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Universities Should Abolish the Summer Vacation?

"...it does seem like the utmost in waste to have millions of dollars worth of plant contributed by individuals and the State lying idle for four and five months of the year. It may be that to keep it in operation, with the holidays to which workers are accustomed, larger staffs would be required; it may be that some students are not prepared to work twelve months, less normal holidays.—Halifax Herald, Dec. 20th.

• THERE IS SOMETHING to be said for the above criticism. Should university courses be so accelerated that they comprise, say, eleven months out of every twelve, a medical or an engineering student could graduate in slightly over three years instead of the customary five, a law student in two rather than three. To all of them this saving in time would give an earlier start in life, or the opportunity they might not otherwise have to go on to more specialized work in a particular field. Many, no doubt, would then be able to devote their first years at university to the acquiring of a liberal education, rather than enter the professional faculties immediately, as is their practice now.

Certainly it could be managed. During the war, due to the great demand for doctors for the armed services, the medical course was "stepped-up" with considerable success. Now, that the veterans recently discharged might be accepted late in the term and yet complete a full year's work, university staffs all across the country have extended certain classes well on into the summer months.

But, to meet a practical proposal with a practical objection, this circumstance ought to be made clear. A sizable portion, perhaps over half of the students now attending university, must have the long summer vacation in order to earn sufficient funds to meet the costs of their education. Moreover, profes-

sional students employ this vacation very usefully by finding jobs in the fields in which they are specializing, thereby learning to apply the theory of their trade. Thus, the number who "are not prepared to work twelve months, less normal holidays, is strictly negligible.

Associate editors:

In England, where the academic course is split up into three terms well proportioned over the year, the upper class quality of their universities is much in evidence. In comparison to Canada and the United States only a very small percentage of the population are given the opportunity of advanced education.

Yet even in Canada during the depression years of the early thirties our colleges were utilized chiefly by the families of well-to-do citizens, those who could afford the heavy expenses of tuition, books, living accommodations, and so forth. The war, however, changed all this when it brought about a surplus of jobs and thus provided those coming from the lower income groups with their much desired opportunity. Compelled to work to ensure their own future, these people adopt a more serious attitude towards their course than those already certain of financial security, and the whole atmosphere of the campus has been altered homewhat, producing a student more useful both to society in general and himself in particular. The servicemen's gratuity plan is now having a sim-

As long as the long summer vacation tends to extend the advantages of higher education to an ever increasing portion of the community, then it would be unwise to abolish it. But whenever it ceases to be useful here, whenever another depression happens along, the whole matter might be opened for reconsideration.

Surprising--(Continued from page 1)

bers, the most successful of which was probably "The Rosary". The chorus has, I think, come a long way in the short period since last December, and showed much greater precision. But they still lack volume and flexibility. The male section is still lacking in sufficient strength-a fact that was evident in the rather unsuccessful attempt to combine the organ and chorus, the effect of which was a bit startling.

Following two violin selections by Frances Saulnier-"Tambourin" by Kreisler, and "Kuiawiak" by Wieniowsky - Mary Lou Christie performed Mendelssohn's beautiful Rondo Capriccioso", and "The Rails" by Vladimir Dechevow, which were in turn followed by three vocal selections by Theresa Monaghan. I especially enjoyed her interpretation of Peel's "The Early Morning", which I thought was more admirably suited to the soft, rich, emotional quality of her voice than the "Habanera" from "Carmen", which she sang as her last number.

Second Half

The second half of the program opened with a trumpet-organ duet by Cyril Bugden and Geoffrey Payzant, followed by a group of five vocal numbers by Marjorie Coady, including "Ouvre ton Coeur" by Bizet, and "Alma Mia" from Handel's "Floridante". Her voice displayed rather an amazing range, but seemed to lack the emotional power and depth required for the Bizet aria. Her most successful numbers were the two short Crist mother confessed never having the selections, which were delightfully rendered.

Following the performance of the Male Chorus (which, incidentally, I found disappointing), Lorna Roome performed the Granados-Kreisler "Spanish Dance", and "The Bee' by Rimsky Korsakov, both of which displayed her amazingly flawless technique. The fact that her approach to music is both intellectual and emotional results in a perform-

ance that is always moving, and frequently even brilliant.

Unquestionably the most outstanding performance of the evening, however, was that of Neil Van Allen, who played Chopin's "Scherzo No. 2 in B Flat", and Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2". The exquisite brilliance of his tone, and the clear-cut, sparkling precision of his technique, are both, obviously, the result of much practice. But it requires the intelligence and imagination of a great artist to render the difficult passages of Liszt and Chopin with such energetic fire, and fervent, rhythmical brillance. Undoubtedly a gifted player, Mr. Van Allen has an amazing - possibly even great - career ahead of him. Such talent is indeed

I was rather disappointed in the performance of the orchestra this time, which seemed to lack balance and co-ordination. But the material is there, I think, and Frank Padmore deserves enormous credit for recognizing it. On the whole, it is a worthwhile venture, and deserves the encouragement and support of the whole University. That, and a little more practice.

1-Act Plays-(Continued from page 1)

stead, she even proposed spending a weekend herself in Cornwall with a man called Maurice. All of which was sound psychology, and very disarming to Jill, who began to realize that marriage was, after all, rather convenient for having a father and mother around. She had a violent scene with Adrian (who promptly left), and her slightest intention of going to Cornwall in the first place. With

and happier, and much older. It's been done before, many times. Direction Inadequate

the result that everyone was wiser,

It was not an especially good play, then, to begin with. However, with resourcefulness and imagination, and the right cast, it might have been made itno a rather clever farce-which was probably the author's intention. But it was taken much too strenuously. The part of Jill, for instance, required some degree of abandon to say the least. And Miss White's habitual poise and self-possession showed only slight degrees of collapse. In fact, it was difficult to believe that there was really nothing pyschologically wrong with Miss White, but that she was just in the process of growing up.

Roslyn Schaefer's 'performance, however, as the intelligent, understanding, and very wise mother, was rather a pleasant surprise. Truly, it was a more enviable role, and Miss Schaefer deserves credit for recognizing the fact, and making the most of her opportunities.

vas extremely well cast (at least it was obvious what Jill saw in him in the first place), and Mr. Green seemed to enjoy himself immensely, which contributes a lot to any part. Bob Watson's appearance, as Jill's father, came rather late in the play -too late in fact to have much influence one way or the other, except to clinch the fact that things just wern't going well at all.

Delta Gamma Play

The second play of the evening, "World Without Men", was undoubtedly better handled. The story itself concerned a mad woman scientist, who, upon the flick of a switch, discovered she could rid the world of all men, and solve the world of all its trouble. For the great event she had invited a poetess, a female member of Parliament, a woman reporter, and a prominent socialite to be present. When they were all assembled, she pulled the switch, and the stage was plunged into darkness. When the lights came on again, all men had vanished, except one who had miraculously escaped. As it turned out, the whole thing was nothing but a bad dream-which saved the author a great deal of trouble, of course, but made everyone feel rather silly afterwards.

Nevertheless, the play was admirably performed. The direction was excellent, and it was obvious

National Campus Poll Shows Students Favor Distinctive Can. Flag

Kingston. - The great majority of Canadian university students feel Canada should have a distinctive flag, but want it to include the Union Jack.

This was shown in the first survey taken by the newly-organized Canadian University Press Institute of Student Opinion. The results, however, are not all-inclusive, since 11 of CUP's 18 members failed to report.

Students at the seven universities which participated were asked the following question, with results as indicated:

"Do you favor a distinctive flag

Canada?"	
Yes	78.4%
No	16.7%
Undecided	4.9%
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Those who supported the idea of a special Canadian flag were further asked: "Should this new flag contain

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he	Union Jack?		
	Yes	65.2%	
	No	30.4%	
	Undecided		

U. Mourns --

held from the house at 284 South Street at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon.

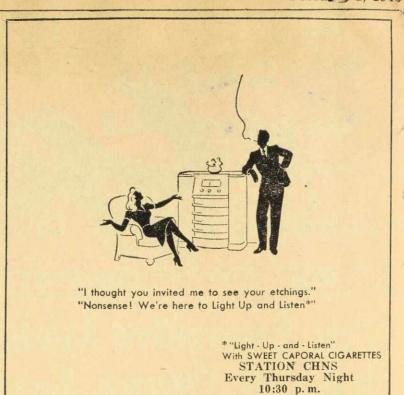
Well Known to Students

Assistant to Dr. Harvey at the N. S. Archives for the last ten years, Dr. Martell was well known on the campus, both personally and by reputation. Born in Windsor, N. S., he first attended King's Collegiate School and later King's College, graduating in 1933 with a B.A., high honours in political science and history. Taking an M.A. in history at Dalhousie, Dr. Martell was recognized as one of the University's most outstanding scholars when he was awarded the I.O.D.E. overseas scholarship. Proceeding to London University, he obtained his doctor's degree and returned to Halifax in 1935 to join the staff of the Archives, where he gave promise of a brilliant career. He is survived by his wife and two small children.

from the first that the play had been carefully chosen, and thoroughly rehearsed. But much of the credit for the play's success is obviously due to the cast, which was extremely well chosen. In fact, I should imagine it would be hard to find another play more admirably suited to the varied talents of Miss Weatherby, Miss Godfrey, and Miss Ross. One would expect Miss Ross to dominate everything, of course, Physically, the part of Adrian and as Mrs. Smith, Member of Parliament, she had plenty of opportunities. Likewise, one would expect Miss Godfrey to be one of the last to arrive, and one of the first to leave-which she was. In fact, as Mrs. Robinson, the prominent socialite, she had a part that was almost a Schiaparelli fit. Of the whole cast she was the only one guilty of deliberate scene stealing -but no one seemed to mind a bit. It was only petty larceny anyway.

The only really disappointing performance of the play was that of Thora Reid, as Madame Pavel, the mad scientist. The truth is, she was not quite mad enough. She was extremely nervous, I think, and I can sympathize with anyone in that position. But it resulted in a forced delivery - an almost rigid monotone-which after awhile became rather tiresome.

Although it was obvious that Delta Gamma more or less walked away with the evening, the cast and director of the Arts and Science play deserve a great deal of credit -if only for trying. It was disappointing to discover that of five plays originally scheduled, only two were actually staged. Of those two, the Delta Gamma production "World Without Men", was better handled, but Arts and Science lost nothing in the venture, and probably gained a great deal in experience. It was an honest attempt, and they deserve much credit.



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