

The Dalhousie Gazette

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Editorials

Very shortly the Students' Council will be taking a vote to see if the student body will permit a three dollar raise in the Student Council fee.

Some people will naturally say "what do we get out of the Student Council fee?" Well look at it this way. All the collegiate sports are paid for from council money, sporting equipment—thus permitting intercollegiate sports—you get the Glee Club productions, you get a college paper; organizations which sponsor dances are supported by council funds; you get a college year book organization budgeted for with council funds; you have dances paid for with council money; and in addition to these you have any number of organizations such as Publicity, Dalhousie Radio, NFCUS, WUSC, Sodales and the Students' Directory, either paid for or assisted with Students' Council money.

At the Student Forum to be held you will hear from the Council President, Gordon McConnell, the actual figures and the precise state of Council affairs; what we want to point out here is that it will be better for Dalhousie, the student body and for you if you go to the coming forum prepared to vote in favour of the proposed Council fee raise.



On the front page of the Gazette is a list of the percentages of passes and failures in the Christmas Examinations held at Dalhousie University. It has been the custom in the past to publish these marks. They have not been published with a view to putting the students or the University in a poor light.

This year there were a few complaints that publishing the percentages of failures would make it appear that the students of Dalhousie University were extremely dull and unscholastic, this however is not the case at all.

Rather it is felt that by publishing the marks it indicates that Dalhousie is not a snap University. It shows that at Dalhousie the examinations are not marked easily, with a view to having the student appear as genius', but rather the rigidity of the marking only proves that a degree from Dalhousie is a degree worth having.

Lecturers and Lecturing

The pedagogues of today, with few exceptions, have neglected the art of public speaking. No longer do crowds of enthusiastic youths listen with amazement and awe to the elevating discourses of learned scholars. Gone are the Socrates, the Aristotles and Ciceros, posterity has not heeded their example.

Hours of frustrating lectures by men of learning have become a commonplace, rather than the exception. The modern educationist spends years in preparation to instruct youth, only to defeat his efforts in the delivery of his ideas and knowledge. It seems that many educators of today apparently hold the erroneous view, that a constant deluge of unintelligible speech constitutes good lecturing.

The preparation of material for presentation during a lecture undoubtedly is accompanied by much effort and diligent research, yet the mechanics of presentation occupy but a fleeting thought, the result, a frustrated instructor, an exhausted student and an utter waste of time. Nor is this a singular occurrence. Samuel Johnson, the titan of English Literature, was in his time subjected to uninteresting classes, "I cannot see that lectures can do so much as reading the books from which the lectures are taken." If students are to receive the full benefits from the oral presentation of material it must, by necessity, be presented in an orderly and appealing manner.

At this point, I might inject a word of explanation. This is not a learned treatise on the art of pedagogy nor is it written to vindicate the deplorable results of the mid-year examinations.

Nevertheless it is apparent from these results that many students are not grasping material given in lectures. Perhaps the utter disregard for clearness, force and elegance in presenting knowledge orally is an important contributing factor to the appalling examination marks.

Not all men are born to be good speakers, still fewer are born to be distinguished orators. But all men can improve their power of speech by diligent effort. If modern educators recognize the tremendous power of the spoken word and strive to speak effectively, their future lament will never be:

"I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth, Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech, To stir men's blood: I only speak right on."

-D.M.

Tub-Thumper

by JOHN McCURDY

Welcome back to the grind, partners — a Cool Yule and a Frantic First to all and may the sun shine till Munroe Day.

This past week one must have noticed the vagrant expressions of their fellow men, being as it is, the first of a new year. With light bulbs and pleasant memories we enter the second part of our journey to the end.

The marks have been posted in the cellar where they belong. We are busily writing home to peres and meres, telling them the "grand and glorious" marks that have been made—38 becomes 83; 27 becomes 72—and some even tell the truth.

What will happen this year. I remember an old fortune teller in Baddeck who had that leather-like-look said that once in your life your stars pass by a certain way and you run into seven years of good luck. Maybe this is the beginning and maybe it is the end. About this time students begin to wonder what they will do this summer. What kind of a job appeals to us? A great number of students get a kick out of working in resorts such as Jasper, Banff or Keltic. Then we have the more serious or perhaps the more ambitious students who will find jobs that require a few clues. Maybe the Science student wants to work in a lab or an Arts student wants to ramble through stacks in a moth-eaten library. Med students may find jobs in a hospital. The scene never changes for them. (Of course one can always hitch hike to Europe on a tramp steamer with the cattle).

Cutting the gag line, I think it would prove quite profitable if we did something a bit different in our lives. Remember you will be doing the same thing all your life when you enter into the professional. Why do not some things that you might not be able to do later in life—sort of a last fling before you are caught. Think of something you wouldn't dream of doing and then do it. Heavens knows what it might be. Maybe an Arts student will be catching rivets or an engineer may find a job on a fox farm. Who knows, maybe you may end up liking it! Don't be a one goal creature with a one track mind!

— BY THE WAY —

by ALAN MARSHALL
Freedom, Conformity and Senator McCarthy

The debate over Senator McCarthy continues and no end is in sight. Writers and editors have set aside large amounts of their columns, papers and magazines to discuss him. Readers have been equally anxious to fill in: in the wake of any article, the letters to the editor column is sure to contain comments from the readers on the controversial senator.

Elected to the Senate in 1946, he entered the limelight in 1950. Since then (it is only three and one-half years ago since his first speech on Communism although it feels like a similar number of decades) the entire political climate in the United States has been greatly changed. Should Senator McCarthy disappear from the face of the earth next week, his goings-on in this short time alone would be sufficient to make him one of the most spectacular politicians in his country's history.

If Senator McCarthy is moved solely by ambition, then how does it happen that he is so widely supported? If so many people agree with him, then that has to be explained. Ambition alone will not account for political movements.

Is McCarthyism an extreme form of conservatism? Then why does so much of his support come from the Middle West, which has not always been conservative? The traditionally "hidebound" New England and Southern states are precisely those areas which have given him the least support. Further, those who have suffered most from the Senator's attacks are by no means all liberal. The conservative Senator Tydings was one of his first victims, and the great foundations, surely manned by some conservatives, are among the latest in the line of fire. The view that McCarthyism is an attempt to thwart the power of Labor and to stave off reforms explains little. This has been one of the traditional explanations of Fascism among liberals. McCarthy has, indeed, often been called a Fascist. Setting aside the question of what Fascism is, the fact remains that economics can hardly be at the bottom of McCarthyism, because the Senator and his friends have left Labor pretty well alone, and have concentrated their fire on civil servants and intellectuals.

If we look beyond the strictly political field, we see a movement too widespread for either fear or panic to account for it. As examples: An edition of Moby Dick is attacked, because it is illustrated by Rockwell Kent. The International Style of Architecture (this is the painted ice cube style) is falling under suspicion because it is identified with

socialism. The Texas school book commission requires authors of all texts used in schools to sign loyalty oaths; and when the authors are unavailable, or dead, the publisher has to sign an oath to the effect that the author would have been willing and able to sign the loyalty oath were he available. Movies have been picketed when the actors have been linked with left wing or communist front groups. Works of art are snooped over by self appointed guardians looking for subversive ideas. (Pictures on the walls of the California Legislature, for instance, which depicted scenes of California history including a strike by workers. One woman has inquired whether allowing children to read Robin Hood would play into the hands of the Communists. If all these ideas which cluster around Senator McCarthy were put into practice there is no doubt but that the country would be deadened by an oppressive atmosphere of conformity. Intellectual efforts would be choked off, and the country would sink into stagnation.

The presence in the United States of such a widespread hostility to intellectual activity under the aegis of Senator McCarthy can hardly be accounted for either by fear or panic. The liberals who are looking at fear of Communism as the cause of the desire for conformity have a lot to account for: too much, I think. They are looking at the problem backwards. It is not fear of Communism that is causing this desire for conformity, but rather, a widespread desire for conformity that is causing many to attack Communism. As an example of this sort of thing, many of those who are most vigorous in their attacks on Com-

munist as a subversive movement are among the least willing to support those measures to strengthen their country against the attacks of external Communism, such as the Marshall Plan and its successors, the search for allies, the maintenance of troops abroad, and the like. In the attack of subversive movements, particularly outside Congress, a genuine interest in the problems of subversion hunting is often lacking, and those methods of attack on Communism are most widely supported which are most convenient weapons for the attack on dissent.

There has always been some hostility in the United States to intellectual effort. For one thing, the country was built, not by intellectuals but by pioneers. Intellectuals in modern times have often been thought of as pioneers in the field of thought, but there are important differences between them and the pioneers of the land. A pioneer who enters unopened country and civilizes it is required to adapt himself to the conditions he finds there. The ones who are most successful are the ones who adapt themselves most completely, that is, who conform most rigorously to the conditions required to survive. A community of successful pioneers, therefore, will consist of people, who have adapted themselves to the same conditions, and who, therefore, will tend to live and think alike. Further, all pioneers have a strong current of hostility to anything that smacks of privilege (nowhere, indeed, is privilege more unjustifiable than in a community of pioneers), and they will lay great stress on the doctrine of equality. An intellectual, however, in the act of thinking, has to some extent at least declared himself independ-

ent of his surroundings, for he creates an idea that was not in the community before. There is, in intellectual activity, an alienation that has no counterpart in pioneering. Every holder of a new idea is to some extent unique, and to praise a man for his uniqueness undermines the doctrine of equality.

Nor is politics any help. So many political issues have become too complicated for many people to understand. Under the stress of the international situation, intellectuals have urged politicians to subordinate national politics to diplomacy, and Americans have always distrusted diplomacy. Foreign affairs requires coming into agreement with people who think differently, and that requires a lot of hard effort and questioning of ideas that have always been taken for granted. Further, and too few liberals see this, anything that strengthens the responsibility of governments to the international community (and liberals have advocated this) necessarily weakens their responsibility to their own electorates. No wonder that internationalism is unpalatable. It does not hurt intellectuals since they can criticize foreign policy, and make themselves heard. They have lost nothing, but the rest of the public has. To them it is just one more slap in the face. No wonder there is such a strong movement hostile to intellectual effort. It is so difficult to keep one's self respect when living in a world of incomprehensible forces. Only the intellectuals have not lost hope of riding the whirlwind, and for them, sharp eyes are essential, and a blindfold the worst of ills. But what harm is the blindfold of conformity to those who live in the dark?

The Story of Esther Costello

Nicholas Monsarrat Knopf — \$3.50.

The story of a monstrous fraud in philanthropy. This theme in itself, is good, but Mr. Monsarrat's treatment of it is not.

Esther Costello is a little Irish girl who through an unfortunate accident has lost the faculties of sight, hearing and speech. Mrs. Bannister, a wealthy American socialite, returns to her native Ireland, hears of Esther, takes pity on her, and decides to help her as much as possible. The story unfolds from this point in marked American sensationalism. The Esther Costello fan is now able to purchase an Esther Costello doll with sightless eyes as well as various novelties and parlour games having her name. The "Tapalong" club has been formed and membership has skyrocketed.

While riding on the crest of a successful world tour, Esther's faculties are restored by a most amazing cure, and Mrs. Bannister, fearing the loss of her meal ticket, forces her to continue as a sham and they return in triumph to Boston. A newspaper reporter discovers the hoax but before anything can be done, Mrs. Bannister murders Esther and the cruel scheme remains silent.

The story has been handled in overworked melodrama by the author through his endeavours to wring the last tear out of every situation.

In this novel—excuse me, in this case history, the characters do not live. Esther Costello might possibly be forgiven, but the others, in full possession of their faculties, are equally as dead. Had Monsarrat exercised the genius displayed in "The Cruel Sea" he might have been able to validate Mrs. Bannister's abrupt change from a benevolent, loving lady to a grasping tyrant.

Unfortunately, in operating at somewhat less than his known potential, he has, ironically enough, been completely at sea.

-George B. Hallett.

NOTE—This book can be obtained in the Dalhousie library. Mr. Hallett will do a series of reviews intended to acquaint the students with it and other current books.—Ed.

Commerce Sweater Girl

A meeting of the Commerce Society was held on Tuesday, January 12. The main topic for discussion was the Society's Sweater Dance which will be held on Friday, Jan. 22. The dance in past years has been one of the most successful social functions of the college year.

Arrangements are being made to make this year's dance the best one to date. Mr. Richard Marshall is master of ceremonies and the main event of the evening will be the crowning of the Sweater Queen.

Tickets for the dance will be \$1.25 per couple for students who do not have Commerce Society tickets. Commerce students who have society cards will be charged 75 cents per couple. Those planning to go stag and not having a society card will be admit-

Imagine That!

A canary is a pretty little yellow bird — or a wine. These things got their names from the Canary Islands, whence they come. But the islands themselves were known to the boldest Roman seamen, who found a multitude of wild dogs "canaria" or "doggerly." So a canary, really, should be some sort of dog!

A bachelor was originally a cow-herd, from the Latin "vac-cus" or "baccus" a cow. And a honeymoon gets its name from the Teutonic custom of drinking mead for 30 days after a bridal celebration!

And a letter is so-called, quite aptly, some ma ythink, because it comes from the Latin word "to smear."

ted for 75 cents, and those with a card will be charged 50 cents.

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