

The Dalhousie Gazette

CANADA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER
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Editorial

On page four of this issue is a notice explaining the terms of the Muskat Memorial Essay Prize which is being brought to the attention of the student body for two reasons. The first and less important reason is to make it known that here is available a prize of \$40 for some student who, with a little effort, might avail himself of a monetary reward. The other, and most important reason, is to remind everyone that the art of writing is not a completely forgotten and abandoned art among university students.

Most students seem to feel that writing is a tedious task taken up by the more studious people or by those who were writing literary gems at the age of ten. However the situation may appear it can never be too forcefully brought to mind that writing is essentially a product of a desire to write.

It will then be asked what is the point of writing and why should "I" as an individual take the time to write. The answer to this question is simple and straightforward.

Writing is more than just a lot of black marks on a page of paper, writing is a kind of monument or message from one civilization to another, in other terms it is an out-laying of human personality and knowledge.

We often wonder what we can do for the world and for posterity and yet right before us is the most obvious way of doing something. Namely by writing.

A work of literature in many respects is an undying thing. It passes from age to age; in effect it transcends time; for what is written today remains long after the writer is gone, and if what he has written has a worth to a society it will live as long as there is a soul on earth who wishes to understand the heart and mind of men.

Something written knows no barriers. Even the efforts of the greatest book burners in history have failed to prevent the written word from being transmitted from man to man and from nation to nation.

You never know when some of your own personal dreams and theories might not be the answer to questions that mankind has been seeking to answer for centuries. For example where would we be today if Newton's ideas were not written down, or if the books of Pythagoras had never been written. In other words there is always the possibility that what you are thinking may be what some other part of the world is waiting to learn.

And while knowledge is not in writing it is of little use to the world. In the broadest sense it is selfishness on the part of an individual not to write at least some little thing in his life time. To have knowledge and not to pass it on is a more venial sin than to have gold and not to help those who are starving.

If you have ever written a letter or a theme or a financial report then you can write, therefore there is no excuse for not attempting to write except sheer laziness.

The value of what you might write is something to think about before you die.

Before Not After

By Kenneth Kalutich

So you are in love, are you? So you think she is the most wonderful girl in the world? You even walk across the campus just to get a glimpse of her, do you? Well brother, if that is the way you feel you need to think real fast. Sure she laughs at your jokes, is very attractive, is a good necker and constantly builds your ego; all these are nice but are they adequate for a lasting marriage? Doesn't it take more than laughs, good looks, necking and flattery to keep two human beings together through the long and difficult years of marriage?

The big question in your mind should be: How well do I know her? Many people think they know, but according to Dr. Walter Carpenter, a New York psychologist, "Too many people today enter into marriage without any idea of what responsibilities are involved. A man and a woman meet, are attracted to each other and start dating. Often within an incredibly short time they decide they are in love and following a whirlwind courtship they marry. Unfortunately, after a few months of wedded bliss, the husband and wife for the first time, really start getting to know one another — and all too frequently, the result is disastrous. The divorce rate in the United States has reached the astronomical figure of 1/3 and is still

soaring. One of the chief causes for these divorces is that many men and women when they marry, are almost total strangers."

The fact that one marriage in three ends in divorce is not proof that the remaining two marriages are happy ones. Many married couples are extremely unhappy due to sexual incompatibility, but do not seek legal separation because of various factors — such as religious restraints, children, or fear of scandal.

After reading Dr. Carpenter's alarming facts a man should decide carefully when choosing a wife. Naturally, persons differ and their likes and dislikes will affect their choice. However, there are certain basic characteristics which every man should seek in his wife. To be a successful wife and mother a woman must possess patience, understanding and consideration. But above all, she must accept the fact that her home, her husband and her children are the most important factors in her life.

Choosing a wife is the most important step you will take during your life and for her sake and yours make it the right step. Before giving her a ring, learn all you can about your other half. Take the time to learn about your wife before and not after marriage.

Letter to The Editor

The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette.
Dear Sir:

As president of the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society, I feel that I must protest your paper's neglect of our organization in the issue of November 20. You may or may not realize that we presented Shakespeare's "As You Like It" in the gym for three nights last week. If you are not aware of this, I would question your right to the title of a campus newspaper; if you are, then I ask why there was no mention of the production in the following issue of the Gazette.

In number of active participants, our organization is second only to the athletic organizations on this campus, and not far behind them. In your six-page paper, there are two pages devoted exclusively to the activities of these clubs, the DAAC and the DGAC. What is more, in the issue in question there were 17 inches of column on the front page devoted to the activities of these two organizations. I am not in the least complaining about this, but I would like to point out to you that there was no review, comment or criticism of our play anywhere in the paper, let alone on the news page. There was, to your credit, a short article on our trip to Truro, but this was supplied to you by our own publicity department, as has been every word of copy about the play that has been printed. You asked us to take on this responsibility of supplying our own publicity, and we did so gladly.

Is it too much to expect that when an organization as large as ours presents a play for three days, that our "college newspaper" should exert itself to write an article, a review, a

criticism, anything, under its own power? If you can't see your way clear to giving us a few words on the news page, how about honorable mention in features, or even inserted in one of your overwhelming articles of such great campus import as "McCarthy, the American Fascist?"

I cannot understand why a review of the play was omitted from the Gazette. I fully realize that ours is not an organization of great importance to everyone on the campus, nevertheless, we did have a student audience of some four hundred people, most of whom seemed, at least, to be interested. I do not see why a united effort of fifty people for six weeks, something quite unusual on this campus, should not receive some recognition in the "voice of Dalhousie." On your masthead there are eight people listed as news reporters, some of whom, I am sure, are capable of doing some kind of a review, either good or bad. It is not praise that we are looking for, just recognition and an opinion from outside our ranks. The fact that there are no pictures of the play hardly bothers us at all, even though every other college newspaper in the country prints at least one picture of the term play. I realize that it is a little late for anything to be done about this situation now, and we will have to content ourselves with the write-ups that appeared in the Halifax Mail-Star and the Truro Daily News. However, on behalf of the executive, cast, stage crew, costumes assistants, ushers, and everyone else connected with the play, I want to express our keen disappointment in the Gazette.

—David Peel

Letter to The Editor

To the Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette:

I would greatly appreciate space in your columns to express my appreciation to the student body of Dalhousie, first by dedicating to me the Pharos for 1953, and secondly its gracious presentation on the occasion of the Gazette Dance by the President of the Students' Council. I felt that an expression of thanks on my part at that moment might be inappropriate beyond three simple words, hoping that through the printed, rather than the spoken word, my message might reach every present Dalhousian.

I realize that you have paid me the greatest honor in your power to bestow. I would like to think that in a large measure it was a tribute to the Registrar of Dalhousie rather than to me personally. In carrying out the duties of that office I was trying as best I could to repay a debt and to continue a Dalhousie tradition.

Thirty-two years ago this autumn when I registered at Dalhousie for the first time, the Registrar was Professor Murray MacNeil. That day he did me a good turn, and he gave me some excellent advice. It was not part of his duties to do either. Perhaps it caused him little effort, but it helped me then, and looking backward I can see that it went far to frame my entire life afterwards. For that I can never be sufficiently grateful, and it was mainly with this in mind that I accepted the post as Registrar when Dalhousie offered it. Perhaps I could do for you what a greater man had

done for me. I accept your tribute as an indication that this effort was in some degree successful, and this makes me feel very happy.

From time to time I see references in the Gazette to "Dalhousie Apathy," or to Dalhousie's lack of "College Spirit." It sounds an old familiar note to me. The Gazette of thirty years ago said the same thing. Students who came here from high schools or colleges like high schools, felt that the atmosphere at Dalhousie was by comparison, cool, restrained and stuffy. It was difficult for us to realize that we were to act like adults and be treated like adults. It took us some time to see that we were in an adult, homelike atmosphere.

Now home is not a place of enthusiastic turmoil and uproar. Neither mother nor father are lauded daily for their efforts on behalf of their family by the family. Brothers are notoriously chary of their praise of sisters, and the converse is equally true. Yet home spells security, companionship, quiet affection, the great things which count in life. This is the college spirit of Dalhousie. As in the case of home you take all its kindly, gracious way-of life for granted while you are in its midst. It is only when you leave it that you appreciate its worth and the greatness of your nostalgia.

So as an individual, I thank you with all my heart for a place in the family album of 1953. I shall never forget those days when we were happy together.

Yours truly,
H. L. Scammell

King's Column

Sport, Drama and Argument

This week the sports world at King's is finishing up before the examinations; the scores in last week's games were: King's basketball team over Dalhousie Graduates, 41-40; Edgehill girls over the King's ground hockey team, 2-0.

The Inter - University Drama Festival took up much of the time at King's College, as the two one-act plays, "The Twelve-Pound Look" and "Goodnight, Please!" were changed from the three-quarter round to stage action. Both were presented on Thursday night, along with "The Dear Departed" (Dalhousie) and "The Good and the Bad" (Acadia), to a small audience in the Dalhousie gymnasium. Afterwards there were refreshments served at Alexandra Hall. On Friday night the King's and Dalhousie plays travelled to Acadia, where Acadia players added "The Voice of the People." Despite handicaps of performing on unfamiliar stages and hunting for properties (which were very kindly supplied by Acadia), all the productions were carried off well to a fair-sized house. Again there were refreshments, this time at the Students' Union Building, and an executive meeting. Finally the party broke up, and the cars left for Halifax.

At the Student body meeting on Wednesday evening, Nov. 18, Dr. Walker spoke to the assembled students about the University's forthcoming financial campaign, and Rev. Dysart also addressed the meeting briefly. Dr. Walker introduced Mr. Charles Stringer, the new assistant dean of men, to the students. The minutes for the last meeting were read by William Caines. Hilroy Nathanson, chairman of the 'Record' Dance committee, gave a report on the dance. The new College orchestra was highly commended by the senior student for its performances at the dance. A committee was chosen to arrange two dances which are planned for the second term: Hilroy Nathanson, Len Galey, Jim How, Dave Walker.

Dave MacDonald reported on the Dalhousie - King's students council agreement which would give those holding King's Student Council cards spectator privileges at Dalhousie social and athletic events, as well as rink privileges, in return for payment of a certain sum (three dollars) on a per capita basis, to the Dalhousie Students' Council. John Farmer, the Senior Student, pointed out that this would involve a raise in the student body fees. There was much discussion as to whether Dalhousie students in residence at King's should be made to pay student body fees, if they were raised. A motion was finally made that the Student Council would supply one dollar, and the pure King's students the other two dollars, and passed its first vote.

College Drinking

(The facts for this article were taken from the current issue of *Redbook*. Does drinking always lead to debauchery, does it always lead to drunkenness and eventually to the folds of the Alcoholics Anonymous?)

Dr. S. D. Bacon and Dr. R. Straus, of the famed Yale Centre of Alcoholic Studies, recently made a study of the drinking habits of 15,000 Yale students between the ages of 17 and 23. Undoubtedly much of this information will be of interest to Dal students, both drinkers and non-drinkers.

Dr. Bacon's research has done much towards dispelling three widespread myths about college drinking.

1. The myth that drinking always or usually leads to sexual excesses or debauchery.
2. The myth that drinking always or usually produces drunkenness.
3. The myth that drinking always ends in alcoholism.

Let us examine the three in light of the research done by the Yale experts.

Ogden Nash once expressed, very aptly, the belief that drinking tends to be a sexual stimulant:

Candy
Is Dandy,
But liquor
Is quicker.

Dr. Bacon concedes that alcohol in small quantities tends to weaken sexual inhibitions. Yet, he points out that a young woman may be filled with anxiety for fear drinking will leave her vulnerable to masculine advances and thus in many cases this anxiety will discourage all sexual activity.

As for the second myth, that is students are always getting drunk, Dr. Straus pointed out that "the proportion of students who drink frequently and heavily is very small." Oddly enough, the Yale survey indicated that "the higher the proportion of abstainers in a group, the higher the proportion of excessive drinkers among those who drink." A student from one of the "dry colleges of the South gave a terse explanation for this, when he said, "When you go to the trouble of driving 50 miles to drink, you don't have just two drinks."

As for the third commonly held idea, that is all drinking leads to alcoholism. Dr. Bacon pointed out that only 6 per cent of college men and less than one per cent of college women who answered the Yale questionnaire will become "problem drinkers."

Dr. Straus noted that "Alcoholism differs from simple drunkenness chiefly because it involves a repeated pattern of excessive drinking; and because the alcoholic is unable to control how often he drinks or how much he drinks."

When asked why they drank, most girls and boys replied "to get along better on dates," which probably meant they felt less awkward or shy after a drink. Still a minority of students admitted they drank with only one in mind, to get "drunk."

According to the report, most students admire abstainers, that is if they don't carry on a militant temperance campaign. Dr. Bacon also noted that it is a mistaken belief that abstaining will

smoke

SWEET CAPS

always fresh and

TRULY MILD!



CORK OR PLAIN

No Room

NOTE: Question to be asked in the House re Immigration

No room for refugees
The politician cried
No room! No room!
And in the pause
Of awaited applause
I heard a sound
Like a door closing
And through my tears
I saw two loney people
And their beast
Turn slowly down
A far-off street
—And the echo of that
innkeeper's shout
Rolled down the years
Became a rout
No room! No room!
Out! . . . Out!

—B.Q.W.