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A COMMENT ON THE MISSION

Nova Scotians are traditionally a conservative, slow-moving lot. It was undoubtedly because of this large measure of conservatism that many shudders arose in both the city of Halifax and Dalhousie university when news was spread of the coming of an evangelical mission in both the city and on the campus. The general impression evoked by the mention of an evangelical mission is one of a sweating evangelist standing on a platform warning terrified audiences of the hell-fire awaiting them in the near future.

It was thus that many looked forward to the arrival of Rev. Tom Allan with fear and trembling; either because they feared the imminent arrival of hell-fire within the city or because they trembled at the thought of Christianity being reduced to a religion of sheer emotionalism.

However, Rev. Tom Allan, the Scottish evangelist who has finished his mission in the heathen city and who is mid-way through his mission to the more heathen Dalhousie, has dispelled most of these fears. Mr. Allan has dispelled most of the fears that he might be an evangelist in the Elmer Gantry way, and has proved instead to be a well-educated, solid preacher and one who is more than worthy to carry the word of God to Halifax.

The Gazette finds itself, however, in strong opposition to one of the forms of evangelism carried out during his mission. At the same time the Gazette is thankful that this practice has not been used here at the university.

We refer, of course, to the practice of the missionary standing at the front of the hall at the end of the service asking audience members (including young children) to make their "eternal decision" for Christ.

Although it may be that some people need this sort of emotional religion to feel that they are worthy to call themselves Christians, most of modern Protestant theology (and who is more a Protestant than a Scottish Presbyterian minister?) would argue with this. Granted that the concept of commitment plays a very great part in both existential and non-existential Protestant theology, the theological meaning of commitment is of a very different nature than the practice of urging tortured souls to come forward while the Hammond organ and the 250-voice massed choir join in a sweet rendition of "Come to Me."

This seems to be Christianity at its worst; Christianity divorced almost totally of intellect and resting almost totally upon emotionalism.

The Gazette rejoices that Mr. Allen has decided not to carry on such a practise here at Dalhousie. It would appear that he has sufficient respect for the intellect of our students to realize that they would not succumb to such an emotional appeal.

It is equally gratifying to see that the mission is attempting to win converts by presenting intelligent, rational discussions of religious issues rather than the hell-fire and damnation approach which is used so often by so many clergy.

FREEDOM vs. PROSPERITY

Ever since the Cold War began we have never been allowed to forget what a life the average Russian leads, and how much better off we are by comparison.

All the cartoons, pictures, and stories which are written about Russia, picture life in that country as a drab existence. The people are dressed in rags, the women are out sweeping the streets, and nobody is given anything to eat but black bread and Vodka.

And so it comes as a startling revelation to learn that in the last five years life in Russia has improved phenomenally, and that, according to a speech given by Premier Khrushchov last week, in another decade the average Moscowvite will be living in the same plush surroundings that we now enjoy.

If this state of affairs comes to pass — and the best authorities think it will — we will have to do some hard thinking about the real advantages of our way of life. For here in prosperous North America we have slipped into the complacent attitude that our way is best simply because we have easy access to television sets, electric stoves, and new cars.

As long as we are sure that Russia is far behind in the production of such luxuries, it is easy to believe that America is Paradise with power steering and that Free Enterprize made it thus.

But when we face the fact that Russia will soon be as prosperous as we are with a TV set in every home, plenty to eat and drink, and a two week vacation every year, we will have to get rid of a number of our economic truisms and return to some of those fundamentals that prosperity seems to have obscured.

We must relearn, apparently, that man does not live by bread alone; and so must once again learn to prize our freedom, not our prosperity, above all things. For freedom is what we have and what Russia, under Communism can never have; and all the overfilled quotas in the world cannot alter this fact.

And so it is that each of us, as the students of today and the leaders of tomorrow, must try to keep this ideal of freedom uppermost in our sense of values. For unless we care to preserve this vital thought in our society, we had better fill the libraries with engineering textbooks, replace the cathedrals with gas stations and settle down to a wonderfully prosperous and utterly meaningless existence.

A WORTHWHILE ORGANIZATION

The International Student's Association was founded a year ago at Dalhousie to replace the Society for Friendly Relations with Overseas Students, which had failed to carry out the purposes for which it had been formed originally.

However, the ISA is an outstanding example of just what can be accomplished by students of many races and creeds when they are prepared to work together. Under the competent chairmanship of Brian Brown, backed up by an executive committee composed of students of different nationalities, the society has blossomed forth into one of the most active on campus.

Among the activities for the coming year the society is presenting a number of talks by various experts on topics of interest and importance to students wishing to broaden their knowledge of the world today. The ISA is also planning several social functions, including a Christmas dinner, and, next February, an international student weekend.

The society was also active last summer welcoming foreign students to Halifax, and helping them to find lodgings and to make themselves at home in a new country. Mr. Brown was the prime mover and organizer of this, and is to be heartily commended for his efforts.

The ISA is playing a valuable role at Dalhousie, bringing together students from many parts of the world. We offer it our congratulations for doing a fine job, and trust that increasing numbers of students will give their support to its aims and aspirations, and take an active part in furthering them.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"SOMETIMES I SUSPECT MISS LAMONT'S FRENCH CLASS MAY FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF ENTERTAINMENT."

The Critical Eye

MUNRO DAY QUEEN: A USELESS POSITION

In a few months time Munro Day will be here again and once more a full day of enjoyment and relaxation will be had by all. But there is one aspect of this holiday which comes to us to be completely ridiculous and entirely unwarranted. We are referring to the selection of a Munro Day Queen.

We object strongly to this contest for three main reasons. First because the girl selected Queen, and in fact all the fourteen girls chosen to enter the contest do not represent the 14 most beautiful girls on campus. In fact all a girl requires in order to be elected Queen of a society is to be the girlfriend of a member of the executive of that society. One only needs to look at the roster of girls who have been in the Munro Day Pageant in recent years to realize that this form of political pull is almost a necessity in order to be even eligible for the "honoured" position of Munro Day Queen.

Secondly, it seems to us that the process of selecting a beauty queen because she gets good marks and has a pleasant personality (or what could more accurately be termed an ability to act with the proper amount of social finesse) is, in itself a contradiction of terms. The Munro Day Queen is selected on the basis of 50% poise and personality, 25% academic record, and 25% exterior beauty. Surely then she should not be given the title of Queen which carries with it the connotation and idea of the most beautiful girl on campus.

Thirdly, and perhaps the most important reason why we should not elect a Munro Day Queen is that most of the student body do not really care whether we have one or not. The indifference to such an election became very obvious last year when the Gazette ran its own beauty queen contest. The purpose of this event was to select the most physically attractive girl on campus, and yet we received only three nomina-

tions. It would seem to us that this small number of nominations points out how totally apathetic and disinterested the students of Dalhousie are to this kind of nonsense.

In addition to these reasons we question the election of such a queen on practical grounds. Once she is elected, the queen serves no useful purpose except to be around to crown the following years queen. She does not preside at any formal functions or have any official duties. In short she does nothing useful or constructive in any way.

It would seem then that the only justification for such a queen is that she adds a certain amount of pomp and pageantry to our holiday festivities. Surely though this is not sufficient reason for all the time and effort which go into her election and for the complete foolishness of having such a useless position.

We have on our campus many events which are outdated and can best be described as hangovers from a bygone era. But surely this is the worst.

It is indeed time that the Munro Day Committee and the students council stopped giving their sanction to this contest and enabled Dalhousie to rid itself of one of its most foolish habits.

CASH PREFERRED

The knot was tied, the pair were wed,
 And then the smiling bride-groom said
 Unto the preacher, "Shall I pay To you the usual fee today,
 Or would you have me wait a year
 And give you then a hundred clear,
 If I should find the married state As happy as I estimate
 The preacher lost no time in thought,
 To his reply no study brought,
 There were no wrinkles on his brow;
 He said "I'll take \$3.00 now.
 Anonymous