

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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The Duty of A College Newspaper

Last term's spat between the Gazette and the Glee Club causes one to wonder just what is the position of a College newspaper in relation to its public. Neither independence from college groups or complete submission to them seems to contain the answer. The first of these means that a paper would be virtually of no use to the students; the second leads to stagnation and apathy in an editorial office.

It is easy enough to outline the desirable description that should fit a student publication. A college paper should, naturally enough, offer extensive news coverage, firstly of campus news and secondly of news from other Universities. A college paper should also promote student interest in student affairs. Finally, a college paper should also reflect student opinion, both criticism and support, of student activities.

The second of these three aims is perhaps the most important. It of necessity includes the first for promoting student interest can only be done through informing the students of the campus activities and it can include the third for student opinion is merely a branch of campus news.

The effects of promoting student interest are far reaching. It can mean the success or failure of an organization such as the Glee Club. It can mean victory or defeat for an athletic team. In the sum total it can mean the difference between, a stagnant, apathetic community or an active dynamic one in which everyone is doing something for himself, for his organization or organizations and for the student body as a whole.

This sets the pattern for life after college. Each student can learn the importance of taking an interest in community activities, of cooperating with his or her fellows and of seeing the results of a large group's joint and several effort.

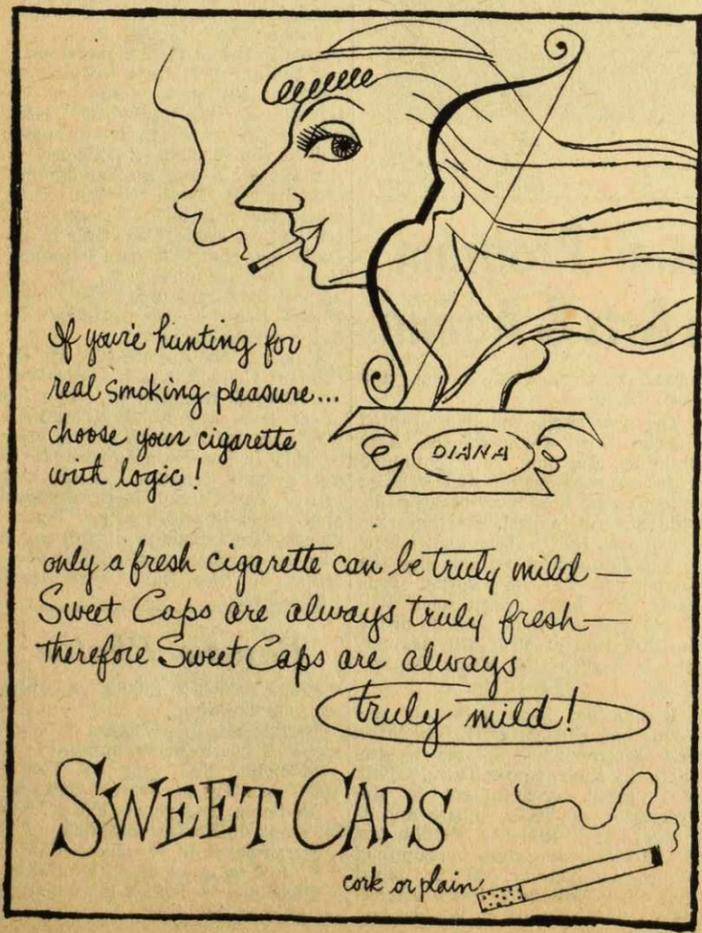
It may sound absurd to say that a college paper can effect all this. But it can play a large part in bringing it about. On a large campus where it is not possible for the student to stay in touch with one another socially, the college press is the only means of communication.

That means that the college paper is the only means whereby all the students can be contacted and the only means whereby an interest can be promoted in them to such an extent that it fires them to take a part in some student affairs and maintain a sympathy with the others.

As we said, it is easy enough to outline the desirable description of the college press. It is a more difficult task to fit the paper to that description.

The first thing necessary is a capable staff who appreciate the ambitions of the paper. Couple with this is the ability to fulfill these ambitions by writing, by appropriate news emphasis.

Equally necessary is contact with news sources and the cooperation of these sources. These two factors give the information and translate it into news. The simplest task remains—getting it to the student body.

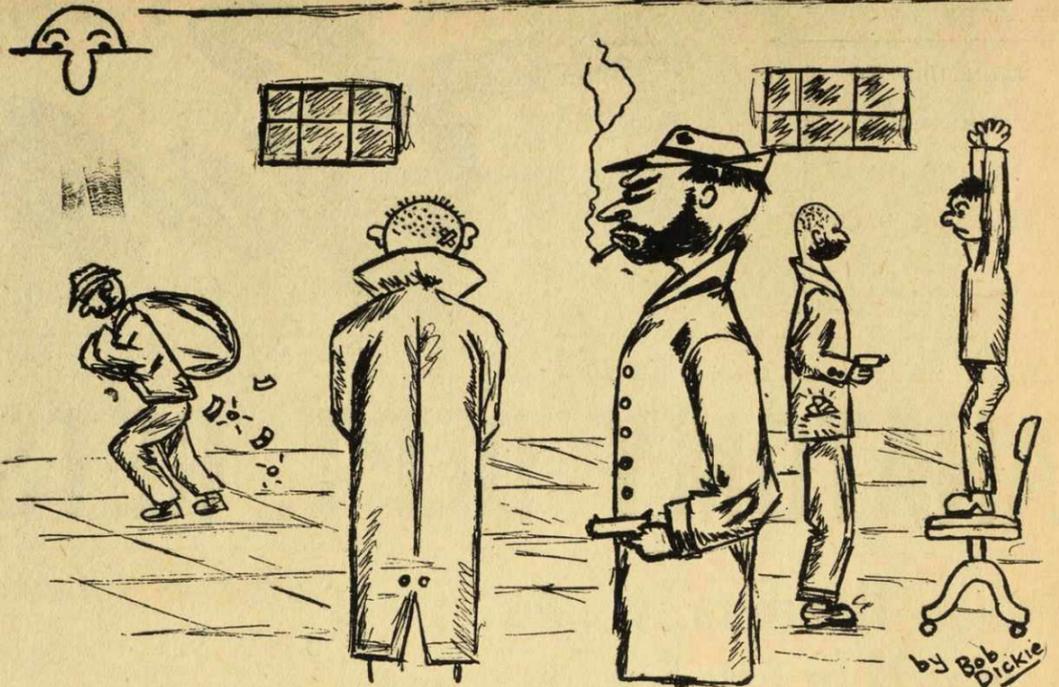


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REPORTING ON THE UNIVERSITY

The observation of National Book Week last November did much to encourage the sale of the work of Canadian writers. In the past, these writers have been unable to look forward to much financial gain from their work. The determined effort to bring to the attention of the Canadian reading public the really fine work that is being done by Canadians is a job that might well have been done years ago.

The City of Vancouver Community Arts Council is arranging an interesting and diversified series of discussions, seminars and public readings during National Book Week, to which the public is invited. An "Authors Seminar" opened the series and was followed by panel discussions and information about better Canadian books.

A national committee had selected what it considered to be the hundred best Canadian books and the list was widely publicized during National Book Week. It is gratifying to know that eight of the books on the list were written by members or former members of the University of British Columbia faculty and student body. While eight books out of a hundred does not seem to be a large number it is encouraging to note that writers so far from the publishing field in Eastern Canada have gained recognition on a national basis.

The eight books include three by Professor Earle Birney of the Department of English; two by Eric Nocal, a U.B.C. graduate; and one each by Professor Roy Daniells of the Department of English; Dorothy Livesay, a graduate; and Lister Sinclair, also a graduate.

Professor Birney's three works include a volume of poetry, a drama and a humorous book, the enormously popular "Turvey". Mr. Nicol, who is ranked as Canada's greatest living humorist, has his "The Roving I" and "Sense and Nonsense" on the list. Professor Daniells has contributed a volume of poetry, "Deeper Into the Forest"; Dorothy Livesay, a volume of verse, "Day and Night" and Mr. Sinclair, now one of the Dominion's foremost radio writers, a selection of radio plays under the title of "A Play on Words and Other Radio Plays".

Each of these writers has attained outstanding success in the extremely arduous field of Canadian authorship, and the University of British Columbia may well be proud of them and of their achievements. They are by no means all the authors connected with the University who have been successful in the field of writing. Many of the most authoritative technical books in the Dominion are from the pens of members of the U.B.C. Faculty. Writers from this University also contribute regularly and with distinction to periodicals in Canada, the United States and Great Britain. There is, in addition, a younger group, recent graduates of the courses in creative writing, who are begin-

ning to make themselves heard and read in many fields of writing across Canada.

Others who have achieved recognition are: R. C. Cragg, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, who has published an outstanding book on political theory; Professor T. Larsen, of the Department of English, who has collaborated in the publication of several fine anthologies of verse and prose for use in the schools; and Professor R. E. Watters, also of the Department of English, who is about to publish an anthology of poetry.

The work of Professor F. H. Soward, of the Department of History, is well-known to Canadians. He has published a number of books and pamphlets in the field of history and is a regular contributor to historical publications. Professor G. N. Tucker, of the Department of History, is also a well-known writer in the historical field and his "Canadian Commercial Revolution" is an outstanding work.

Professor W. J. Rose of the Department of Slavonic Studies has produced a number of books of unusual quality. He has translated three books from the Polish and has at least five original works on Slavonic biography and history.

In the field of poetry again, Dr. J. A. B. McLeish has published two volumes, "Ode in a Winter Evening and Other Poems" and "Not Without Beauty". Dr. McLeish is also a regular contributor to a number of Canadian newspapers and magazines.

Leonard C. Marsh, Professor in the School of Social Work, has won international recognition for his writings. His studies in employment, health, social security and immigration are among the most authoritative works in their field. He is, of course, particularly recognized for his "Report on Social Security for Canada", widely known as Canada's "Beveridge Report".

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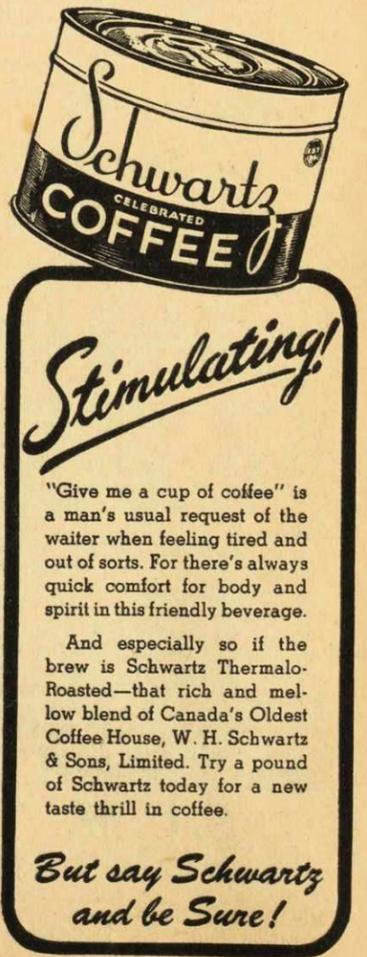
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No report on the writings of University of British Columbia authors would be even partially complete without reference to the outstanding books on legal subjects by President Norman A. M. MacKenzie. Dr. MacKenzie is a contributor to the American Journal of International Law, the Canadian Bar Review and other periodicals. His book "Canada and the Law of Nations" is recognized as outstanding in the field of International Law.

There is another, younger group of authors, graduates of the University who are just beginning to make themselves known in literature, who may well achieve lasting reputations in the next few years. William McConnell, a recent graduate, now a lawyer in New Westminster, has already published some poetry. He contributes to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and is now engaged in writing a novel. Mario Prizek is a CBC producer and is becoming a regular writer for several magazines. Gladys Downes, now at Victoria College and formerly on the staff of the English Department at U.B.C., contributes fine verse to magazines. G. E. Mortimore, now on the editorial staff of the Victoria Colonist, has found a field for his writing in the British market and his stories and articles are widely read in the United Kingdom. Yvonne Martmen, another recent graduate, won a competition last year for one-act plays and is placing her material in several fields. Daryl Duke, whose poetry has been published often, is a National Film Board producer and has written a number of fine scripts. George Robertson is another U.B.C. graduate who has found a place for his work with the National Film Board. He also writes excellent material for radio.

There are many others. In the field of radio Don Erickson, Doro-

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