

# THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER

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## ACTIVE DESTRUCTION

The Glee Club would be fully justified in discontinuing its Students' Nights.

To have several months' difficult, continuous, and emotional work jeered at by those who make no attempt to understand it is disheartening, to say the least. That happened last Thursday night. A few, unwilling to let their infantile minds be caught by the emotion stemming from the stage, chose instead to spoil it for others. They tried to turn a Shakespearean tragedy into a farce. They almost stopped the play.

Student apathy is one thing . . . active destruction another. Should the emotion in a play fail to effect certain members of the audience, that is only personal taste. But there is no cause for transmuting apathy into destruction.

Remedies for such misdemeanours are difficult to suggest. To cut out students' night altogether would be to penalize the innocent with the guilty. But suspension of Students' Council cards or the levying of a fine is not too much to ask for those who cannot live and let live. They are, after all, no better than criminals.

## Letters To The Editor

AN OPEN LETTER—(continued from last issue)

Subsequently Lomas joined the group and after a three hour pow-wow they gave three reasons for not allowing the book or their position. These were:

(1) They doubted my willingness and ability to finish in time for the binders.

(2) They had received a routine letter from Dr. Kerr after their intervention and they said they could now tell him they'd taken over. (giving Moreira a chance to reestablish his reputation which must have suffered as a result of his outburst at the Forum blaming the administration for student apathy.

(3) They maintained the publishers had no confidence in me (their only worry was that Moreira had informed them he controlled year book finances and, not wanting to lose \$3,750, they had to play ball with him.

I left the meeting called Burns, told him the situation, got him to insert the dedication in a section going on the press and asked him what could be done about printing the book my way. He suggested a meeting in Halifax the following day with Moreira, Lomas, and myself as he was going to be here anyway.

I then took the remaining photos I'd been holding back for several days to the engravers, explaining the situation to them.

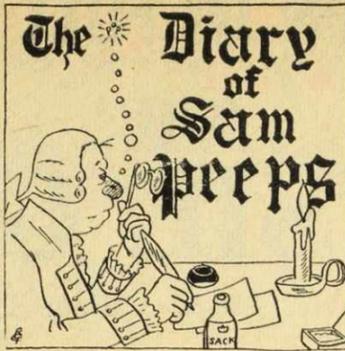
The next morning I had a conference with Burns during which I learned HE HAD stopped work on the book (Moreira version) pending the results of the conference. Then I had a two hour conference with Dr. Kerr, during which I learned he hadn't been informed of my accident or any other reason for the yearbook delay. It was then I fully realized for the first time how perfidious Moreira had been.

He told me in the fall that he'd protect me from students and administration, not to see Dr. Kerr because he was angry with me, not to write a letter to the Gazette, not to answer reasonable questions thrown at me in a Law Society meeting—in short, not to defend

my position so that if he needed a fall guy, he'd have one handy.

I wasn't surprised when Moreira refused my request that he attend a conference with Burns. When he found that work on the book had been stopped he accused me of sabotage (all I wanted was for the students to get the kind of a book they'd paid for rather than a hashed up Moreira version). He informed me for the fourth time that week that I was fired and for the fourth time I asked him on whose authority he was acting, knowing the Council knew nothing about it. I also told him I'd consider myself Editor until the Council fired me whereupon he said if I wanted to be nasty he'd get the Council to fire me that night. Democracy? I relaxed quite happily knowing that I'd done everything possible to get the students a good book, having ascertained that by the time of the meeting everything except the revised dummy (necessary because of Moreira's interference) would be in Kentville.

At the meeting which took place that evening the Council, the members, with few exceptions, were openly hostile and not as interested in getting the people who'd elected them a good book, as in getting in a lick at me. Prominent on this count were Milne, Sawyer, Moreira and Hicks. I was refused permission to interrupt Moreira on questions of fact and he made more misstatements in his talk than a political speaker at election time. After an hour's debate Sawyer's motion that the Moreira version go to press unaltered was withdrawn and a compromise was reached. This the above mentioned fought bitterly. I volunteered to go to Kentville at my own expense, either alone or under supervision (some council members think I'm dangerous) and do the THREE HOURS work necessary to finish the book. This was refused. Instead I had to spend three hours telling Carol Wood and Lomas what to do in Kentville—whereupon they went to Kentville, followed MY instructions and return-



Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1950.—To the college on the hill, where I found the actors all a-flutter, for they are to present a new masque by Will Shakespeare tonight. As none of them would speak to me but only quote lines and strut about, I left them and descended to the basement, where the athletes were lounging about in the baths in various states of nakedness. Miss May Cooker did peek her head around the door and modestly inquire if it were proper for her to enter. She was told that it was and did so. Whereupon Oddfellow MacDonnie, who had through some mischance failed until too late to take the proper precautions, not having heard Miss Cooker, departed hastily in the direction of the Baths, it being the nearest places of concealment, this to the merriment of all present.

Home again, where I dined upon a fat capon and some fine sack from the Indies.

This evening to the masque, where I found many of the scholars from the college. I had expected this performance to be, like most the students present, very wretched and had, in anticipation, brought with me some elderly eggs and a few apples much wearied by the passage of time. However, to my delight, I found the play quite excellent and forgot completely to make use of the ammunition I had thought to bring along; indeed if I had remembered I would have had no occasion to use it.

The actor who impressed me the most was one portraying the villainous knave. I was most pleased by this excellence and determined to discover who he was. Consulting a program I found the part to be played by my old friend Drawee. I looked again at the actor but could discover no likeness to my friend. It is said that an actor's excellence is determined by his ability to conceal his own identity beneath that of the person whom he portrays. If this is so, then Drawee is one of the best actors I have even seen and he greatly exceeds my expectations of him.

I was disgusted by the unruly and puerile actions of certain of the moronic groundlings in the audience, who did hoot and shout at the actors and did thereby quite disrupt the atmosphere of the play and so to make it less enjoyable to others. Did notice that they disturbed even that great actor Hairline, who with his long experience is not easily upset; and he turned to them and told them to be still, which many thought to be part of the play. I do believe that note should be taken of these persons and that in future they should be excluded from all performances of the sort, though sheer lack of scholastic ability will doubtless rid us of them in due course of time.

A small flurry of excitement was caused when the curtain covering the stage occasioned to catch fire, but the danger was soon over. However, a small gap was left in the curtain which, none but the most acute, myself amongst them of course, chanced to notice.

ed the same day, with student work on the book complete.

The Council, after shouts from Milne, Hicks and Moreira, that it was necessary to fire me to keep me from winning a moral victory and to give Moreira the Council support McKinney was refused last year as president, fired me. It is interesting that they fired me as of that evening, therefore in effect not giving Moreira the support he wanted since it wasn't made retro-active.

One more word, patient readers. I did my level best to persuade those in authority to begin work on (Continued on page three)



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