

# Arts students discriminated against

by Trish Aikens

Artsies take note. An Arts student hasn't won the Governor General's Gold Medal since 1955—22 years! It has continuously been awarded to a Science student, indicating that Arts students aren't as bright as Science students. It even implies that Artsies are somewhat inferior. Of course, we in this faculty (Arts) shudder at such warped implications.

The Gold medal is awarded to a graduating honors student for overall competence and great achievement. But certainly there are many students in the faculty of Arts who can ably match students in the Science faculty, requirement for requirement, so how is the winner determined?

The individual departments, in the faculties of Arts and Science only, make recommendations to the Registrar's office at the end of the academic year regarding their top honors graduates. These recommendations then go to the Awards office and from there, a subcommittee of the Scholarship Committee considers the recommendations and then determines the selection of the recipient. It has been and still is on the basis of marks.

There are, however, three snags: First, there are very likely to be major discrepancies between the marking systems of the two faculties. It would seem to me that a perfect mark would be easier to get in a science course, than in a Arts course. Take a course like English or Political Science for example. Here you're dealing with opinions much of the time and there very

often is no right or wrong answer. With a science, like Math or Chemistry, on the other hand opinions don't enter into the picture at all. The answer is right or wrong. Secondly, there has not been one person specifically designed to do the job over the years so there is little continuity in the selection of the medal winner. Finally, the selection of the recipient is usually done at the end of the year so there is a lot of pressure on the Committee to choose the person and get the information to the Registry so the presentation can be made. Rushing the process probably detracts from the efficiency of the selection.

The records of past wins are not all together in one place; they have not been properly filed. The reason? Nobody seems to have any time. While it seems, strangely enough, that Science students have been qualifying with a greater degree than have Arts students, there has been no thorough examination of the problem. It is just that no one has noticed, or that no one cares? - or that no one has cared to notice?

Under the present system, while the Gold medal has been going to a top Science student, the University Silver medal is usually awarded to the top Arts student. Understandably, though, the Silver medal just doesn't carry the same prestige as does the Gold medal. I would suggest two possible solutions to the problem: (1) That the Governor General designate two Gold medals, one in the faculty of Arts and one in the faculty of Science or (2) that the Gold medal somehow alternate each year between an Arts and a Science

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the disciplined talents required for the activities included in the yearbook deserve a place in university life, but apparently the yearbook staff lacked either the ability or responsibility to see beyond their own personal interests.

I would suggest that undergraduates question the validity of such a yearbook, considering they are obligated to buy it.

-Samuel King

## Submissions welcome

To the Gazette:

I am Editor of ALPHA Literary Journal, published monthly by Either/Or Publications, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. The aim of ALPHA is to provide an outlet for writers and to give them encouragement and advice. My staff and I want to see what you're doing - if

we like it, we'll print it. And whether we like it or not, we'll tell you truthfully what we like about it and what we don't like about it and make suggestions which we think will help you. We're not strictly businessmen, nor are we great literary masters - we're just a bunch of people who like to write, and we hope that you can help us and we can help you. Let's hear from you!

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## Comment

Comment is an opinion column open to members of the university community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.

student.

Hopefully, in April, the Sub Committee of the Scholarship Committee will consider the problem attached to the awarding of the

Governor General's medal. It's about time someone did something about it! Still, I wonder who'll get it this year'...

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