

DAL GAZETTE

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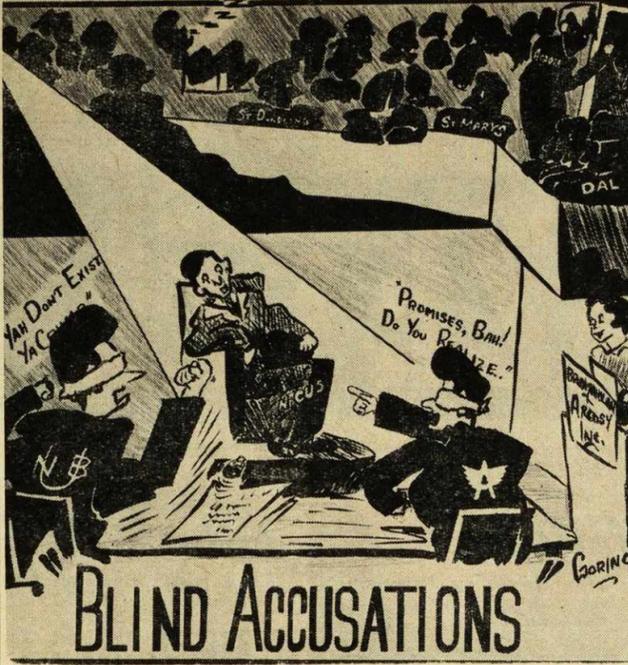
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Letters To The Editor

The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette.

Dear Sir,
Your two editorials concerning the resources of the University Library and Library service deserve some sort of formal reply if the record is to be kept more or less straight.

First: one of your editors experienced some difficulty in finding several critical works on Canadian literature in the Macdonald library. The unfortunate fact of the matter is that only several critical works on Canadian literature (English and French) have ever been written. Of the fifteen studies (books) of Canadian literature (English) listed in Pacey's Creative Writing in Canada, no less than twelve are in the Macdonald Library, another (W. E. Collin's The White Savannahs) is in Kings. Virtually every book of criticism ever written on Canadian literature is available on this campus. The campus libraries are also very strong in studies (books) of individual authors and in the periodical holdings where the great mass of critical opinion of our literature may be found with a little patient searching. Regarding the Library's holdings of Canadian literature: there are, admittedly, gaps in the French-Canadian section, but certainly no major holes in our English-Canadian section. It is library policy to purchase all significant Canadian novels, books of poetry and works of non-fiction as they appear. Certainly it is impossible to buy everything, and no doubt some worthwhile material is missed, but our holdings are not in the sad state that your editor would have me believe.

Let us take a brief look at the Canadiana in the Macdonald Memorial Library, which by the way occupies fully one half of the sixth stack floor, the Morse Room, the Treasure Room, as well as other portions of the main stack. By Canadiana I mean all material (books, pictures, maps, etc.) related to Canada whether written by Canadians or not. In the William Inglis Morse and the J. J. Stewart Canadiana collections Dalhousie has two outstanding collections of manuscripts (from 17th century), early imprints, maps and pictures. In Tremaine's Bibliography of Canadian Imprints 1751-1800 Dalhousie's holdings of early newspapers, almanacs, sermons, etc. constitute a significant portion of Canada's first printed material. We are constantly supplying scholars with information from our Canadiana collection. We do have an asset in our library of Canadiana, an asset already "outstanding" and I welcome this opportunity to bring it to the attention of all Dalhousie students. Certainly it could

be improved, but we are not so undernourished that we are "badly in need of replenishment."

Second: regarding loans to faculty and graduate students. There are no indefinite loans except under the most exceptional circumstances and the longest loan period permitted to faculty and graduate students is six months. With the "average Dalhousie student" as our first consideration, the Library will call in any book at any time if it is needed by another borrower. Let me say that I appreciate the opportunity to present a few facts of the Library about which there seems to have been some misunderstanding. I agree that more money could improve our collections and am grateful to your editorial writer for making such a suggestion to the Gazette's readers.

Yours faithfully,
Douglas G. Lochhead,
University Librarian.

Monday, Oct. 31, 1955

Dear Sir:

The members of the Publicity Committee of the Arts and Science Society deplore the fact that no summary of the recent Arts and Science Society meeting appeared in the Gazette. We are also dismayed by the careless attitude taken by you, as editor-in-chief, in this matter. We feel that closer scrutiny of material and a little more thought on the part of the people concerned would not have resulted in the omission of this article.

We realize that you are trying to present a well-rounded paper to the students but in your efforts you seem to have forgotten that your first duty is to present the current affairs of the campus to the students, and all other articles should be subordinate to the "news".

The secretary of the Arts and Science Society was approached shortly after the meeting by a Gazette staff member and asked for details of the meeting so that it would be written up for the Gazette. This is, in our opinion, an extremely poor type of reporting, but that is not the issue at hand. The fact is that we were given the impression that the meeting would be publicized, only to find it omitted completely. This seems to us to be a sort of breach of faith and we sincerely hope it will not happen again.

If there is any valid reason for omitting the write-up of the meeting, we would be interested in knowing that also.

Yours truly,
K HAYES
for Arts and Science Society
Publicity Committee.

NEWS OF THE U'S

by Garry K. C. Braund

Mt. A. (Argosy):
Bob Goss lectures on Canadian Football . . .
Ed: Dal Law Grad of '55 helps make game more enjoyable Fox Fans.

McGill Daily
The sins of christianity . . . By Donald Kingsbury.

Ed: This is a controversial article Re—Anti-Protestant, Anti-Catholic, Anti-Jew. When this university paper reverts to such a low level to stimulate rather than offend by publishing provocative material, there are two conclusions:
(1) Hard up for constructive material.
(2) A daily publication is too often.

U. of T. (Varsity):
"Cheating" investigated at Cornell—1952 survey revealed that 47% of the students cheated. Honor system set-up. Offender warned before reported to committee. Six Toronto students to visit Cornell on weekend to study system.

Ed: The steps of U. of T.
As anyone can see
Must need a little sweep
Sent six instead of three.

In closing . . .
For the benefit of the 150 Lawyers who spend Saturday in the Law Library and never participate in a Rah Rah Day, here's how the other half lives:

Alarm Clock . . . shoes on wrong feet . . . Belt line . . . liquor store . . . purchase, purchase mixer . . . belt line . . . open purchase, no mix, (who cares) close purchase . . . leave belt line . . . rain . . . walk . . . more rain . . . Dinner, peanuts, pickled eggs . . . Out in more rain . . . belt line . . . open purchase . . . open mix . . . close mix . . . close purchase . . . meet friends . . . open purchase . . . close purchase . . . belch, excuse, burp.

ARRIVE AT GAME: pay admission . . . faint . . . open purchase . . . rain . . . belch . . . meet friends . . . cheer . . . open someone else's purchase . . . X touchdown . . . break purchase . . . weep for Tigers . . . break mix . . . rain . . . GAME OVER . . . PAY BETS . . . STEAL PROF'S PURCHASE . . . SLOG OUT OF STUDLEY . . . NELSON . . . DINNER . . . THROW SCREEN FROM FIFTH FLOOR . . . THROW FIFTH FROM FIFTH . . . 10 P.M. DANCE . . . DRINK COKE . . . CHOKO . . . LEAVE GYM . . . CROSS FOOTBALL . . . HEAD FOR HALL . . . FALL . . . ARRIVE AT HALL . . . SOME BALL . . . STONE WALL . . . FALL . . . GOOD NIGHT BOY FRIEND . . . ENTER HALL.

What Is WUSC? What Does It Do? Who Belongs?

One of the questions we were most frequently asked in West Africa concerned the structure and purpose of WUSC. What is WUSC? What does it do? Who belongs? Is it government sponsored? Does it have political affiliations?

Still A Mystery
It would seem that to some Canadian students WUSC is just as much a mystery as it was to some West African students. Therefore before going on to an account of study tours in general and the West African tour in particular, a description and history of WUSC will be given, thus making further discussion more meaningful.

World University Service traces its origin to the period immediately following World War I. In 1920 Miss Ruth Rouse of the World's Student Christian Federation visited Vienna. There she found that although relief missions were doing extensive work with the general population, nothing was being done for students and lecturers. The university class was subsisting with the absolute minimum of food, lodging and clothing. Students had to earn as well as study, and none could possibly earn more than half the existence minimum.

Good Response
Acting on her desire to do something about these conditions, Miss Rouse called together the presidents of the German National Student Society, two Jewish associations, the Socialist Union and the Catholic Student Society. As a result of this meeting appeals were cabled to students of many lands. No preparation for dealing with any large-scale relief was made, for it was feared that the plight of European students might only meet with indifference in lands not touched by war; but students responded generously far beyond anything that had been expected, and some formal organization was needed to co-ordinate the work that was now possible. The donations which poured in included such items as \$3.00 from a Negro charwoman at Toronto University to a capful of coppers from a London council school to a £1,300 tiara from a Hungarian Archduke.

At its meeting in Switzerland in 1920, the General Committee of the World's Student Christian Federation decided to set up an autonomous sub-section, to be known as European Student Relief. Its function was to meet urgent material needs among university students, and to administer relief impartially without regard to race, nationality, creed or any other criterion other than proven need. It encouraged self-help and devised schemes to make students to a large extent self-supporting; industries were started and their products sold; scholarships were given in a student's last year when other work might seriously interfere with academic work.

New Groups
By 1925 the greatest needs had been met and conditions which had led to the creation of E.S.R. no longer existed, but cultural work had developed with and inseparable from relief work, and international conferences of both giving and receiving students had been organized in Czecho-

slovakia, Hungary and Germany. In 1926 steps were taken to remould E.S.R. in a form which would continue to express the "ideal of international comradeship and mutual responsibility of students in their cultural tasks which it has previously expressed in material relief." Thus European Student Relief was dissolved and superseded by an independent international organization incorporated under Swiss Law as International Student Service.

Until the Second World War, ISS continued to stimulate service by and for members of the university community. In 1939, in realization that the responsibilities to be faced were far greater than those created by the First World War, ISS, in cooperation with the World's Student Christian Federation and Pax Romana, established a war emergency relief commission: "European Student Relief". When the war spread to the Far East, the title was changed to "World Student Relief". ISS was entrusted with the administration of the work of World Student Relief in accordance with its principles of non-discrimination. During the war period WSR cared for student prisoners of war, internees, and refugees, supplied books and food and gave immeasurable moral support which helped to break through feelings of isolation. In the post-war period it began to help rebuild the war-ravaged universities.

Expansion
By 1949 the five constituent members of World Student Relief were ISS, World's Student Christian Federation, Pax Romana, International Union of Students and World Union of Jewish Students. In 1950 the former functions and activities of ISS and WSR became merged in the integrated programme of World University Service, with continued cooperation with WSCF, WUJS and Pax Romana.

Today WUS activities have been extended to the Indian sub-continent, Burma, Malaya and Indonesia, and to the young university communities in East, West and Central Africa. Its programme continues to provide the means by which university men and women are able to combine their efforts to help where needs are greatest. Its work in providing material assistance has led to contributions toward the process of education for international understanding, collaboration and solidarity.

NOTICE
The Gazette is unable to publish a letter received from a group which identified itself only as "2 commerce students". If the parties wish to have the letter published we must have their names for file purposes.

EDITORIAL

Bombs Away!

It has become a happy habit, in recent weeks, for student newspapers across Canada to offer what they consider to be interesting reading in the form of criticism of the National Federation of Canadian University Students. Criticism, in itself, is not a bad thing, and some of that offered as reading fare to the university student has been of a fairly decent calibre. It is unfortunate that this should not be the case in at least two of the Maritime papers that have taken up the NFCUS theme, "The Brunswickan" of U.N.B., and "The Argosy" of Mount Allison.

It is a point worth noting that before criticism is offered, the object to be criticized is given at least a penetrating glance if not a thorough examination. In recent editorials in the papers mentioned, NFCUS was harshly rebuked by writers who obviously had not the faintest notion of what the organization is. We are not defending the National Federation, we are merely deploring this form of criticism, not only of NFCUS but of anything.

There are many things to be criticized in NFCUS; delegates to the annual national conference spend much of their time finding faults, and much more trying to remedy them. NFCUS, which is in essence the Student Councils of all member universities, is the first to realize that it has many shortcomings. Its delegates meet for only one week each year and work hard to overcome them, with varying degrees of success. There are many problems for an organization that covers such a large territory and has extremely limited financial resources, problems that often grow larger than they should because the student who should remedy them realizes that he is also attending university to get an education and decides that he has to study. NFCUS has an executive of two officers, one of whom changes every year, and a stenographer. In the past, this executive has not always functioned well; in fact, it has made some grave errors. This year, operating under a new system, it should be efficient. But it was not our intention to either excuse or defend NFCUS.

The Fault Falls On All

We at Dalhousie are not always happy with NFCUS. Our delegates to the Edmonton conference last month often criticized, but they also did something about it. It is one of the advantages, or disadvantages, of a newspaper that it can present only one side of a picture and make it sound very convincing. We had thought that student papers felt more of a responsibility to the readers than to do this, but apparently we were wrong. The papers at U.N.B. and Mount A. paid no attention to the real aims and purpose of NFCUS in their editorials; and further, they paid no attention to the answers that NFCUS has offered. It's great fun to holler about NFCUS — "ineffective", "unpractical", "mismanagement", and so forth. But with a little more observation and inquiry, even with the local NFCUS chairman, editors can at least get their facts correct before they lift their pens. And then, perhaps they might get light enough to criticize constructively, to tear the organization apart if they wish, but to make concrete suggestions, and even to become interested enough to help it overcome its difficulties — then they might realize that NFCUS is nothing more than each individual student in a national organization. And there is one strange thing about all this destructive criticism — almost everyone, including editors, realizes that NFCUS or something like it is a necessity.

D. P.

Letters to the Editor should be handed in by 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays. If possible, they should be type-written, double spaced on one side of paper only. The Editors reserve the right to select letter to be published and if necessary to edit them. Names will be withheld on request, but must be in our possession.

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