

Dalhousie GAZETTE

CANADA'S OLDEST STUDENT PUBLICATION

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SPECIAL CONVOCATION

On Tuesday morning there will be a special Convocation in the Gym at 10.30 A.M., when the University will award honorary degrees to four men whose names at least are known to most of us as eminent in their particular fields. It is hoped that as large a number of students as possible will attend the ceremony in honour of three of our most eminent alumni, Dr. Creighton, Major Fraser and Sis James Dunn, and one of the Maritimes' most distinguished educators and scholars, Dr. Patterson, retiring President of Acadia. Fuller details appear on page nine of this issue.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Chivalry's Had It

I'm just a trifle weary of using the editorial "we". Besides I want to say a few things that have been on my mind, and I might be considered unfair to the GAZETTE if I were to incorporate these mouthings as a part of its so-called policy.

Several days ago I was being carried along Barrington Street in one of Halifax's "yellow perils" when a dignified elderly "lady" climbed on board. There were no seats vacant so I rose and offered her mine. She stared at me for a second or two, and then, in a cold, haughty voice, said "Keep on sitting." — Well, sister, I will keep on sitting. I've had enough of trying to be chivalrous for people like you. It's too bad, though, that finer ladies than you will have to stand while I sit.

Now don't misjudge me. I'm not being hasty. I have been scorned before by dames of this breed, and I have no doubt that many males who read this have also been treated similarly. Several years ago I was provoked to a point of observing the behaviour of the "fairer" sex. I know that it's not fair to generalize, but, men, beware! In this instance I could not but notice how many times I went out of my way to hold open doors for women who breezed by in full sail without so much as taking the scowls off their faces. At that time, I must admit, I naturally went on a bit of a rampage. After several weeks of observation and trying to decide whether to slam a door in a feminine face, I approached a boiling point. Then one day I happened to pass a shop where a long queue of persistent, unfeminine female creatures clamored for nylons. I guess, perhaps, I should have explained my behaviour to all the women I pushed out of the way that day. But, on second thought, why should I? They seldom explain theirs. My only regret was that the stockings I purchased were about two sizes too large for any of my friends.

Be cautioned, girls! You can still repair the damage caused by a few ignorant old, and potential, young, battle-axes. Just get them to smile once in a while. I'm always amazed at what I can do for a smile.

On Prejudices

"There's nothing worse than a Canadian — unless, of course, it might be a Liberal, or perhaps a Christian." That statement, I believe, is every bit as sensible as any such statement or implication as the following: "There's nothing worse than a Communist — unless, of course, it might be a Negro, or a Jew, or a Japanese or a German or a Newfoundlander." Am I being absurd? — Well, just listen to conversations of any group of people anywhere. I wish that the pedigree of people who make such statements would show for all to see. We should merely be content with what we have been given and not worry too much about where God has placed us, nor what color or creed we are. — And, incidentally, were you angered by the initial statement? — If you were, examine yourself — your prejudice is showing. I realize that I am treading on thin ice when I criticize prejudices. I know that I have a few — but I don't hurt people with mine.

Home Thoughts From Abroad

(Eds Note: The following editorial is a reprint from THE ARGOSY WEEKLY.)

Teachers or Scholars

What is the necessary qualification of a good teacher? Is it a Master's degree from Oxford or a Ph. D. from Columbia? Is it his academic accomplishment? Or is it his long years of experience?

Many people would answer affirmatively to these questions and we must admit that these are the outstanding characteristics of many of the professors and lecturers with whom we have come in contact during the last few years. But actually these are the characteristics that tend to cover up weakness in teaching ability.

A dozen degrees earned by scholarships will never necessarily make that person a teacher unless he has additional qualifications. And this is where we strike the bone of contention.

We have too many professors filling teaching positions whose abilities along this line are practically nil. We don't want men or women in these roles just because they have a wealth of knowledge and wisdom stored in their minds — for many of them will keep their wisdom to themselves for evermore, unable to pass it on.

We definitely advocate a change in policy regarding faculty. What most students require are professors who are going to teach them something they wouldn't get from a book by themselves. Mount Allison would gain more prestige by what it teaches the students than by what its faculty members know or have done in the past.

Further, we contend that all professors should be hired on a temporary basis only, subject to approval by the students. After a period of a year, students can give a true picture of a professor's teaching ability. It is amazing to think that University officials add professors to their faculty without having heard them lecture. It is rather illogical to think that academic achievements are sufficient qualification.

We can find prominent examples in every walk of life. Does a star hockey player necessarily become a first class coach or do front line movie actors become producers and directors? Very common examples, it is true, but nevertheless they support our argument that "scholar" and "teacher" are not synonymous.

Here is our suggestion. The University should devise a rating system by which our professorial staff would be classified by students who have taken their particular courses. Then, on the basis of this rating, replace the "deadwood" that has been accumulating over the years with younger staff members who have, in addition to their academic training learned a bit of teaching psychology and instructional technique. The affect on the students would be terrific!

Raise the teaching standard first — the learning standard would almost automatically follow.

Why They Marry?

Why in the world do women marry such good-for-nothing creatures as men? Because there ain't anything else to marry. So what?

MOST PIPE SMOKERS SAY "Yes!"

Ask any pipe smoker these questions . . . Do you like a tobacco that keeps your tongue cool? . . . a tobacco that packs easily? . . . a tobacco that burns smoothly? . . . a tobacco that stays lit? The answer will always be emphatically "Yes!"

And that my friend is why Picobac is the most popular pipe tobacco in Canada to-day.

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For full information write to THE REGISTRAR.