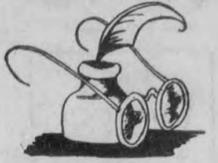




— FEATURES —



Student Writing Brought To The Fore

by Allan Donaldson

Since the demise several years ago of the last student's magazine, student writers at U N B have had to depend for publication on *The Brunswickan* and on non-student periodicals. Neither of these is very satisfactory. The space available in *The Brunswickan* for creative work is understandably limited, and naturally the work printed elsewhere is very scattered. The programme of readings of student work in the Arts Centre on Sunday, therefore, provided a rare and welcome opportunity of learning what sort of writing is being done on the campus.

The readings consisted of poems, short stories and an essay, and the writers included were Gino Blink, Nicolas Teller, Stephen Patterson, John Stockade, Carl Wallace, Donald Miller, and Ron McBrine. Stephen Fay read the poems by John Stockade and some of those by Nicolas Teller.

It is clear from the works read that there are a number of extremely competent and promising writers on the campus and that work is being done which, in spite of certain, perhaps natural, weaknesses, deserves a more effective outlet than now exists. Particularly in a brief review of work by a number of writers, one is professionally tempted to hunt out categories and tendencies, and the most obvious tendency

in the works read was towards and at times rather naively lurid subject matter. No doubt this is partly the result of a surfeit of daffodils and stately elm trees, and as such it is probably healthy and natural. However, it is also, I think, partly and perhaps unconsciously, the results of something else, and that is the fact that this subject matter has an impact of its own which is relatively easy to convey and which can ensure that a story or poem will not be flat, whatever else it may be. The danger in this for a young writer is that he can come to depend on the effects of this subject matter and become merely the purveyor of a barren sensationalism, as a number of contemporary Canadian writers have, indeed, become.

In contrast to these effects, which were usually very competently handled within their limits, the handling of other effects was more unsure, but these more difficult effects are just the ones which are most worth working on, for it is surely the function of the writer in an age of easy generalisations and cheap slogans to recognize and communicate what is subtle and complex. Mr. Souster's poem in *The Blasted Pine* notwithstanding, one should not allow Fredericton to drive one into seeing the world entirely in terms of Black and White.

OBJECTIONS by CANUCK

Sometime ago Messrs Blink and Cohen told Canadians that they were naughty. They accused us of both exaggeration and of literal inferiority. It might be rather insolent on our part to attempt a recovery from this dual blow; but we still have our inalienable democratic right (as long as Mr. Cohen keeps his feelings of superiority to dramatic criticism anyhow!) to answer these assertions.

Both are guilty of generalisations. To claim that the Canadian people are 'culture conscious', but that their culture is superficial is unfair. It could easily be said that a majority of Canadians care little for either Britain or America and that even more of them do not give a damn about culture.

Both eminent journalists have surely overlooked Canada's first claim to world admiration. This is the way in which Canadians of many different ethnic and national groups have learned to live and work together. We have succeeded in combining different national temperaments into one nationality. There are many important influences on this unique nationality, largely British, French and American influences, but these are of minor importance compared to the ideal of a population working together to develop a country.

Perhaps it is bad policy to

blow one's own trumpet on any occasion. But if we were to show the world what we have accomplished, our national unity would surely rank first in any appraisal. Any cultural achievement will come out later. Art, music and literature are essential to a hedonistic people. Canadians do not have enough time for hedonism. This may be unfortunate, but first things must come first. We must recognize the relative superficiality of true arts in our existence.

By the way Mr. Blink, if people are satisfied with a mediocre pianist let them cheer. What is the form of beauty? Surely it is the subjective appreciation of an aesthetic object. Please Mr. Blink, sometimes your inverted snobbery is as bad as Mr. Cohen's! Perhaps Canadians do consider criticism for what it is worth. Could it be that they do not think it is worth very much?

Most Canadians do not have chips on their shoulders. Any self assertion can be based on a pride in our national unity. It is certainly more important that we can boast of this than of a brilliantly original movement in the arts.

Most children are descended from a long line . . . their mother once listened to.

REMEMBER THE RED 'N' BLACK REVUE

MILLICENT and MAGOO

After an absence necessitated by the constitutional changes and Winter Carnival here we are again! (Obviously).

WINTER CARNIVAL SECURITY REGULATIONS— for the sake of sportsmanship let there be no leaks from officials about who has or who has not won prizes for their snow sculptures or floats. It's an awful temptation — we know—but suspense is half the fun of winning! Speaking of suspense, it's customary for the chairman of the Queens Committee to speak at length in order to stir up that emotion so let's be a wee bit more polite next year. All in all the Carnival, the Musical, the Queens—Everything was terrific. Our congratulations to Loree Bramner for being the excellent choice for U.N.B. Queen 1958.

Now the library stacks. Only juniors, intermediates and seniors allowed in. Just a bit sceptically we say—"Oh yah?"

Did you hear about the NFC-US man? He was most convincing, not just when he spoke of the accomplishments of NFCUS but also when he said that if an organization exists there is no point in destroying it, rather we should try to build it into whatever we would like it to be. Sounds like a pretty fair idea.

On to another sore point—weekly dances. The SRC, because they do not believe in deficit financing discontinued the music of the Collegians. As far as we know they neglected to inform the Collegians formally. This we thought was bad business. The Collegians did a fine job and furthermore musically speaking their price was very reasonable. They, no doubt, realized the reason behind the SRC decision, but might have been told. Courtesy you know. The weekly dances are now record-hops. No organizations seem to want to sponsor them and no one seems to want to go. For years everyone complained that there were no dances so if they are discontinued the fault lies with the students.

Enough nastiness for this week. There is lots more we would like

DANCING in Student Centre **SATURDAY** Sponsored by the SRC

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Sigma Lambda Beta Rho

By the "Jones Boys"

Canada's Oddest Student Publication

Oh! the Jones boys,
Frozen in snow
Tell what they know:
They give you what's new and
they give you their view;
If all of it's fake then none of
it's true.

Sorry to disappoint you. This is NOT the fourth reading of the SRC constitution. It's Residence news; many wonder why students are attracted to the Residence. Read this and you will wonder still—more.

This week the SDC, called in here to investigate an explosion, found it merely a broken still. The matter was thus happily cleared up (hic).

The Residence Lounge mantle-piece now sports the Moosehead Trophy Cup (Supposedly awarded for their float), replacing the old Moosehead Can. The cup however has no commercial value, ironically awarded to a Residence with rules pledging teetotalism.

On the other hand, Residence celibacy is collapsing

dangerously. Three recent engagements and a marriage have caused rumor of mixed residences UP the Hill next year.

Well-wishers will be glad to hear most of the Englishmen (and Allies) have recovered from their flirt with death (and the co-eds) on the ice. Unfortunately Captain Day, who scored the winning touchdown, is still in the hospital—but expected out soon.

Froth covered the surface of the pool the other day. Will whoever washes his socks with DUZ 'N'T please use elsewhere than the pool.

To the Campus. Six turned up to hear a talk on Asia the other evening. Apathy? No. What has Asia and Communism got to do with us in N.B.?

The Smith Boys at S.D.U. report strict check was kept on Devils after their win. Which only goes to show that even devils, having overthrown the Saints, become Saints themselves—under God's eagle eye.

No Student Gov't Next Year . . . ?

The annual election of representatives for the Student Council is to be held on Wednesday, February 26. To date only three nominations have been received for these positions. It is well to remember that nominations close on Saturday, February 15 at noon.

It will be noted that in last year's elections the following positions were filled by ACCLAMATION:

- 5 Freshman representatives
- 2nd Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Vice-President
- No Senior Co-ed Representative

to comment on but we'll say only:

"Nominate responsible individuals for the SRC, it is the best way to get things done!!"

Established 1889

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