

THE CONNOLLY SHIELD COMPETITION

Once again the student body had the opportunity of seeing a number of one-act plays at the Dal. Gym. This year there were five of them, three of which were staged last Wednesday evening, the other two the following night. I believe it was Captain Connolly's intention that these competitions should foster interest in dramatics and give students an opportunity to appear on the stage. It has also served as good training for those who are interested in the dramatics department of the Glee Club. The grounds on which these plays are judged: (1) all-round presentation (2) staging, (3) individual acting, (4) make-up, (5) success of the presentation relative to the merits of the play presented.

The first one on Wednesday night was Arts and Science's "Send Her Victorious", by Philip Johnson, obviously no relation to Ben. Only a fair one-act play, the plot centered around the mental gymnastics of Mrs. Tracy a young wife who alternated between a belief in reincarnation and "Happiness through Nudity". Lorna Inness took the part of Mrs. Tracy, and although the part could have been played up a little more, it was very well done. She had that stage assurance which adds so much to the effectiveness of a play. Ken Phelps as Mr. Tracy played his part with usual enthusiasm and succeed in carrying the play through. John Trim as Mr. Cardew did his part very well, although he was a bit stiff at times. Myra Seegar was at once one of the best actors and the poorest speaker of the play. Her actions suited the part, but her voice was almost inaudible at times. The part of Sinnett, a very short one, was singularly well given by Murray MacInnes.

A fine job of presenting a rather difficult play. They chose "The Monkey's Paw" and succeeded in holding their audience right to the last. Don Clark, as Mr. White, played what I thought was the most difficult male role of the group, and did it very well indeed. He played a role that was entirely out of character with his usual self, and it is in that situation that acting ability counts most. Danford Kelly as Herbert gave a good interpretation of his part, it being somewhat easier than Mr. Clark's part, as Herbert was a young man of about Mr. Kelly's own years. Caroline Marshall, as Mrs. White, did well as a partner for Mr. Clark, and between them the tragic tension was sustained throughout. Bob Muggah took the part of Sergeant Major Morris very well, although at first he gave the impression of being a comic character. Chief defect in George Burchill's portrayal as Mr. Sampson was the horrible make-up. As Professor Bennet said in his adjudication, there was no doubt Mr. Sampson was the bearer of bad news as soon as he came on the stage. Sound effects were somewhat spotty in the performance. The wind blew a bit too steadily in the first scene, and at the last moment the knocking at the door was too insistent. However, the play as a whole was successful and a credit to the King's students who presented it.

The Newman Club presented an almost incredibly bad play in a very credible fashion. "Getting Pinned" is no credit to Grace Barney, but its presentation detracts in no way from the abilities of the Newman Club. Bernice Parsons was Janice Stirling and

did her part quite well. Joyce Madden gave the best performance of the group as Janice's young sister Dinah. Without her lively chatter the play would have been hopeless. Carmel White took the role of Mrs. Stirling, and although she wasn't too sure of her lines she acted the part very well. Valerie Cato enlivened the maid's role with a few giggles and thus added to the fun. Good supporting roles were given by Vasco Morais as Harold Ford, Bob MacLellan as David Lansing, John Leblanc as Hayward Darrance, and Joan Casey as Verna Garson.

On Thursday evening the girls took over. Delta Gamma girls were there first with "Petticoats Preferred". Beverly Huntington appeared as Maddelena, and although her tone lacked some of the cattiness that should have been there, her girlish giggles over the plot to trap her mother-in-law were very authentic. Holly Flemming gave the best performance of the play as Teresa. In her appearance as a policeman at the end, she lacked masculinity but otherwise she carried her part very capably. Quite good supporting roles were turned in by Phyllis Aitken as Giovanna, Ann De Carteret as Francesca, Janet Cameron as Angela, and Caroline Logan as Nita. Generally the play went smoothly, but lacked enough punch.

Pi Phi's "White Iris" was one of the best of the competition. Four girls carried it off very capably and succeeded in maintaining the tense atmosphere till the final curtain. Peggy Rundle as Jessamy carried the most difficult part with assurance and is a strong contender for the individual actress's award. Margaret Goode appeared on the stage once again and showed that her experience on the Dal. Stage is improving her acting with each successive role. There were places when her tone lacked a bit of the necessary bitterness. Janet Sinclair as Dorcas did a great deal to hold the audience from breaking during some of the more dramatic moments of the play. Beryl Beateay was beautifully fluttery as Lucy Clair and served as an antidote to the tragic element that hung over the whole performance.

Professor Bennet appeared as the adjudicator and in addition to his adjudication he discussed the prime purpose of the competition. His adjudication was sympathetic and his criticism very constructive. In the light of the good work done by the five competing societies his decision has been rendered very difficult. I am quite sure, however, that the competitors will accept his decision as having been fairly given after serious consideration of all five entries.

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DAL NEEDS A JOURNAL

A great many people have approached the Gazette as to the possibility of having a small monthly or quarterly magazine at Dal which would provide a medium for work of a literary or artistic nature which the Gazette should not properly handle. This suggestion is one which is not unnatural, since other Universities have made a success of similar periodicals.

In a University, of all places, there should be an output of material far above normal newspaper standards which should have a medium for presentation. The Dalhousie Review is a purely University publication, and cannot fulfill this function qua students, except in special cases. University students are literate far above the average expected from society generally, and from them most of our best writing comes today. Unfortunately, very few of them are able to break into the professional writing fields for a variety of reasons. One of the most important of these reasons is that by far the greater amount of professional writing done today is done for periodicals whose editors insist that their writers should become hacks who will use the accepted conventions which have sold successfully. Such an attitude

may be excellent when one has a balance sheet to consider, but it speaks very poorly for the state of our culture.

It is for the Universities to lead in the field of promoting original work which can genuinely be called art; no popular magazine can fulfill this function, and none of them owe any duty to do so. Dalhousie, whether University or Students' Council should make some effort to put the literary achievements of their students before at least their fellow students, and possibly before the public. There is no reason why a small quarterly, if properly managed, could not be made to pay for a large proportion of its expenses, and such a magazine should receive considerable support from students generally.

Let no one think that such material is not being written at Dal; we have as many incipient authors of the Great Canadian Novel as any University of a similar size in the country. Large quantities of material comes to the Gazette which it cannot use, generally because there is no room for such material. The Gazette cannot operate as a medium for this work, and this work should have a better medium than the Gazette.

A Letter To The Students

(Continued from page 6)

long as six hours per night, at least twice a month, wrangling about everything from whether to buy Joe Blow a new tooth to replace the one when he hit himself while shadow boxing, to

questions such as whether a war memorial should be constructed now or would it be cheaper to wait till after the next war and kill two birds with one stone.

This is my last year at Dalhousie and also my last paragraph in this essay, but I would sincerely beg one concession from each of my fellow students, for the future years — that it be remembered that no group of people can please everybody all the time, and that individuals on

the Council are the representatives that you helped to vote into power to lead your university life. Help them by considering all sides leading to even the smallest decisions instead of hindering them by being reckless with unconstructive criticism, and your representatives will greatly appreciate it and show their gratitude through their contributions to Dalhousie.

Sincerely,
Bernard S. Creighton.



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