of God, where is your authoritative source for reference to any self-revealing description of God and His powers. Now stating this as my premise I continue.

If Mr. Kekes would trouble himself he would find pictured for him in the very first book of the Bible the fact that man fell from God's grace. He no longer could enjoy the privilege of living free from murder, lust and jealousy.

I most certainly agree with Mr. Kekes on his point that there is no one to relieve our responsibility, and it is high time we got down to the business of living up to our potentials. Firmly believing that only in this way through God will we bring the ultimate peace to mankind.

Sincerely,

(Miss) BETTY A. PENDLETON



PORTRAIT BY BISSETT

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### Americans Ignorant Of Canada

Among the many qualities which endear Americans to residents of this country is their infinite store of faulty facts about Canada. The Texan with the skys on top of his car in July, the Californian looking for dog sleds, and the tourist surprised that buildings (as opposed to teepees) exist have all become caricatures of a breed which we would like to believe is dying off.

The species is still around and thriving — even on a university level. Yesterday the Gazette received, from the campus newspaper of College of William and Mary in Virginia, an offer to exchange publications. Nothing terribly unusual, this is a standard practice among college journals. Then we read their letter, which follows:

"Nous voudrions exchanger avec vous les journaux. Si vous échangez avec nous, écrivez l'adresse sur la carte postale que nous avons mise dans cette lettre."

We gave them a third class in French, an A for effort, and a dismal failure in international diplomacy. Canada may be advertised as the (The Land of Mounties, Eskimos and Frenchman) but we really don't insist that American college students swallow this Madison Avenue-type copy completely.

Let it not be said that the Gazette does not appreciate the interest which our neighbours from across the border are showing. Nothing could make us happier than knowing that a great American college is aware of our existence, we merely hope that they can find some place in their benevolent attitude to become just a little more aware.

### A COLLEGE EDUCATION

If you go to college  
And study at first,  
Because you are scared,  
Or don't know better,  
But soon get over  
The habit,  
And learn the latest  
Methods of handshaking,  
The faculty, and  
Some fool excuses  
For cutting classes,  
And be able to go to  
The library and throw  
Together some stuff  
In thirty minutes,  
And call it a term paper  
And learn all the new  
Methods of necking,  
And all the girls in  
Town, who do, and who  
Don't, and add to  
That the ability to  
Borrow money at all  
Times, and from all  
People, and live  
Four years that  
Way, then pay your  
Diploma fee, and help  
Your class pave  
Some walks, or build  
An archway, and  
Are awarded a dip  
Because they say you  
Are proficient

### PLAY CHOSEN

The French comedy, *My Three Angels* has been chosen by the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society as its fall play.

The play, to be directed by Ken Clark, will open its three-night run Nov. 22. Clark also directed last year's play, *Bell, Book and Candle*.

Auditions for the five male and two female parts will be held Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in the education theatre, according to Laurie Borne, DGDS president. Rehearsals get underway two days after auditions.

The play, first written in French with a setting in French Guiana, revolves around three convicts — a forger and two murderers.

Stage manager for the production is Steve March. A stage crew meeting will also be held this Thursday. Set director is Dana Lezie.

Then you have a  
College education  
My lad, yes a  
College education.

—McGill Daily '21

### DELEGATE SAYS :

# Swedish System "Not Strict Socialism"

BY BOB LINDSAY

(Editor's Note — Mr. Lindsay was the Dalhousie WUSC Seminar Delegate to Sweden last summer. Here he gives some impressions of his visit.)

How do you begin to describe a country like Sweden — country of social security, the midnight sun, reindeers, blueberry soup, beautiful women, ski champions, apartment dwellers, Ingmar Bergman films, engineering prowess, political neutrality, and national homogeneity?

Is it true what they say about Sweden — free love, socialism, suicide and so on?

Well, to begin with, the Swedish system is not strict socialism — at least not in the economist's sense of the world. In Sweden 90% of all industry (misused by value of output) is privately owned.

Nationalization is simply not part of the Social Democratic Government's program — largely because of its widespread unpopularity. One of the leaders of the opposition Liberal Party told me that the only change in government ownership the party would make (were they to gain power in the next election) would be to denationalize the huge L.K.A.B. iron mines in northern Sweden.

Moreover the "womb to tomb" social security we hear so much about, while comprehensive, is not very generous. Everyone is eligible for health, old age and disability insurance but the proportion of National Income spent on social welfare (11%) is not much higher than the same figure for Canada (9%) and is lower than many other European countries such as Belgium (16%) France (18%) and Germany (19%). (Statistics from the International Travel Bureau—Geneva.)

This is surprising to most people, for Sweden seems to be regarded generally as the epitome of the welfare state. In a sense it is; a strong feeling of social security exists there, partly because the country is small and homogeneous and the state is easily approached for aid. As a top civil servant in social welfare put it, "We will look after them all."

It is difficult to believe that this scheme of social welfare destroys economic initiative — at least on the payout side. Unem-

ployment insurance averages about \$500 per year per man whereas the average annual income is \$3000-\$4000. Consequently there is little economic incentive for a worker not to work. However on the other side of the coin, high income taxes seem to discourage extra work, especially in the case of self-employed professional people such as doctors.

A Swedish sociologist addressing our group thought that a great deal of this was based on early social customs which allowed pre-marital intercourse. However, he pointed out that 9% of all children born in freedom were born out of wedlock and that 33% or so were conceived before marriage. In addition there is much less social disapproval cast on unmarried mothers there than here; attempted abortions are relatively few by American standards. To quote Swedish magazine articles, "the Swedish attitude toward sex is almost clinical in its frankness and honesty". The same article describes a cartoon in a popular magazine: "Was your class in sexual instruction interesting dear?" the mother asks her daughter, throwing her books on the sofa. "It was all theory to-day", was the reply.

The high degree of welfarism is sometimes blamed for causing the supposedly high suicide rate and juvenile delinquency problem. If either of these problems are more prevalent in Sweden than they are in America (and we got the impression that they were not, for the suicide statistics are open to question, and the delinquency problem is much overstated) it is probably not because of the welfare state so much as the dwindling away of institutions such as family and church.

Apartment dwelling and working wives help to destroy the strength of the family, while church attendance is calculated to be about 3% of the population.

"The Swedes" said a former economics professor of mine as he lit his pipe and reminisced about his summer there 2 years ago, "are just like Americans only with no sense of humour".

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Ann Moss, Home Ecc. Student from Man.  
Was frying some eggs in a pan,  
But one egg was loaded,  
It simply exploded,  
So, of course, now  
the yolk is on Ann!



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The account that says "whoa",  
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