

# BARE FACTS Of The Communist Student Problem

The invitation extended to communist students to visit Canada a few years ago, threw the Canadian student community into turmoil. For the first time Canadian university students realized the need for a concrete and well defined policy in their dealings with the communist students and their spokesman, the International Union of Students. After weeks of blaring headlines, heated student forms and threatened resignations from the National Federation of Canadian University Students, the communists were politely told that a visit was not possible at that time.

What is the feeling among Canadian universities now towards such a visit, or even more pertinent, what is the policy of Canadian college students in their dealings with the communist student world? In answer to this query, the appalling truth, harsh though it may seem, is that students in general have no positive thoughts on the subject—a situation which is deserving of serious thought and consideration, as it is having repercussions in Canada as well as abroad.

Pavelis Sadurskis, an observer at the International Student Conference, held at the University of Birmingham, England, was very concerned with this problem of East-West student relations. He fled from his native Latvia in the early 40's, following the Russian occupation and enslavement of his country. He was attending the Birmingham conference as an observer from the Latvian Students in Exile. During a recess in the proceedings we had an opportunity to talk with him, and during our discussion we asked him about his impressions of the conference and particularly his feelings about the heated discussions of the Communist proposal to initiate a special conference to reconcile the differences in the student world.

His reply to my question was filled with despair and disappointment. "The students in the West," he said, "show little concern for the atrocities committed on students behind the Iron Curtain, and have failed to realize their responsibilities to them, and the need for a definite policy in their dealings with the Communists."

While his reply was not a specific condemnation of Canadian apathy in the matter, it did indicate the responsibility we have towards other students and particularly to those who are now enslaved by the Communists.

Pavelis was to prepare a broadcast in Sweden, for transmission to Latvian students behind the Iron Curtain, reporting on the conference sessions and the policies adopted for future dealings with the International Union of Students, a report which would do little to justify the hope that enslaved students have in their fellow students in other parts of the world.

Does this one instance of unconcern stand in isolation or are there other situations in which there is an evident lack of policy on the part of Canadian students in their dealings with the Communist world? This question can best be answered if we note a few of the happenings in the international student world during the past few years. The world of students is now split into two camps, the Communist International Union of Students on one hand and the International Student Conference on the other. This division was discussed at length during the I.S.C. in Birmingham with no reconciliation of differences or a prospect of such a reconciliation in the future. In light of this stalemate it behooves the Canadian student community to seek a solution by discussing the problem, through the student councils, student forums and in the college press.

Whether or not Canadian students in general approve or are aware of the Communist-financed trips for Canadian student leaders to the annual I.U.S. conference, is debatable. However, last year, as in previous years, Canadian university students attended these conferences as observers. Last fall, Peter Martin, now president of the National Federation of Canadian University Students, attended the conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, as spokesman for Canadian students.

Another important decision in our dealings with the Communist students was made at the assembly of the World University Service in Helsinki, Finland, where Canadian W.U.S. delegates backed a motion to exclude the Communists from the executive of this organization—a decision little known to Canadian students.

## ...And I Will Show You Fear in a Handful of Dust...

from "The Wasteland" by T. S. Eliot



But a lot of dust, by handfuls or perhaps only pinches, is being blown off the books in the Macdonald Memorial Library, as students settle down in earnest to their preparations for examinations. Shown above is a corner of the main reading room in the Library. Line forms to the left, please! It is, of course, only fair to explain that most of the dust is not acquired through disuse, but because construction is underway on the adjoining Kipling wing.

## EVENTS IN OFFING AT KING'S COLLEGE

by Marilla Merritt

A three-act play, *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, by John Dighton, is the first item on the agenda for next term's offerings of the KCGDS. It will be produced at the Dal Gym on January 16, 17 and 18. The locale is a boarding school, and it will be interesting to see what happens when a boys' boarding school has to share quarters with another school. Unbeknown to the boys, the other school is a girls' school.

How the teachers try to keep this situation quiet and hidden from the parents is very amusing, especially when the play reaches its climax with the arrival of two sets of parents, one couple to see a girl and the other to see a boy. This is a play based on coincidences. Directed by Dora Chalice, well-known in Halifax for her work with the Theatre Arts Guild, *The Happiest Days of Your Life* should be well worth seeing.

Close to Easter, the Society will present an oratorio directed by Leonard Mayoh, in the King's Chapel and as well in several Anglican churches in the city.

This article is in no way a condemnation of decisions made on behalf of Canadian students at the above conferences, these decisions were made by delegates who had given serious thought to the problems and the gravity of their results. Rather, it is a plea to Canadian students to make themselves cognizant of the present problems existing between East and West and to develop a concrete policy in meeting these problems.

The present absence of policy and interest in these problems is

clearly indicated in the lack of debate and discussion on the part of student councils, student bodies and in the press.

The need for serious thought in our dealings with the Communists is quite apparent. Only when we realize our responsibilities will we avoid such embarrassing incidents as results over the invitation extended to Russian students to visit Canada a few years ago.

—by Dennis Madden

# LAW FOR THE LAYMEN

Part 3

by Malcolm Smith

It has been well said that the early settlers carried the Common Law across the ocean with them in their hip flasks. Yet it took the wisest of statesmen to realize that this influx and the tendency towards internationalism would mean that Canada could never become a national state if she did not hurry up. Consequently a remedial bill known as Prohibition was rushed through parliament, which said there should be a Fresh Start. In popularizing this movement the nationalists were greatly aided by the efforts of a Canadian crooner called Bing, who proved that Canada had complete autonomy by suing the King.

Now assured of her independence, and wildly waving proposed national flag consisting of a beaver chewing on a Fleur-de-Lis, Canada rushed to participate in the British Empire Games. Often called 'Post Office' this game is played to the tune of Davy Crockett and consists of pretending you are like the United States. A popular variation is pretending you are not like the United States.

But prohibition had had two unforeseen consequences. The Cape Bretoners, fearful of losing their scotch heritage, at once took individual action to remedy the evil. A touchingly democratic era was born in the Maritimes of lawyers and simple fisherfolk joining to face a common danger. And simple fishing boats plying their innocent trade in defence of individual

freedom had two important consequences for the Maritimes — the growth of learning (because everyone wanted to join in) and the establishment of Liberalism (which said that everybody should get what they wanted if the government wanted them to have it).

The other consequence was the Great Depression. While this was a natural consequence of Prohibition

it was also caused by the women, who liked prohibition, and had gained new power under the Dower Act, sponsored by the I.O. D.E., which said they owned a third of everything. In its determination to prove its supremacy Parliament was forced to pass another controversial act called the New Deal which said (a) That Parliament could do anything it

liked and (b) that henceforth all women were men.

There was futile resistance on the part of the women with a campaign called the New Look for a while, but this was soon dropped when the women found a champion in a popular provincial premier and, rallying to his stirring cry of "Read on MacDonald", made a frontal attack with Judicial Interpretation. Often jokingly called Interpreting the Will of the Legislature this was a legal game in which the legislature said what it meant and the courts said it meant something else.

Parliament retorted by inventing Administrative Law and telling the courts to steer clear and thus began the great struggle over the Distribution of Powers which only ended when it was decided that the executive power should be President Eisenhower and there must be Co-existence. Things quieted down for a while and thus the popular saying in Washington: Dull, Duller, Dulles.

Not that this was to last long for Britain immediately declared war to prove that Churchill Had Been Right All Along. Not wanting to be left out, the United States said she would be neutral but help England, and sent along Teddy Roosevelt with his famous Roughnecks to conquer Cuba with a big stick. He was, of course, the heir to the famous railway fortune, the F.D.R.

Canada hesitated at first, not wanting it to be thought she HAD to declare war, but eventually decided to declare war on Italy because there was an Italian ship in the St. Lawrence she wanted.

What happened we'll tell you after Christmas (if you're still here).

(The author regrets he cannot personally answer the voluminous mail he has received. However, readers who enclose a stamped envelope may get an answer if of sufficient interest).

Answers to Correspondents. I. Gouzenko: We regret there is little that can be done to protect your copyright in Russia but feel there will be little infringement.

Mother of Two: Space is too short to dwell on the legal advantages of a common law wife compared with a mistress. It depends on your temperament.

Fatboy: We deplore the use of your name under a synonym although it may be necessary in your case. Why don't you write and explain your reaction?

Carolyn: You should have been more careful in Ottawa, but don't let it spoil your sleep. Goodnight.

## A Worm's-Eye View of Christmas

The efforts of one's brain at a time like this are, I am afraid, rather like those in the MS which Edgar Allen Poe supposedly found in the proverbial bottle. Personally, I can think of far more useful things to find in a bottle. Once again, dear friends, into the Maelstrom!

Joyous Christmastide approaches, and our beloved mentors have doffed their customary air of jocularity. Which of us, I wonder, is destined to be the first Yule log? Woodsman, spare that tree!

I can almost hear the bells now. (Ask not for whom they toll.) The Middle Ages used to have a tradition that if you found out, that person would die. In this case, he might pass on.

But leave us not look on the dark side of things. Perhaps we will suddenly grow blind, or a tree will fall on us, or we can have a mental breakdown, or two. There is hope yet. According to a recent survey made in the States of the usual diet of students (including healthful and nutritious peanuts, coffee, chocolate bars, pop, hotdogs, and hamburgers, the average meal that a typical student gets at the typical canteen will not even keep a rat alive; its eyes glaze, its knuckles swell, and its bones get soft. The symptoms are appearing in most of us already. Nos murituros te saluemus!

—by Dave Millar

## Evolution Of Meds

Things have changed for Med students since 1870 "when an attic room at Dal was the only space available for the study of anatomy." But the Faculty's endured it and today can look back on a colourful early history.

It was through the courageous efforts of a group of Halifax physicians in 1867, and the cooperation of the Dalhousie Board of Governors the following year, that the only medical school in the Maritimes at that time and since was established in this city. But it wasn't easy; the story of the struggle to maintain the school since its birth is one of hardship through lack of finance and friction from opinionated factions.

The need of a medical school in Halifax was long realized before 1867, but it was not until December 10 of that year that Halifax physicians met to discuss the feasibility of such an establishment. They approached the Dalhousie Board of Governors in January 1868, and their proposals were approved and a Medical Faculty with its own by-laws was set up. But the Board of Governors still controlled all appointments and policy.

The first session opened in May, 1868, and closed in July of the same year, instruction having been given in the equivalent of the present pre-Med course. Arrangement was made with universities in Upper Canada for students to pursue the remainder of their studies there. Clinical lectures were held at the Provincial and City Hospital, the City Dispensary and the City Alms House; and the Museum of Dalhousie was removed to provide a lecture room for students. But that didn't solve all problems. Generally speaking the Faculty had neither funds nor room for further expansion; they found it extremely difficult to pay for gas and chemicals used for instruction; and anatomical material was very expensive to import. Nevertheless it was decided two years later that the University would grant a full degree in medicine.

To accommodate additional students, the Postmaster was removed from Dalhousie and his offices were remodelled for classrooms. Thus in 1872, the first class of five were graduated with full medical degrees.

But in 1874, serious friction arose between the Faculty and the University. The Medical School decided to build a college of its own, grant degrees and make its own by-laws, thereby separating the University and the Medical Faculty. An Act was granted by the Legislature to incorporate the new Halifax School of Medicine and a building was erected at the corner of College and Carleton Streets. For nine years the Halifax Medical School conferred degrees, but again became affiliated with Dalhousie in 1885, and in 1911 the University alone resumed the teaching of medicine.

In 1920 the Rockefeller and Carnegie corporations made equal contributions to the University totalling \$1,000,000, which resulted in the improvement and expansion of the Medical School, and the increase to a full time teaching staff.

The University Medical School now graduates about sixty students a year as compared to the thirteen graduated in 1875, and is rated Grade A in North America.