

The Dalhousie GAZETTE

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A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society and it appears that it may well be the finest year in the organization's long history. As the feature of this year's activities D.G.D.S. have announced that the Broadway hit musical "Bye Bye Birdie" will be staged in the Dalhousie gym on February 27, 28, and March 1, 2.

That D.G.D.S. should undertake to produce such a first class show is indeed commendable. Their presentation will be the first amateur production of the show which is still running on Broadway and whose road company only left Canada four weeks ago. For these reasons the show should attract great attention not only among Dalhousians but among all citizens of the greater Halifax area.

The staging of such a show will involve many difficulties. There will be a cast of sixty thus making wardrobe problems worse than usual, while the stage crew will have a tough task to fulfill as several different sets will be required.

The story is a comment on the American way of life and is humorous in addition to being satirical. Songs such as "What the Matter With Kids", "Put on a Happy Face", and "The Telephone Hour" are well known and their lively tunes should add much to the enjoyment of the show.

In the last two years Dal's musicals have been very well staged and yet many who saw them felt that they would have been more enjoyable if they had contained more popular music. Such complaints surely will not be heard this year.

And so the Gazette would like to congratulate Lorrie Borne, president of D.G.D.S., and all his executive, for their excellent decision. We hope too that the student body will show their appreciation to D.G.D.S. and the members of the cast by attending "Bye Bye Birdie".

MYOPIA IN ONTARIO'S METROPOLIS

The Toronto Varsity, in an editorial entitled "House Divided", struck out last month against separatism in Quebec. When this editorial was introduced for debate at the recent Canadian University Press national conference, held at the Ryerson Institute in Toronto, most student editors, including Denis de Belleval, editor of Le Carabin (Laval University), agreed that there was much truth in it.

What almost caused a rift in the assembly, and most certainly created a good deal of ill feeling, was the fact that the Varsity turned its attack on separatism into an attack on Quebec and French Canadian culture.

The Varsity, with an unexpected lack of research, and with a viewpoint both arrogant and culture-bound, rashly attempted to assess the special qualities, if any, that might distinguish Quebec, and produced this offending paragraph:

"Citizens of Quebec cannot say that they are trying to preserve provincial independence in order to protect civil liberties, for what province tramples on civil liberties to such an extent as Quebec? Similarly they cannot claim independence as a means to nurture a progressive culture because their culture in great part is but a holdover from another century."

The first point raised, civil liberties, is highly debatable and is not germane to the complaints of the separatists. The second point

raised its manifestly untrue. To any Canadian, or at least to any Canadian who has travelled beyond the confines of Etobicoke, York, and Scarborough, it is well known that Quebec boasts one of the most active cultures in North America. French Canadians rank prominently in the fields of drama, literature, painting, sculpture, and both the performance and the composition of music.

Confirmation of Quebec's cultural pre-eminence appeared in the same copy of The Globe and Mail that carried a report of the Varsity editorial. In commenting on Montreal's new arts centre, James Ferrabee stated:

"There is little doubt that Place des Arts is long overdue in Montreal. Since the project was first organized, the city has come a long way toward becoming the second largest cultural centre in North America. In theatre alone, there are more than a dozen French companies working in Montreal at the moment; the new National Theatre school has started in the city and the already well-known Comedie Canadienne, Canada's only bilingual company, is centred there."

Such evidence of cultural progressiveness notwithstanding, the Varsity stoutly maintained its position, although towards the end of the debate, its insular smugness began to pall. an attempt to censure the Varsity or to obtain a retraction would be futile. To demand an apology, under the circumstances, would be worse, since it would entail forced lying. The only path left open to us, then, is to record our disappointment.

Thus, we register disappointment in the Toronto Varsity for its lack of editorial quality and for its lack of courage and courtesy. It is disheartening indeed that the Varsity should lack the courage to admit that it could err, and that it should lack the courtesy to apologise for offense.

THE TEENAGE SET

It seems these days that teenagers, the female ones in particular are constantly being attacked for their low morals and lack of femininity. Their tight skirts and sweaters, their heavy make-up, their short haircuts have brought cries of anguish and shouts of "I never did that when I was your age" from outraged parents and older brothers and sisters alike.

And so it was that we read with amusement the words of Stephen Leacock on the subject. In his book *Autumn Leaves* he said:

"There are no new girls, no new women. Your great grand mother was a devil of a clip half a century before you were born. You knew her only when she was wrinkled and hobbling, reading the Epistle to the Thessalonians in a lace cap and saying she didn't know what the world was coming to. The young have always been young and the old always old; men and women don't change. The changes that you think you see lie just on the surface. You could wash them away with soap and hot water."

We cannot help but wonder if this great Canadian writer does not have a very valid point. It might do us all well in the future if we paused for a moment and reflected on the truth of these words before we begin to condemn the current crop of teenagers.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



POSSSSTT - FRENCH CASE STUDIES??!!

The Critical Eye

THE WORLD'S OLDEST PROFESSION

When the first man eyed the first woman, and the woman decided she could make a profit out of the male's desire, the world's oldest profession was born, and has been flourishing ever since.

Through the ages prostitutes have plied their trade, legally and illegally, under many different guises. Prostitutes appear in the Bible: they walked the highways and by-ways of ancient Greece and Rome, often as honored representatives of some deity - Alexander the Great married one such woman: great ladies offered themselves at the temples: monarchs have raised their mistresses to positions of great power in the state: the old world and the new have seen the best and worst of them, and Halifax, the one-time home of the amorous William, Duke of Kent, and a major port in war and peace, has seen enough sights caused by these women to turn the modern puritan's hair grey at the mere thought of them.

With vivid memories or conceptions of the 'bad old days', this modern puritan has outlawed the prostitute and banned the very word from polite conversation, presumably with the assumption that what is not seen or heard does not exist.

This, of course, is not the case. Prostitutes have offered their bodies for gain for thousands of years, and, unless human nature changes radically in the future, they will continue to do so in the centuries to come.

Certainly there are evils, great evils, accompanying this trade in human bodies, not the least of which is the spread of venereal diseases. Today this is a pressing problem, especially among teenagers, and it is causing American medical and legal circles much anxiety. However, the answer does not lie in driving vice underground and then ignoring it. This method

of dealing with the problem can be no more effective than prohibition was in dealing with the liquor question. An example is what happened in London, England, when there was a general crack-down on visible vice following the Wolfenden report on vice. The prostitutes were driven off the streets, admittedly, but what happened then? The number of 'artists' models in Greater London rose several hundred per cent while advertising rose proportionately.

Another aspect concerns the girls themselves. Once vice is driven underground the criminal element in society inevitably takes over control. Pimps, madames and white slave rackets flourish, to be read about in the newspapers with distaste and then a shrug of the shoulders by the very people who are responsible for their existence - the ordinary citizen. Under circumstances such as these, girls who want to 'go straight' have little or no chance to escape the clutches of thugs and hoodlums.

What is the answer to the riddle? There can never be a complete one. However, improvements could be made by an enlightened society. The public and its moral watchdogs must realize that there are only two choices: vice driven underground, organized and run by criminals; or vice - including prostitution - under a form of state control, however distasteful this may be to our more 'worthy' fellow citizens.

Prostitutes should be licensed and given regular medical check-ups. Only in this way can some form of control be exercised over vice, certain health standards met, and the girls themselves given a chance to break away from a profession which society must come to understand is definitely here to stay.