

Fresh Out of Ether

by ARCADES AMBO

This is your new column—if you like it (and even if you don't) we may be around to finish out the journalistic year. We'll talk about those things that interest us and that we think might interest you, but in any event we'll talk. And this is how we intend to do it:

- When you've got a thing to say, Say it! Don't take half a day . . .
- Life is short—a fleeting vapour— Don't you fill the whole blamed paper
- With a tale which at a pinch With a tale which at a pinch Could be cornered in an inch.

Dignity be darned! We looked in on Dalhousie's "new look" in initiation this year and we don't think it is going to leave as lasting an impression as the admittedly less dignified welcoming of years gone by. Oddly enough, the source of maximum gripes arises from the freshman class followed closely by those sophomores who felt initiation most last year. It must be conceded that initiations have on occasion been carried to extreme, but under PROPER supervision an old fashioned initiation with hazing has been a greater catalyst to college spirit and amicable relationships than a hundred open forums. Our welcome to those new Dalhousians who have been deprived of an old-age heritage, which, if it wasn't dignified at least provided a memorable entry upon a college career.

But if there's a new look prevailing in initiation, the same certainly cannot be said for the college bookstore and snack bar. The same old line-ups, the same old service, the same old prices and more students than ever to complicate the situation are in evidence this year.

This year's increase in tuition fees has not been the only burden heaped on the much-padded shoulders of Joe College, nor the only drain on his perennially empty pockets. Each year, like the proverbial vox clamatis in deserto ('voice of one crying in the wilderness' for the benefit of the Latinless), the clamour arises for lower prices and better service from the Dal (?) bookstore. With malice toward none, we contend that the profit being derived from this enterprise should be going to those who patronize the university. Dalhousie, almost alone among Canadian universities, has a privately owned and operated bookstore in the sense that its entrepreneur sets the prices and reaps the entire profit. With each year's Student Council's operations curtailed by lack of funds, an arrangement less burdensome to the students and more profitable to the Council might be worthy of consideration.

Not to be forgotten is the snack bar operated in like manner. This also might be a source of profit to the near poverty-stricken Student Council and a further saving to the eat-out student who (thank goodness) can still buy a five-cent coffee while enjoying a free juice with the same meal at a downtown restaurant. As the situation prevailing in both the bookstore and snack bar is well known to the powers-that-be, a note of optimism would not be out of order in the not too distant future.

Gazette Flashback of the '80ies And Then Some

The library is almost deserted. Strange and horrid sounds are heard beneath it. Whether the elfs are the ghosts of the past or the warnings of the future, we cannot tell. An investigation should be made.

A SENIOR, concluding an elegant oration on America for the Americans, said—"I cannot go in for a union of the Canadians and Yankees, while the latter are so immoral. Let them excommunicate their immoralities, and then we may talk over the matter." We are at a loss to know what kind of a bull should be issued to have the desired effect.

A JUNIOR preparing the first act of the Adelphi of Terence, a few evenings since, spent an hour or more in a fruitless endeavor to find the meaning of the word Storax. Finally he gave up in despair, concluding that it must be an obsolete interjection corresponding to the English holloa, or something like that.

INTERESTING—A Freshman reports that he has discovered in this city an indescribable, which if not the work of art, must be very interesting to curiosity-hunters. The specimen had an inscription expressed thus: "A Gaping Asylum for Literary Inutilities". If not a chance production of nature, as some conjecture, it must undoubtedly be a relic of the monastic age.

Second Home for Every Student and How it Functions

In anticipation of the usual "stampede" of new students to acclimatize themselves to university life by spending most of their free time in the library, the Gazette feels that in order to better acquaint students with their "second home" on the Studley campus, a few words on the history, operation and the present status of the Dalhousie Library are not amiss.

Your introduction to Dalhousie came no doubt, at registration, a complicated process, made to function smoothly under the guidance of the Registrar and her efficient staff. Everything goes well, you fill in your course card, stand in line (an old Dalhousie custom) and then Miss Smith approves your course and directs you to the business office. These people endeavor to relieve you of your money as painlessly as possible. What could be nicer, the esthetic delights of English 2 for \$35.00? There's a bargain, what with signs of inflation at every turn, the soaring price of coffee, and the skyrocketing value of the printed word when bred with a cloth binding to produce a text book. Feeling at peace with the world you make a rough mental estimate of your year at Dalhousie. Hmmm, let's see four at \$35 that's \$140; one science \$50. Oh, I guess I'll get by for less than \$200, not bad. What's that you say, \$271.00, there must be some mistake, you say \$81.00 to register? What for? So you find out "what for". Student Council, Student Health (?), library fee (what that's for, I have all the books I need). Frosh you now stand at the crossroads. Stand firm to your last statement and you go the way of many scholars

before you. You have taken the first faltering step toward graduation, but isn't that what you came for?

Those of you privileged enough to be members of English I will have a conducted tour of the library under the guidance of the university librarian, Douglas Lockhead.

You will be taken to the library, shown how to obtain any desired volume, and told some of the functions of the library. Not much for the money you say? Well read on and discover the greatest dollar value at Dalhousie today.

In 1873 the library was housed in one room containing the unheard of sum of 1200 volumes and one potbellied stove which along with mufflers, overcoats and mental gymnastics provided sufficient warmth for the students.

Today you will see a most highly organized department of the university. When you step up to the circulation desk to obtain a book, your request is the result of numerous endeavors by those unseen by you.

How does a book get to you from its publisher via the circulation desk? The first function of the library is the ordering of books. Selection of new books or new editions is handled in the main by the

professors. Their selections are handed to the Order Department, who must check to see that an overzealous professor is not duplicating books, in an endeavor to crowd another faculty off the shelves. Then having determined the validity of the selections they must send orders to the book publishers. There are three main sources from which books are received. First, England, most especially Blackwell's of Oxford, book publishers and brokers, through whom one may obtain almost any desired volume; second, the U.S.A., especially Stecker-Hafner, the largest book brokers in North America, and lastly Canada where orders must be placed with the different publishers.

When the books are received they go to the order department to have their serial numbers affixed. Now they go to the cataloging department, where they are prepared by various steps. Each book receives a number which is in sequence with those other books concerning the same subject so that they may be placed as a unit on the shelves.

Then the book goes upstairs to the circulation department and its corresponding index cards are placed on the index trays. This is the heart of the library for here you will find a listing for every book under author, title and subject. If you know the author, look under his name in the index. If you don't know the author look up the subject and you will find the authors who have written about it.

The university library subscribes to about 475 periodicals, the current non-science numbers of which



Shown in the above cut is Miss Rhilda Harris, a Dalhousie graduate in Arts from Pictou, Nova Scotia. Miss Harris has recently returned from Yugoslavia, as the W.U.S.C. delegate from Dalhousie. An interesting story of Miss Harris' trip will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Gazette.

are available for reading in the Morse Room on the ground floor. The science periodicals are sent to the department libraries, but all back numbers of all periodicals are available through the circulation department.

The Book Club, on the bottom floor of the library, is for the use of those interested in current fiction, and non-fiction. It is available to all students, both faculty and alumni.

A new department in the field of library work will be inaugurated some time later this month. For those of you unmoved by the intrinsic beauty of the binomial theorem your esthetic sense may be motivated by the rental of a reproduction of a famous painting.

Thus as the past holds the key to the future, so also does the library opens the door to the degree.

W.U.S.C., Arts and Science May Issue Calendar

Tonight the Arts and Science Society in conjunction with W.U.S.C. will decide whether to introduce a Dalhousie Campus Calendar or not. If current plans materialize W.U.S.C. would provide the needed financial backing with members of the Arts and Science Society to do the actual work.

In the event that the offer is accepted the Campus Calendar should be on sale in the very near future, perhaps when the next issue of the Gazette comes out. By the time you read this story "tonight" will have passed and the outcome will be decided. The outcome itself is almost certain to be in assent of the idea technically, but the problem will be raised as to what degree of collaboration the two societies will partake.

The plans as they are so far, is to issue a twelve page calendar composed of twelve separate action shots of campus life. October

would, for example, show a shot of the football team in action; November, another of students studying in the library in preparation for the Christmas examinations, and so on. You get the general idea. It will take a good deal of effort and work on the part of both societies, but the results will most certainly be worthy. They offer the student a nice reminder of this or any other college year at Dalhousie, a year to cherish and to remember. Are you going to get one? I certainly am. I am going to be certain that I get one before they are all sold out.

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