

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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Letters To The Editor

Shirreff Hall,
Halifax, N. S.,
Feb. 21, 1953.

The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette,
Dear Sir:

Like Mr. Stubbington, I too, was at Jacob Gimpel's recital last Monday night. However, I feel that his unnecessarily brutal criticism of Mr. Gimpel's performance was unwarranted. The recital was unusual, both in content and in performance, and for these reasons it probably left a lot of people unsatisfied. Mr. Stubbington has probably already noticed that the works performed were nearly all early opus numbers. This type of programming is unusual, but by no means unique.

Mr. Gimpel is obviously a revolutionary against the established methods of piano playing. (He has two qualities which I have never noticed to the same extent in any other pianist. Not only the beautiful precise manner in which he played his programme, but also his whole personality are indicative of a real musician.) There was little in his recital of the intense emotionalism heard in the playing of so many pianists. His attitude to music is, I think, more intellectual than most people are prepared to enjoy. This is quite obviously the reason he failed to impress Mr. Stubbington with his Chopin. (However, there is a tendency among most players to over-sentimentalize Chopin. One must not forget that this type of interpretation is quite out of keeping with Chopin's personality and physical limitations.) Good music is, after all, much more than a mixture of jangled emotions—it is a state of mind. Mr. Gimpel realized this, and for that reason his performance lacked the histrionics that the average audience demands. I am not praising him without reservation. I had the feeling that he occasionally sacrificed phrasing and continuity of line for rhythm, and I felt just as bewildered when I came out of the auditorium as many people must have felt.

Most people are not prepared to accept music on the level where he presented it. He has the marks of a true musician—one who is able to see beyond the personal, emotional aspect of musical performance.

This should always be the aim of the critic as well. In fact, a good music critic must be on guard against three things. First, he must never compare a performance with the very best he has heard. Secondly, he must never criticize for the sake of criticizing. Finally, he must never lose sight of the purpose of criticism. Just as the finest musicians must have a conception of music that transcends his own personal prejudices, and be able to judge music on a more universal level. Of course, he can never be completely objective, but he must never find that he has to rely completely on his own petty likes and dislikes to judge a performance. Musical criticism is an art, and it should be undertaken only by those who are prepared to consider musical expression as something more bigger than the average capacity to understand.

Yours truly,
Nancy Fraser

Halifax,
Feb. 19

Editor,
Dal Gazette

Three weeks ago during Mock Parliament, the group which it is my honour to lead, introduced a resolution calling for provision in future Mock Parliaments for participation therein by interested students from outside the Faculty of Law. The Progressive Conservatives in the House, with the exception of one member who abstained, voted solidly against the resolution and thus it was defeated by a vote of 32-30. Although the constitutions of the political clubs say that membership is open to any student the Tories did not agree that law students (who have an inherent interest in politics) should take the lead among other students and said that if the other

U. N. Problems Are Discussed

The United Nations Association and the Dalhousie Committee on Outside Lectures in the Arts jointly sponsored a public meeting at which Mr. Edgar W. McInnis was the speaker. He spoke on the major issues confronting the United Nations Assembly. Mr. McInnis comes from Charlottetown, was professor of history at Toronto U. and is now national president of the Canadian Institute for International Affairs and a delegate to the U.N. Assembly.

He began his informal talk, describing the activities of the Assembly. In the coming session, Korea, germ warfare charges, Trygve Lie's resignation and the status of the secretariat will be discussed, along with anything else put on the agenda.

Next, he described the buildings, seating, and translation service, the various committees and procedure.

Describing the Korean issue, he said that the U.N. has avoided discussing it while the peace talks were going on. The disagreement has been over the prisoner of war issue. He suggested that China was so badly hurt that she wanted either more help from Russia or a peace, while Russia wanted to keep the U.N. pinned down. Therefore, peace talks and stalling. Also, Russia wants the prisoners forcibly returned, to prevent future desertions, while the west wants to encourage future desertions, in case of future war. India's Krishna Menon worked out compromise, believing it had support from Communist China, and Vyshinsky tore into it to prevent China from accepting it.

Mr. McInnis spent considerable time on various problems concerning colonial issues. The Arab-Asian bloc is extremely sensitive to anything resembling discrimination, and the western powers are always under suspicion of being hypocrites.

In reply to questions, he elaborated some on Korea and described the Palestine situation. He described the difficulties of amending the charter to allow greater powers to the U. N. to investigate racial and colonial matters. He also said that Communist China could not very well be admitted while the Korean war went on; but when the war is ended, it should be admitted because it is the de facto government; and that it probably would have been admitted by now, had there been no Korean war. He also said that if Nationalist troops were brought into the war, it would be discussed in the U.N. because someone would be sure to bring it up. Again, that the morale of the secretariat had been lowered because of attacks in the Congress, and that a commission was being set up to deal with the problem.

The meeting was opened by Professor C. H. Mercer, and closed by Miss Marion Dauphinee, with thanks to Mr. McInnis for his very interesting discussion.

students want a Mock Parliament, let them have one of their own. This is a situation unparalleled at any other university in Canada.

My point in writing this letter is this. One of the P.C.'s who spoke against the resolution was Dan Chilcott, who has now just been elected president of the National Progressive Conservative Student Federation, an organization in which membership up to this time has certainly not been limited to law students. I would like to ask Dan to explain through the columns of the Gazette whether his policy as National president will be to bring the Dal P.C. club in line with the rest of the country or whether he will advocate that the activities of his Federation be confined to the Law Schools of Canada. While it is too much to expect from their seniors, surely it is not too much to ask that the university Conservatives should have a consistent policy for the whole of Canada.

Yours very truly,
Ronald C. Stevenson,
President, Dal Liberal Club

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Sam Speaks

This time the Dramatic Society didn't need to write up their own praises. The play was good, the set was fine, and Edwin Rubin was terrific. For those who denied themselves the pleasure of said play I give the following improved version, but if your name is either Ken or Len—don't read it:

"Dinah Mite"

presents
"The School for us Bands"

Scene I

BANG! (Strating the show off with a bang)

NickOld: (butterly butler wearing pants a trifle tight under the arms)—"What's that on your lip, honey?"

Ann Amac: (The beauty of the show, wearing one of those dresses that kept everybody warm but herself)—"That's not honey, my nose is running"

NickOld: "Pardon me, I'm looking for a small man with a mustache"

Ann Amac: "If he's a very small man—why don't you use a microscope?"

Enter P. Eel (You have all heard of the March of Time; well, this fellow is a waste of time. He's a fellow you will see in pictures some day—with numbers across the bottom.)

They all dance around and sing a son dedicated to Laugh Larson:

"Cows may come
And calves may go
But the bull goes on forever."

P. Eel: "I wore two different shoes tonight, and one is much higher than the other."

NickOld: "With one foot higher than the other, how did you get here?"

P. Eel: "I walked along University Av., with one foot in the gutter."

NickOld: "I hope you didn't step on anyone, we know."

P. Eel: "Every bone in my body aches."

NickOld: "Your lucky you're not a Herring."

"Hearing" this most of the audience leaves.

THE MORAL OF THE PLAY —
"A wedding ring is like a tourniquet—it stops your circulation."

From ACP

France: No Strike . . .

An announced strike of French students was called off when the minister of education promised to listen to their problems.

The National Union of Students listed their grievances as chiefly concerning restaurants and student housing, and cautioned the minister that the strike was only temporarily postponed.

East Germany: Purge Is Still On

Kurt Hager a leading member of the Communist party in East Ber-

U. of Sask. Submits Plan

In response to the interest shown on the University of Saskatchewan campus over the Russian Student Exchange the Student's Representative Council instructed one of its own representatives to act in this matter. A committee was formed and brought forward the following recommendations:

1. The exchange of Soviet and Canadian students should be concurrent.
2. Exchange students must spend a previously allotted time in each university.
3. Both delegations consist from five to fifteen students; one-third of the Soviet delegation consist of students who speak fluent English or French, one-third of the students on the Canadian delegation speak fluent Russian or some other widely used Slavic tongue.
4. The Canadian delegation reflect equitable distribution from all parts of Canada.
5. In the event that this exchange, for unforeseen reasons does not materialize, that the funds raised be directed toward some worthy student project.
6. The above recommendations are subject to revision to meet the mutual satisfaction of the participating universities and are therefore submitted as our basis of discussion for realizing this project.

Subsequent to the passage of the above recommendations, on action taken by the Council, the Canadian Soviet Reciprocal Exchange Committee was formally adopted as a functioning Committee of the S.R.C. In addition, the Committee is now co-chaired by a member of the Council, but, remains solely responsible for its own financial obligations.

Offers Aid to Handicapped

Education for Hearing Handicapped Children Inc., an organization dedicated to oral teaching of the deaf, offers a year's fully paid post graduate scholarship to the Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, Mass. The Teacher Education Department, attached to the residential school, prepares teachers for the deaf in the use of oral method. The course of lip-reading, speech and language is covered in a programme consisting of lectures on all aspects of education of the deaf, assigned readings, observations of classroom work and practice teaching.

Applicants for this scholarship should be (a) graduates of a four year course from an accredited university or (b) graduate teachers, preferably with some experience in either pre-school or regular school.

The shortage of teachers in this specialized field is acute and this scholarship is offered to increase the number of qualified oral teachers of the deaf in Canada. Education for Hearing Handicapped Children Inc., however, would have first call on the services of a student who qualified through their scholarship, should they be in need of a teacher.

For further information, please contact Mrs. R. W. Heward, 9 Redpath Row, Montreal or Mrs. L. Goldstein, 3185 Linton apt 4, Montreal.

lin, said the purge of "anti-democratic elements, lazy-bones and dissolute persons" from universities is far from complete.

Opponents of Socialism are still trying to spread "the poison of bourgeois ideology" among students, Hager said.

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