



Canada's oldest college newspaper. Member of Canadian University Press. Published at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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deux langues peuvent faire une nation

IF any permanent characteristic of a nation is not being turned to good account during that nation's maturation process, then something important is being overlooked and growth promises to be unhealthy. One such characteristic of Canada, in a formal sense, is that she is also "le Canada." Bilingualism represents a compromise which made the Canadian nation possible and there can be no doubt that she is destined ever to be a country with two languages.

Many Europeans recognize bilingualism as a distinguishing mark of Canada. Canadians know that this is a cultural fiction, that there is no factual basis for it whatever. Our country is a land divided by a language barrier and, that this barrier has not proven more serious, is simply an achievement of common sense and good will.

French Canada cannot be blamed at all for the existence of this barrier, which is one of the most formidable obstacles to the growth of Canadian nationhood. English is spoken there, albeit out of the sheer necessity of avoiding isolation. What is not being generally admitted, however, is that it would be equally in the interest of English Canada to know the language of the other part. Yet English Canada makes no move.

When both parts can be made known to each other in the terms of either one, then there is no longer any large breeding ground for mistrust and resentment. That warmer, more intimate contact will make possible a genuine family feeling which, in a federalized country as vast as ours, is indispensable to an unbreakable national unity.

The diverse geographic and economic conditions of the Canadian provinces render a community of outlook and ambition supremely difficult to achieve. Without a purely non-material sense of oneness, deeply rooted in the bilingualism of which every Canadian of vision must take solid account, it is impossible.

There is, of course, only one process by which the language barrier can be removed. Bilingual education throughout the nation.

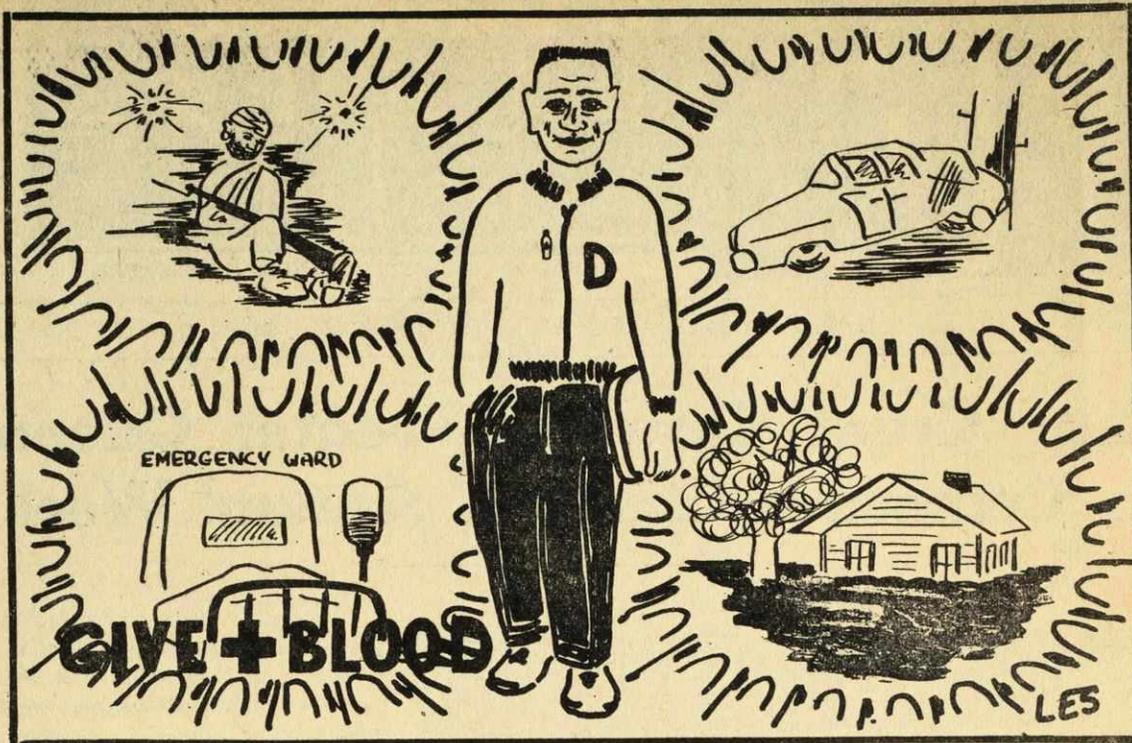
Since education is a provincial responsibility, bilingual education "a mari usque ad mare" is perhaps an idle dream.

If there were, however, more interest in a real bilingualism shown at the universities, there would be grounds for hope. It is only the educated to whom a non-material concept of national unity can make any sense. It is only the educated who can explain why it is vital to Canada, and why bilingualism is fundamental to it.

If the academic world in Canada sees national bilingualism as a worthwhile objective, as something basic to a society more mature, more dynamic within itself and less dependent on alien motive forces than the one in which we now live, then a powerful force driving towards this objective is brought into being.

A. F.

a pint can come in handy



help, i'm bleeding

(Acadia Anthanaeum)

"Be a blood donor!" So often this slogan is heard over the radio, or read in the newspaper, and for many people that is as far as their interest goes. Every day, people are dying, because there is no blood for a transfusion, because someone who was able could not be bothered donating a pint of blood.

The Canadian Red Cross Society is an organization with its primary aim to help society in its suffering. Through disaster relief programs, outpost hospitals, and equipment supply depots, the Red Cross is ready to serve when needed. One of the best known branches of their program, is the blood bank which is being continually supplied by volunteer clinics.

Each year the clinic visits this campus, and students are urged to donate their blood. Each year only a part of those eligible to give their blood offer it. What is the explanation of this apparent disinterest? Of course, the argument is always used, "I can't give blood, because it hurts". How cowardly can one become? The process of giving blood is a painless one, and even if the needle prick does sting a bit, can one not endure it, so that someone who needs a transfusion may have it? Certainly this is a petty excuse.

There are certain people, who for medical reasons are unable to donate their blood. Consequently, the responsibility of others is increased. No drugs have ever been synthesized which will take the place of human blood. Nothing can be used as a substitute, and therefore you, as a healthy person, are asked to "be a blood donor".

When you are asked to donate your blood, do it, for in that way, someone fighting for life may be helped.

letters to the editor

unfair rap

Dear Sir:

In view of the recent criticisms levelled against the Delta Gamma Society for not fulfilling "any useful purpose" on our campus, I feel obliged to compliment and congratulate the ladies on their successful Open House at Shirreff Hall, January 15.

As for those few dissatisfied persons, I feel that the criticism has been quite unwarranted and suggest that if they must kick at nothing, then they should turn around and kick at themselves.

Real George.

no revue

Dear Sir:

The rumours which have been circulating that there will be no Dalhousie Revue this year were turned into fact last Thursday at an executive meeting of the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society. This decision was reached after a discussion of various points.

The main factor brought forward was the amount of time. Although the meetings had been held and ideas and plans formulated early in December, there remained far too little time to organize a good Revue by January 24th.

With the tremendous amount of work being required in the producing of "Finian's Rainbow," it seemed wiser to concentrate on making our new venture a success than to split our efforts and have two mediocre shows as a result.

However, it is our intent to take those ideas already suggested and those people who have expressed a desire to participate in the Revue and, with any other parties who are interested, create a Munro Day Show, more along the lines of Istenhozit '57.

This we hope will be agreeable both to participants and audience. Plans are in progress right now and we trust that all who are interested will turn out to our meeting.

Sincerely,

The Executive, Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society.

through the keyhole

by Pat McDonald

The Queen's Journal this week contains an interesting story about "the one that got away." Apparently, a Queen's student who had never registered disappeared from Kingston over the holidays and cashed three rubber cheques to pay his travelling expenses. His name was Gordon Fenney. Reports placed him in third year Science. However, he did not attend any classes. There were mixed reactions concerning Fenney. "I suspected him from the very first time I laid eyes on him," said one. The Journal's managing editor was speechless, but was later heard to mutter: "My bloody eight bucks!"

From the Toronto Varsity comes the story of a recently deceased student described by university officials as "a genuine and approachable person whose activities in student life had made a great contribution to his college and university." The student died December 19 of brain injuries incurred in a fall two days before. He had been attempting to reach a friend's second-floor window in Middle House when he slipped from a drainpipe and hit a window on the way down.

The Manitoban states that yearly operating costs in Canadian universities have increased from 37.5 million dollars in 1946 to 85 million dollars in 1956. At the same time, the enrollment across Canada has increased from 44,600 to 71,600.

A report recently prepared by the Industrial Foundation on Education shows in addition to these figures that endowments from industry and commerce have decreased considerably in the past ten years, and as a result, Canadian universities have been forced to raise tuition fees in order to meet the rising operating costs caused by increased enrollments.

Although it is somewhat late, I would like to extend best wishes in the coming year to all the university papers across Canada. And, closer to home, I would like to extend the same wish to the Shirreff Hall girls and I am sure that Santa must have rewarded them handsomely for behaving so well during 1957.

Good-night, Princess.