

YACHTING

Former Necessity Challenging Sport;

I have been asked to write an article on the subject of yachting — why it appeals to as many people as it does around the world, and why it is becoming the fastest growing sport on the North American continent. One cannot simply state that yachting, or more properly, sailing, appeals to people because of one reason. The reasons for enjoying the sport are as varied as the people who actively take part in it.

One criticism of the sport that I have heard is that it is not a spectator sport like football, for instance. My answer to this charge is invariably — "Try and tell that to the hundreds of thousands of people who watched the first race of the 1962 America's Cup series off Newport, Rhode Island. Many of these people were not even sailors. I talked with one man on Thames Street in Newport who had travelled all the way from France just to see the races. He had never set foot

aimed primarily at those unfortunate persons who have never tasted the salt water flung at them over the bow, who have never experienced the thrill of being alone with the sea in a small boat, who have never felt the sense of power that is a yacht's alone. There is nothing as exhilarating as standing into a stiff breeze, even if you are only off the mouth of Halifax Harbour. All kinds of weather can be incurred in this body of water. Landlubbers often greet the sailor as he steps on the dock, soaked to the skin, with expressions that approach disbelief that anyone could be foolish or crazy enough to go all through that merely in the name of sailing. I would say that it is not foolishness that compels a sailor to ignore things like that but spirit — akin to the spirit that compels a football or hockey player to give his all for the team.

To get into the field of practical sailing, let us take an example. Suppose you have \$300 that you can afford to part with. If you are interested in sailing, you will try to find a boat that will fit your needs. For that sum of money, a Morse Dinghy is perhaps the best buy. Having purchased the boat, the budding yachtsman may take two courses. He can set sail for the water or he can plot his course to the nearest Library. The one who chooses the former will learn faster and better than the text book sailor.

One may read all the books in the world on sailing and still be a landlubber. The best way, according to the experts is to learn to sail first and then read some books.

HALIFAX GOOD AREA FOR SAILING

In the Halifax Area we are blessed with the Bedford Basin, the Harbour and cursed with the North West Arm. Several excellent training programs are conducted each summer on these waters. Approximately 500 youngsters took these courses in the past few years. Training is relatively new to Halifax and most sailors have learned by trial and error. Once he has grasped the fundamentals, he has opened a vast new field of enjoyment. From May to September, he takes to the water. Everything else becomes secondary. His first love is his boat—no matter how old or how new it is. He recognizes that his boat assumes a definite personality as he does. Sailing is not all fun but the sailor usually works on his boat with pleasure. Most boats are having work done on them all the time and not merely in the spring and fall.

MANY CLASSES POPULAR LOCALLY

In the Halifax area, there are several classes of small boats which are extremely popular. It is perhaps best to buy a boat of a type that is popular in your area. If there are several boats of one class, there must be a good reason for their popularity. Again in the Halifax area, the International Star and Snipe class boats are the best for pure racing. The Flying Junior Class and Morse Dinghy are used extensively for training purposes. For racing and weekend cruising, the Roue 20 is perhaps the best buy. Another class, growing rapidly in popularity is the Bluenose class. The Bluenose was designed by Bill Roue, of Dartmouth, the designer of the schooner Bluenose. They are classed as a day sailor.

In summing up we may draw



Sun, Sea, Sky

a few general conclusions. Sailing, while not being overly expensive, requires a substantial initial expense. A Morse Dinghy sells new for about \$350.00 while the Bluenose runs close to \$3000. Second hand, they sell for 1/2 to 3/4 of the new prices. The initial expense, however, is offset very quickly by the pleasure reaped from the sport. Sailing can be almost as cheap or as expensive as you want to make it.

Letters

(Continued from Page 4)

— parties should continue to hold their own caucuses, and sponsor meetings and social activities, as at present.

— Parliament should operate as a normal club with representatives from all parties being included on the executive.

— committees should be set up, to do constructive research on various issues and make well-documented reports to the House, (to my knowledge, the New Democrats are the only campus politicians to treat this aspect of politics seriously through the setting up of the club study groups on specific issues.)

— There should be regular press releases to the Gazette and the local newspapers following each sitting.

This plan has innumerable advantages. Basically it would provide a genuine public forum where students could express their views on matters of current interest. By having elections at the end of the year, the parties could be judged fairly, on the basis of their PERFORMANCE in Parliament, not the ability to utter worthless platitudes. There would be more frequent confrontations of individuals with different political views. At present, the campus parties are not co-operating with a view to stimulating worthwhile debates and exchange of opinion. Instead, they are fighting to see who can spend the most money on advertising.

This campus is dead politically. Let's put some life into that jaded institution, the Dalhousie Model Parliament.

Sincerely,
John W. Cleveland
2nd Year Arts

P.S. I would appreciate a response from representatives of the other political parties. I believe as to my ordinary proposals Mr. Carruthers has put forward an interesting, constructive proposal to remedy the situation, i.e. the formation of a Politics Club.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you, Sir Wilfred Laurier.

THE LISTENING POST

by ANDY WHITE



Quite recently, the usually staid and sedate Dalhousie campus was treated to a most unusual display indeed; a near riot in the dining hall of the men's residence followed by a relatively successful boycott of the dining hall of the evening meal of the same day. The cause was what has been described as the steadily declining quality of the food offered to students during the past several weeks. The decision to take this last step was not arrived at without much soul-searching on the part of Residence leaders.

The major criticism was not whether or not the food was bad (it was!) or whether the personal attack on Manager Julius (Kosner Nostra) Kosner was either fair or justified (most later admitted that it was not), but whether or not this whole method is really the most adult and satisfactory way to handle an undeniably unsatisfactory state of affairs.

BAD PUBLICITY ONE RESULT

Out of this whole affair, and its concomitant bad publicity for Dalhousie, probably the most important question to emerge, once the food situation is improved, as promised by Dean Gowie and Manager Kosner, is just when such a kicking over the traces of Authority is justified, if ever, and if so, what is the reason behind the activities of the many abstainers from such affairs. By "abstainers", we do not mean those who sincerely feel that these affairs are wrong on specific occasions, and who refuse to be swept along with a mass movement with which they cannot agree. We may disagree with such people from time to time, but we must respect them.

MOST ARE CUT FROM DIFFERENT CLOTH

But is fairly evident that many of those who either did not take part in the affair, or who hung on the environs of the group, cowering on their chairs and hoping that the Dean would not look too hard in their direction, or for those very "rational" very "adult" very "mature" gentlemen who stayed in their rooms, or ate out that night, and offered very erudite criticisms of the affair afterward do not fall into this category. Instead, they seem

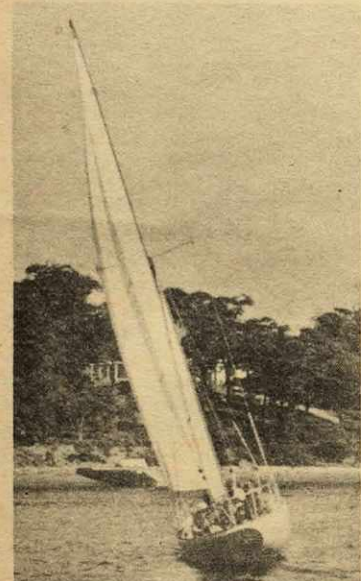
more to typify a spreading phenomenon in contemporary society; the "cool" man; the product of our adjustment centered society, the man who would rather be popular than right if the choice arose; the half-baked pseudo-intellectual who defends his own immoral acts by stating that "all morality is relative", the money-and-materialism centered guy and gal who measure a job by its retirement plan at age 21 or who size up a husband by the size of his potential bankroll and credit rating; who judge a house by its location from a social rather than a geographic point of view; who line their walls with "paintings" which they can understand no more than anyone else because it is the thing to do. But most of all, among the inhabitants of this brave new world, the most cardinal sin is that of taking a stand on anything.

RISK AVOIDED

No matter how good the cause, if it means the taking of any risks whatsoever, it is to be shunned, and the plea that "reason" should be used in the solution of the affair. Indeed, if these people justify the Shakespearian tag which means that "the native hue of resolution is overwhelmed by the pale cast of thought."

All of this wisdom expressed above would be most laudable indeed if this approach were possible and practical, much expense and discomfort could be avoided in human affairs—despite the fact that something of real value would probably disappear with them. There is only one fly in this jar of sweet, modern ointment. And that is, very simply, that it does not work. Although scarcely justifying civil disorder, be it of the "panty raid" variety, ranging up through labor violence such as the criminal attacks upon the Florida East Coast Railroad, or attempts at the overthrow of deserving governments who have seen fit to take unpopular, perhaps draconic moves to handle a given situation and believing that authority and discipline are absolute necessities

(Please turn to Page 8)



Tranquility — Adventure

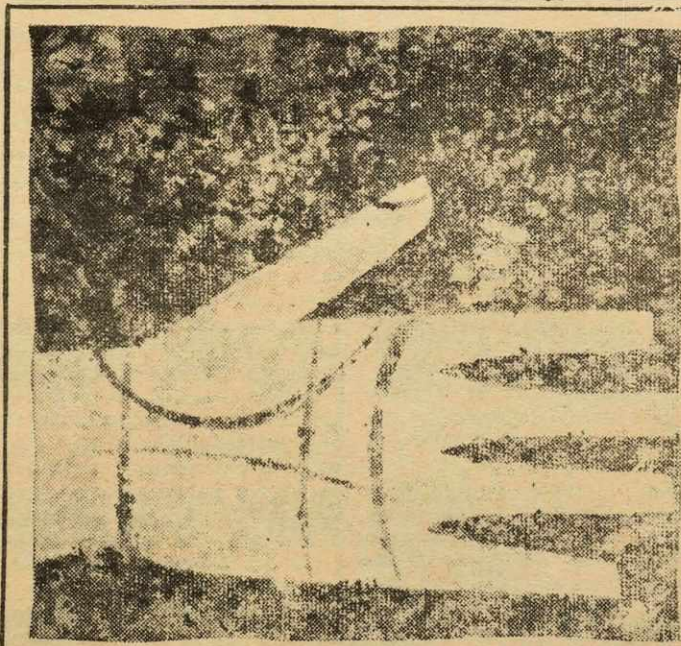
in a boat of any type but yet he was fascinated. There is a tremendous thrill in seeing two 12 Meter yachts, from opposite ends of the earth and manned by different crews, race over a 24 mile course and finish within 26 seconds of each other. Many people are fascinated by the sport although they themselves do not sail.

SAILING A CHALLENGE

If you asked the owner of the \$250,000 yacht Challenge, George Johnson, why he spends so much time and money in pursuit of the sport, he would probably tell you that yachting takes him away from the day to day worries of being and staying a millionaire. On the other hand, if you asked a 10 year old on the North West Arm in a \$300 dinghy, why he enjoys sailing, he would reply that he enjoys being outdoors and that sailing is the best way to spend his vacation. On the average, I would say that the sailor regards sailing as a challenge that cannot be met by any other sport. It is a challenge against nature in the form of the wind and the sea. One gains a respect for the sea after having been out on a boat for any length of time. One learns to co-exist with the sea — to live with it in its wildest moods and to live with it in its calmest moods.

YACHTING A COMPLEX SUBJECT

In a short article such as this, it is impossible to examine all facets of yachting. We must merely be content with scratching the surface. The story is



Need a hand? Money to help you through university, on liberal terms through our University Tuition Loans. Longer than usual periods for repayment. Talk over your problem with any Royal manager; he'll do everything possible to "see you through".



ROYAL BANK