

# Dabblings

by J.A.M.

## The Midway:

In raw times, a raw story, for a raw public: Nickerbockers new novel *The Boy Came Back*. A narrative both mature and timely, concerning the return to his home of a 'no good' lad and his outcast bride. In keeping with the times lust, violence and sadism gets the emphasis. Readable, though not pleasant.

From cheerful Italy, a cheerless story on *Bitter Rice*, a controversial film whose alleged theme of sex was so perfectly done that pathos became the sexless focus of attention. Sensuous *Silvana Mangano* was the personification of sheer desire in the midst of degradation and lust; a rice husker, a jazz-dancer, a dreamer, an envier of luxury, sultry *Silvana* joined forces with a brutal thief, was whipped and assaulted by him in the rain, was made to flood and destroy her associate workers' forty days of labour in the fields, shot and killed her lover who fell swinging from a meat hook through his arm, and in final recompense leaped from a tower erected for an empty harvest ball to her death and a shroud of rice sprinkled sardonically upon her dead form by her friends. The picture was blessed with excellent acting on the part of all the principals and spiked with atmospheric scenes of women in pain and sickness. *Silvana*, in singularly alluring fashion said: "Don't rush me—later!" in the preview; in nation-wide reviews adjectives qualified her as 'Steamy', 'sensuous', etc. In fact, the public was insulted by a tremendous campaign of sex to assure its success. Though it was not a bit of a lie, the success was inevitable for the film stood on its own qualities of drama, documentation and performance. We grade it first class—and not for the advertised reasons.

## All Our Yesterdays:

Ring out wild bells, praise Allah and bow to the life-giving East, for in the land of the Ageless Sphinx and slumbering Nile, Egypt's Pharaoh, Farouk, with the grace of Narriman, his Queen, and all the youthful zeal of her eighteen sand-filled summers, have given a new life to the land where Death is loved, thus fulfilling his many divorce-causing dreams.

## Wax Tracks:

Primitive, brutal and savage is Jazz whose phenomenal creation and widespread popularity is not only indicative of the fundamental, uninhibited and undignified characteristics of mankind, but unleashes all the generally incarcerated wild emotions in a frenzied pounding of feet, slapping hands and writhing hips. The solid, two-beat ecstasy of rhythmic splendour lifts out of the darkest Congo the tribal dance and places it in 'civilized' locales and on apparently placid people. Thus, on the shaking-shouldered, swivel-hipped, smouldering-eyed *Silvano Mangano*, jazz had laid appropriately its amoral hand and gave it to the bitterness of rice, the cries of painful delight. So into an excellent film (c.f. *MIDWAY*) was injected an excellent reflection of our times so saturated with the oxidizing 'alcohol' of jazz, which, to the afflicted, hands the delirium of surrealistic joy. Jazz is the idiot child that walks through psychiatric times, not confining itself only to the corruption of nefarious rice fields—an idiot child a bewildered world nurtures.

## Miscellany:

Re-named, during last Tuesday's Editorial, and contradicting all the best and accepted Histories in the world, ancient England's dictator *Oliver to John, Cromwell*. Not a reflection on the education of the writer, just a slip of the mind. Incidentally, that was a contributed editorial.

Sour are the uses of obscenity. So think all decent and dignified men, so thinks our similarly qualified president, *Dr. Kerr*, who stormed, raved and laid down the law over a certain immoral defacement of a Commerce Dance Poster by a group of unknown, base and immature men (or women), who undoubtedly pride themselves in being gentleman, one day recently.

## The Tiger Smiles:

Drowned, in an eruption of lukewarm water, or nearly so, one day last week, was cartoonist *Fred Hollett*, who opportunisticly and valiantly tried to capture the dryless humour of the incident on paper for a future cartoon while gasping rescuers did the Australian crawl up the hall. At ebb tide it was discovered that luckless *Fred* had merely attempted to quaff his thirst at a fountain in the new building. Little did he realize that in reality said gadgets are built-in showers in disguise. Blubbered he, on surfacing: "An Order of the Bath would be appropriate here;"

By a truly remarkable chain of thought, Order of the Bath recalls another delightful institution, the Order of the Garter and Garter suggests *Carmen*. Seen, in the same hall at dull-less Dalhousie, across the fast receding lake, a nameless coed, born for the gypsy delights of another era. Sixteen male sets of saucer-eyes watched the female of visions pass and steam of *Hollett Lake* betrayed disquietude. Wondered the observer, what hapless professor has to concentrate on a text while such dark eyes burned in the class below. Unknown her name, but for reincarnation, here is a sound argument.

Aggravated, angered and assaulted, by a stranger's rum-coated words and a breath that bleached the pullman's curtains, a young flower of Dalhousie shook her infuriated golden mane and called the porter. Later that night the indiscreet one returned and voiced an obvious request, was met with a foot-indelicately and ungently placed on his ear, and *Virtue's* re-call of the porter. Safe and unmolested by this harsh lesson of Life, let it be announced herewith said loveliness is home from the wars and the hunter returned to the hills.

In conclusion, from Gray a pure-white word:

... where ignorance is bliss,  
'T is folly to be wise.

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Introducing . . .

ASTRIDA GAIGALA



Another of the European students gracing our halls this year is Latvian-born *Astrida Gaigala*, already well known around the campus for her prowess at the piano. Born in Rigo, capital of the forementioned country, *Astrida* remained there until the city was captured by the Russians, at which time the family fled to Germany.

Having begun to learn music at the age of fourteen, while she was still in Latvia, *Astrida* continued her piano studies in Germany. After completing her high school education, she devoted all her time to music at the Germany Academy of Music, often practising as much as eight hours a day. Since her stepfather had secured a contract to build a cement mill in Newfoundland, in February of last year the family moved to Cornerbrook. *Astrida* did not take long to become well known there, for she soon accumulated seven pupils, and, what is more, a contract with CBC for a fifteen-minute Sunday afternoon program.

Tall, talented *Astrida* says she has no very definite plans, her most important object being to graduate (she is in her third year), but she is interested in teaching and radio work, having had experience in both fields.

"A little crazy about operas" among which she has no particular favourite, *Dalhousie's* star of the airways also like to swim, and she is an extremely accomplished knitter. *Astrida* found it difficult to name her favourite composer, but finally decided on *Beethoven*, with *Liszt* her pet for the piano.

Echoing the views of a good many of our Foreign students, *Astrida* declares she would like to return to Europe, but only for a trip, as she thinks Canada a good place to live. However, she admits to occasional homesickness for her many friends in the former part of the world.

Everyone at Dalhousie will surely agree that *Astrida* has made an important place for herself in this university, especially since her breathtaking performance on our recent radio broadcast. Incidentally, the day after that program,

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an elderly gentleman, probably recognizing the college-type (!) stopped this reporter on the street and asked "who is the girl who played *Rachmaninoff* so beautifully last night?", which is beyond a doubt a real compliment to our musical prodigy.

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## Memories

I ran across the moonlit strand  
And dove into the sea;  
I swam beyond the furthest star,  
And found myself in thee.

Below the velvet mist,  
Above the drifting sand—  
Even as we kissed,  
Blessed by heaven's Hand.

Angel voices soaring  
Through darkness into light;  
Together shall we be  
Enveloped by love's might.

—MEN

## All About The Play

The major dramatic presentation of the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society this year, is a popular and well known three-act comedy entitled "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay". It is a dramatization of the book by *Cornelia Otis Skinner* and *Emily Kimbrough*. The book is based on the teen-age trials and tribulations of these two girls, and in the dramatization by *Jean Kerr*, they are presented in such a way that the audience is kept in a continual state of glee.

The two starring roles are played by *Joanne Murphy* and *Gay Esdale*. *Gay* is a newcomer to the Dal stage, but the people connected with the play have every confidence that her performance will long be remembered as a highlight of the dramatic productions of the Glee Club. *Joanne*, who is what one might call a veteran of our stage, has appeared in every major production since she first arrived at Dal two years ago. Perhaps her most outstanding role was that of *Juliet*, when "Romeo and Juliet" was presented here last year.

Playing opposite *Gay* and *Joanne* are *Ron Pugsley* and *Eddie Rubin*. *Ron*, in his sophomore year at Dalhousie, has appeared in two plays . . . as *Taro* in "God Caesar" and as *Pengard* in "Captain Applejack", he has shown considerable talent as an actor. Everybody, of course, remembers *Eddie Rubin* as *Captain Applejack*. Here, we have a superb performance . . . one that will probably not be matched in light comedy for many a year to come. *Eddie* has also appeared in "Hay Fever" and "Romeo and Juliet" here at Dal.

*Mr.* and *Mrs. Skinner* are played by *Jack O'Neil* and *Natasha Coffin*, respectively. *Jack* is a first year Law student, and an actor of which the Law School may be justly proud. He hails from *St. John's, Newfoundland*, and for those of you who had the misfortune not to be in *Liverpool* for the production of "Captain Applejack", we might add that he did a very commendable job with the part of *Johnny Jason*. As *Mrs. Skinner*, *Natasha Coffin* must portray the "sensible part" of a play that seems to have a number of people without one iota of common sense. 'Tash has appeared in the *Inter-University Drama League* for the last two years, in *Chekov's "Marriage Proposal"*, and *Price's "God Caesar"*. Playing her lead-

ing parts with understanding in these plays, we feel confident that she will be as capable, and will, once again, come through with an excellent performance.

The smaller parts are played by *Irwin Nudleman*, as *Monsieur de la Croix*, *Sterling Feero* as the *Steward*, *Dave Peel* as the *Admiral*, *Madame Elise* by *Norma Messenger*, *Winnifred* by *Nancy Wickwire*, *Harriet* by *Joan Edwards*, *The Purser* and the *Window Cleaner* by *John Nichols*, *Therese* by *Sandra Fraser*. All these roles will, we feel, be excellently portrayed . . . every one has appeared on the stage either at Dal or in High School, so there is certainly no lack of experience in the cast. We think that it is well balanced, well cast, and now, we can only hope for the best results, which will be sure to come out of the many hours of rehearsal that *Mr. Pigot* has spent with the cast. The Glee Club can assure you of a fun-filled evening . . . don't miss "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay".

## Law Notes

Poor Man's Law Ball—Saturday, January 26th was set as the date of the Poor Man's Law Ball, an annual affair thrown by the Law Society to fill in the long gap between the first term and the Law Formal. *Neville Lindsay*, *Jeff Flinn* and *Jack O'Neil* were named to a committee to arrange the necessary arrangements and at last report things are going well. The party is being held at the Seagull Club, scene of last year's party. Last year's fling featured a brilliantly executed can-can. It is to be hoped that the precedent of high quality entertainment will be followed.

FRAUD!—Billed for a number of subscriptions to U. S. magazines he did not order, *Gerald 'Gabby' Regan* is scouting around with blood in his eye to discover the culprit who forged his name to subscription blanks and sent cards announcing the 'gifts' to a number of persons in the Law School. Big developments may be expected in this case shortly, folks. The circle of suspects is being narrow down one by one. Watch this column for developments. *Mr. Regan* may not be the only one faced with this dilemma. Moreover, every law student knows inside information as to who did it—or so rumours would indicate.

HOCKEY.—The Law hockey team presently stands at the top of the Interfac league, but a question of eligibility of one of the players is bothering the legal minds. When is a student not a student was discussed at the last Law Society meeting at which team manager *Bob McInnes* gave a report on how the situation stood. Law, it seems, sought a ruling as to the status of a student working on his thesis and relied on the reply that he was still a student in so far as the University was concerned. The matter now rests with the DAAC.

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