

A German Student Views His Country *Sylvester Writes Again*

Sylvester Writes Again

Dear Ma,

It has been quite some time since I last wrote you, and much has happened. When I was nicely settled in my room and registered at Dalhousie I decided to look the campus over. To my dismay, however, I was snatched from a corridor of the Arts Building and dragged bodily to the gymnasium where two yellow placards were hung over my shoulders. They called me "Frosh!" and for the next week life was a holy terror, climaxed by a flour-and-oil beauty shampoo "For the hair you can't get your hands out of". I didn't mind getting a pie in the face, since I hadn't eaten for three days. But slop water in the schnozzle and catsup behind the ears was too much. It took me fully two weeks to get the red spots out of my eyes.

Ah well, all that is far in the past and I am now an orientated student. Last week I diligently and furtively set out in quest of the Alcove bug, but all my efforts were in vain. No one seems too anxious to talk about it. Last night, however, I accidentally solved the whole mystery, when I escorted a young damsel from Shirreff Hall to a movie with my last 74c (Family Theatre). As we approached the shadows of that great stone building, she sweetly said, "Would you like to step into the alcove for a moment?" My pulse quickened at the chance to solve the mystery. "Will you show me what an Alcove bug is?" I asked. She smiled knowingly and said she would. So, Ma, I am now enslaved by the Alcove bug, but I don't seem to mind it at all. Now when I look back I see how foolish I was; I thought that she was the sweet young thing that had never even been kissed . . .

Well, Pa, I must now approach the delicate subject of finances. As I predicted before I left home, 50c a week is not enough spending money even though you are allowing me the generous sum of \$2.45 per week for food and laundry. Inflation has overtaken Dalhousie; even their dances cost money. That young thing from Shirreff Hall asked me to do her a favor which I just couldn't refuse, so now I am taking her to the Dent Ball and the Law Ball, and as a result, I am overdrawn by \$20 at the bank. The manager gave me a dirty look when I went by yesterday. You see, Pa, by the time you buy a ticket, get a corsage, pay for a cab and some food and spend a couple of bucks on . . . well, anyway, it runs into money. Please send me the rest of my summer earnings which I left in the sugar bowl.

Regarding my studies, I have been working very industriously since my first day at college. Friends have remarked that I have

The following is the text of a speech made by a German student to the members of the Canadian ISS Seminar at Breda this summer. It illustrates some of the current difficulties in Germany and this student's solutions for them. The solutions are not typical of those presented at the seminar, and nowhere was the diversity of opinion on Germany's future greater than among the German students themselves.

When I, as a German, have to state some of my ideas on the future of Germany, I have first to express my strong feelings of utmost incompetence. A problem like this one, which has been thought over and dealt with by some of the most important people of our times, cannot be solved or pointed out by me, as a student.

The only thing I perhaps may be able to do is to show how I regard the present situation of Germany and how I would like to see things develop out of the present.

I decided upon leaving out all feelings and emotions, because I could not explain their motives in five minutes. I will restrict myself as much as possible to facts, and from what I regard as the most important facts, you may get some idea of my feelings.

The basic factor of our present situation is that ten years ago, Germany started a war, and lost it. How the war happened, what its causes have been, who are responsible for it, all these questions may be answered by historians. The result of this terrible war all over Europe is better known to you than to me. If I now try to give you some idea of what the immediate results of this war have been for Germany, I do not want to ask for pity. I will simply show you what are the most urgent problems to be solved.

Let us begin with the land. All the territories east of the Oder-Neisse Line, about 25% of Germany, have been annexed by Russia and Poland. Those provinces had been the food supply area of pre-war Germany. But even with their help, Germany could not meet more than 70% of her own food demands.

Without these areas, less than 50% of the present demands can be met. The rest has to be balanced by imports, which up to now, have been paid to a considerable degree by the English tax-payer.

The difficulties are aggravated furthermore because the Russian Zone, which is mostly agricultural, is practically cut off from the Western Zones, which are highly industrialized. Every effort of Germany to secure a minimum of existence for her own people by her own efforts is rendered a hopeless case by the iron curtain which cuts Germany into two parts.

In the long run, this iron curtain will have the effect that the two parts of Germany will differ more and more in their political and economic structure and that a tension will arise which may become a threat to future security. Up to now, this threat has been counter-balanced by the occupation forces, but every German is afraid that with the possible retreat of the allies, Russian totalitarianism will overrun Western Germany.

Thus, the merger of all zones under a real democratic government and under the supervision of a Unified Allied Occupation authority is one of the urgent necessities. The most immediate effect of the war on the country may be seen in the degree of material destruction, especially in the cities.

Everyone who has seen Germany after the war, must admit that even the most generous plans for punishment (Morgenthau Plan) could not surpass the results of bombing. No German city has been spared, and the greatest ones, Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, have been destroyed 60% to 80%. The result is that the remaining dwelling space is hopelessly overcrowded. The average space for the German is from 5 to 7 yards.

This overcrowdedness has been still further aggravated by the eleven million refugees who have been expelled from the annexed areas in the east, where no German is living any more. Those refugees form one of the most serious problems of present day Germany. Most of them live in the already overfilled British and U.S. Zones. The authorities of the French Zone have refused to accept them. Generally without a job, many of them still living in camps with no hope for the future,

they are the severest threat to the development of democratic Germany. Most of them have nothing to lose, and they will be easy prey to any radical propaganda, if their conditions are not improved. I quote from SATURDAY NIGHT, Jan. 14, "He who succeeds in organizing this mass of refugees and be the new master of Germany."

If I said that a good part of the punishment for the German people already took place by the destruction of the country, this holds true as well for the losses of human lives. About four million Germans were killed during the war. This number will increase considerably if numbers are available for those German PW's who died in Russian camps. About one million German PW's are still in Russian camps with no hope of return. Most of the dead and prisoners of war were men between 20 and 40. That raises very serious social and economic problems. The productive part of the population has diminished as much as the unproductive part has increased.

The middle classes, always a stabilizing factor in society, have nearly vanished by material destruction, currency reform, denazification etc. The proletariat has increased immensely, very much by former intellectuals, who are now the most dangerous part of it.

These are some of the aspects of the grim situation we are facing inside Germany as a result of the war. All of us agree that such a terrible thing as the last war should never happen again. The best comparison I could think of for the present situation of Germany is that of an immense steam boiler with an over pressure of about 20 million people.

The big question is, shall we think that these people have not been punished enough? If so, will we take the risk of increasing the pressure inside the boiler until it explodes? In other words, until Germany turns Communist? Or will we build in some security valves to let off some of the steam. I think the Allies decided upon the second policy. There are several kinds of security valves.

1. Military. Prolonged occupation, continued disarmament, elimination of war potentials.

2. Political. The Allies should allow and help Germany to establish a sound democracy. Germany should be admitted to a federation of European states whose members will give up part of their sovereignty in favor of a common authority.

3. Economical. The German people should be allowed to secure for itself a minimum for existence which is the basis for any kind of democracy.

Perhaps some kind of combination of these proposals with the integration of Germany into a union of Western Europe would offer the best assurance for future security. Then we may hope that the times when people fought terrible wars against each other have passed forever.

(This is the first in a series of three articles to appear on one of the vital issues of the Seminar.)

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The Campus Roundup

by Windy O'Neill

What a week end! Anyone who hasn't had the privilege of visiting certain forbidden institutions around the campus isn't a truly educated man. For the proper course of study the Roundup recommends in this order, Phi Delt; then Phi Rho; nexst Phi Chi; oh, brother, take tacshi to Phi Norman's; thui x&0" Phi Atomic.

The Canadian Football Tigers are really on the spot in their next two games. Savants of the Halifax Canadian Football League give Dal a strictly underdog status in the drive for the play-off and a crack at the Purdy Trophy.

However, the Tigers have had a three week lay-off and are in the best possibel shape for the contests against Navy and Wanderers. The boys took the Tars into camp in their first meeting up at Truro and are picked by this corner to repeat.

Coach Vitalone says that the team's morale is at the highest possible peak. The Tigers are individually determined to make the playoffs and deserve the most vociferous support we side-line quarterbacks can muster—come well stocked with Zubes.

John Funston and Jack Lynch are doing a fine job on the football broadcasts which are arousing a great deal of interest around the province. Nova Scotians are not newcomers to football broadcasts as they have been listening to finest announcers on the continent broadcast the American games. It is hard for these listeners to get themselves orientated to the Canadian rules but Jack Lynch is doing an admirable job explaining. The games are sponsored by Northern Electric, with Mr. M. A. Wilson (Bob Wilson's Pater) being instrumental for the support.

The football league has been blessed with fine weather this year but we are still keeping our fingers crossed. There are no sport fans with the indomitable spirit of football fans. They will brave any kind of weather to see a game—it borders on fanaticism. Last year over a thousand spectators turned out in an all-day rain to see McGill and Dalhousie clash. However we hope that their mettle will not have to be tested again this season.

It looks as though a series for the McTier cup is better than a strong possibility. Although our sympathies are completely with Canadian football and we think that each succeeding year will see the game spread wider in the Maritimes, we wish the Rugger enthusiasts luck in the forthcoming series. Rugger play, here, in three years has not been good and wide-spread competition should raise the quality. It is a matter of fact that in Toronto and Montreal the grande olde game does not draw very strong support which is immaterial if the authorities could straighten their rules and raise the standard of play.

very large rings under my eyes for so early in the term, so I must be making progress. My only tough subject is Bridge 34. In Chemistry, I finally found out what a Bunsen Burner is. I always thought it was rival of the Stanley Steamer. And so, my days of higher education go by, and I learn by experience. Again, please send the money immediately, or my next letter will be marked Halifax County Jail. Financially yours, SYLVESTER

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