

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER

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AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE COMES NORTH

"Jim Crow" has crossed the border. Not content to remain in the land of cotton and the territory of the Klu Klux Klan, our old acquaintance has made his way to Halifax. He's been here a long time, but has been content to keep quietly to himself, and carry on his dirty work in sickening secrecy.

But now he's out in the open. Or so one would gather from the recent business at the local dance hall, which has been brought to the attention of the Dalhousie Council of Students by the Pine Hill Council.

The manager's stand is stated to be this; He cannot allow colored people to patronize his establishment or the white trade will dwindle and cease. And he said, we are told, that he would not allow anything to hamper his business. He would maintain his stand.

The whole matter came to a head, as far as can be learned, when a colored student from Dalhousie was refused permission to purchase a ticket at the dance hall. When he asked to see the manager he was told by a policeman that the manager was not in. So he left, and took his story to the Pine Hill Council. They, properly, interviewed the manager, and carried the matter to the Dalhousie students' council.

The council cannot do much. They could possibly call for the students to stay away from the dance hall—to cause, in effect, a boycott of the Olympic Gardens. They have no recourse to the law of the land in this matter. It is one of the rights of an individual to pick his companions, and judging from recent theatre cases involving the color bar, it seems to be the right of a proprietor to choose his patrons.

Well, the manager of the Olympic Gardens can pick his patrons—he can pick all Dalhousie students, or none. There are students of a great many races, colors and creeds at Dalhousie—but they are all Dalhousie students, and no one is better than his fellows simply because of his color. Nor is any one, in the same token, lesser than his fellow because of his color.

If the students do not institute a boycott through the Council, then they can institute a boycott on their own. Its been done before (at UNB) and despite the cries of "futile", it worked.

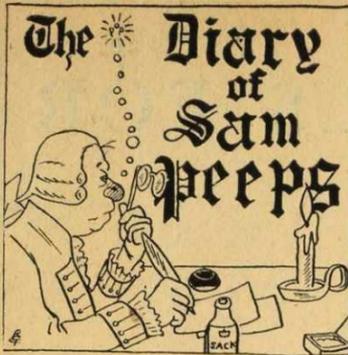
But this is a little different. Not too many Dal students attend the dance hall in question, as it is. The operation of the hall would not be seriously hampered. There would not be enough pressure to force a change in the manager's stand.

The manager of the Olympic Gardens is more to be pitied than censored—for he is just another one of us. He says that if he permits colored people in his establishment, then the more dependable and highly lucrative white trade will be ruined. And that is a sad commentary on the general public of Halifax, just as much as it is on the manager. Its all very well to boycott the hall, and attempt to cut down the operator's profit until he is forced to lower the color bar that he has set up—but it will not change the attitude of the public.

And what's more it will not change the attitude of the students of this university.

"Jim Crow" is here just as much as he is anywhere else. One remembers the instance of the cancelled tennis or badminton trip by the girls last year. And one hears all the students who say, "Why make a mountain out of a mole hill? This isn't so important." Its a case of more of foot hills than molehills.

This dance hall business is just an outcropping of something rotten in this community, and in this university, too. There's as much discrimination here as there is in "Jim Crow's" habitat. We don't talk about it as much, that's all.



Saturday, March 19—Up late and to Marmalade Hovel where, in my wanderings, I came upon a most odd sort of a donkey court, in which were gathered several girls with an accused standing before them.

They did berate the accused soundly, saying, "wherefore were you 15 minutes late coming in?"

She did reply:

"My timepiece was slow".

They all did laugh together in derision, one saying, "We have been trying to get you for a long time and now is our chance."

"Yes," said another, "she gets asked out almost every night, and I don't".

"Yes," said yet another, "and she gets asked out by a fellow who once took me to dancing parties."

"Yes," said still another, "she has too much pleasure while we have none."

"She must be a wicked person".

The judge spoke, in mighty fine tones—

"Madam, you are a wicked, disreputable person, and you must be punished for your deeds which are a discredit to Marmalade Hovel."

The accused replied, "But what are my crimes".

"Oho!" said the prosecutor, "we won't discuss that here. We are in charge, and we don't have to tell you what you've done."

"But I must have done something—you can't punish me just because you're jealous, or can you?"

"We certainly can," they all replied in chorus.

"We'll make you sorry you've had such a good time. We'll make you regret you enjoyed yourself at Dalhousie—we'll have the last laugh."

Here, they all cackled and giggled.

The judge spoke again, in a mighty fine voice:

"Your weekend pass is cancelled and so are all your privileges for the rest of the school year".

And it was the first offence I am told, and only fifteen minutes late. And they wouldn't say what they based their punishment on.

Would they, Nancy?

Did leave this hall of infamy in a great rage at this miscarriage of justice, and proceeded directly to home where after a hearty supper I went to bed, having many troubles of late.

Sunday, March 20 — Up once more, as ever finding it difficult to rise, and tramped to the college on the hill, where I visited the offices of the Spectator (early edition) and talked with many sundry journalists. A great rattling of typing machines there this day as they all prepare for the literary contest.

Charlie Big-Apple hard at work preparing his essay, while Bend Pinelee will no more prepare essays as he has been discharged for over-preparation.

Later did proceed to Sour's wherein I did perceive Gym Bentlegs, the heavy champion fisticuffer, who did smite mightily in the boxing competitions and is a hero at the college on the hill

Later still did not run into a crossfire, at which I went home, did not eat, and lay awake in bed all the night.

Monday, March 21 — The first day of spring, and a fine one, too. No sooner out the door than I did see Derelict Gruff'un a-mixing of green and yellow colors and muttering to himself.

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