

# The Problems in "Faust"

by Alexander Farrell

The traditional Faust legend is a drama of darkness, of sin and damnation. In the mind of Johann Wolfgang Goethe, German's greatest poet, it became a drama of light, of intellectual clarification crowning a long, complicated struggle with spiritual uncertainties and material forces that are all too certain.

As a merry young country gentleman and, in a mood of adventurous despair, Faust accepts his program of sensual delights. They enter into a solemn pact. During this life, Mephistopheles will be Faust's servant, catering to his every whim. In the next, however, it is to be the other way around, provided only that some earthly pleasure is able to satisfy Faust completely.

Faust's severest trial is his love affair with Gretchen, but he is never abandoned by his conscience. He is not left, even at the pinnacle of mortal pleasure, without the armour of an awareness of right and wrong. Thoughts of the wretched Gretchen torture him so much that he feels he has assumed the burden of all mankind's spiritual agony.

In the Second Part of "Faust," "little" world, tries his luck in the Mephistopheles, having failed in the "big" one. He leads Faust on a series of adventures through vast realms of classical mythology, attempting to absorb him so much in the pleasure of any one moment, of any one experience, that the quest of happiness will become his sole purpose. The love affair with Helena provides an ethereal counterpart to the Gretchen episode of the First Part.

It is disillusionment with the power of the magic which has enabled Faust to overstep the limits of man's ordinary horizons, that finally brings him to the climactic step—that achievement of clarity through which he is enabled to understand and appreciate the sufficiency of man's normal existence. All the arts and crafts of the infernal have failed to rot his soul. On the contrary, his idealism now burns more brightly than ever, although he has tasted the bitterness of life to the full. At the height of his ethical triumph, he falls back dead, and his soul is borne aloft to the eternal presence of God and re-union with her who will teach him how to live in this blissful state: Gretchen.

## Dean Bennet's Adjudication for the

# Connolly Shield Awards

The plays in competition were alike in putting the players on their mettle with inferior scripts, the only offering by an author of merit and repute being the sentimental, artificial and long forgotten "Old Friends" of J. M. Barrie. All directors did their best with what they had, and most casts rose to or above their slight occasions. "I Was a Stranger" (Pi Beta Phi) was an illustrated sub-chapter of social history rather than a play. Costumes and contrast were well handled, but for want of rehearsal and possibly of understanding, many of the speeches lacked ease and assurance and were not in character or in period. In "Old Friends (Arts and Science)", one parent supplied the underplaying, the other the tension that combined to make a domestic tragedy when all at first seemed well; but when the climax was unwrapped young players needed more help than the author and his situation supplied. "Florence Unlimited" (Delta Gamma) was little more than a farce, again with a "surprise" ending for the exact nature of which the audience should have been better prepared. Good use was made of dress and speech in the "character" parts, for which the straight player and the bystander were adequate foils. On the second evening, there were two post-mortems, of which

the farce-comedy of the first was no more offensive to this reviewer's taste than the synthetic moralising of the second. In "Rise and Shine" (Education) there was a nice balance of old and young, ancient and modern. The aging was notably good, and younger voices were natural and easy. All the players were "in" the play, and both for their own parts and for team-work all were contenders for best individual award. The shield goes to the team. "Balcony Scene" (Law) was obviously and admittedly written for competition both for play and best actor. Though it was a one-man show, the supporting parts were well taken, and did much to give the production a high rating. "The Man" however, had to carry the burden. In the beginning he strained somewhat under his load, but at the end he had relaxed convincingly into a difficult part, and for his major share in carrying the play he wins the award for best actor. For similar reasons, the award for best actress goes to the mother who supplied the necessary tension and suspense that were needed to keep the old friends and the audience from becoming too relaxed.

Summary: The Shield to Education; best actor, Paul Rouleau; best actress, Carol Clark.

C. L. B.

## Here is President Kerr's Munro Day Speech to the Student Body Concerning

# A New Men's Residence

### SATURDAY NIGHT

Excerpts from some of the more significant and more dramatic portions of "Faust" will be heard at Dalhousie this weekend in a reading performance, to be presented by students of the German department. The performance will be given Friday night, starting at 7 o'clock, in the Arts Building, Room 21.

### PARTICIPANTS

Director of the performance is Mrs. Usmiani. Members of the cast are: Faust, Otto Haenlein; Mephistopheles, Malcolm MacLeod; Gretchen, Margaret Doody; Martha, Susan Herman; Wagner, William MacDougall; Student, Frederick Bissett; Angels, Ian Gay, James McLeod, Roland Haines; Voice of the Lord, Melvin Heintz.

## WUSC Executive For 1958-59

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Faculty, Prof. Don Heasman.

The above slate of officers was elected at a general meeting of WUSC held on Thursday, March 6, 1958.

I think the Student Council was particularly anxious to know—and to have me tell this assembly—something about the Men's Residence, of which rumours have no doubt reached everyone here. I have seen the agitation for a Residence grow from very small beginnings and have, to say the least, not discouraged it. It is not so long since a Residence was placed quite far down on the list of the University's requirements, but it gradually became clear to the majority of those responsible for the guidance of our policy that the need was real and had become urgent, and the Residence was bracketed with a new Science Building in a place of top priority. Through the unprecedented bounty of Lady Dunn, whose interest in Dalhousie I cannot exaggerate, we were given the Science Building, which will bear the name of Sir James Dunn, a graduate of the University, a member of the Board of Governors, and at one time Honorary President of the Alumni Association. Tenders for the excavation of the site of this imposing building have now been called for, and the work should commence in the very near future. This great science centre will enable Dalhousie to play an appropriate part in the development of Physics, Engineering and Geology in our country. You will hear more about the prospects that it opens up for Dalhousie, at the proper time.

With the Science Building assured, it remains now for us to concentrate the necessary attention on the Men's Residence to get that important project under way. Many of us hoped, that we might have been in a position to make an official announcement about it before now, but circumstances seemed to conspire against us. I regret that I am not in a position even yet to tell you that the last impediment has been removed from our path and that there will be no more delays, but I can tell you that we are sanguine about making a start in the not distant future.

Our architects have devised plans, which the Board of Governors approved in principle, although changes—perhaps even fairly extensive changes—have yet to be made. They have produced an elevation, as it is technically called, which you will see this week in the hall-way of the Men's Residence. The structure in its eventual form will have a commodious refectory or dining-hall running north and south parallel with LeMarchant Street. It will be flanked by residential wings to house a total of 150 students in single rooms. The wings will run east and west on either end, that is, one wing will be parallel with and close to Coburg Road, and the other will be deeper within the campus. The three units, which will be joined together, will form a court facing west on the campus and we are confident that the

structure as a whole will not be unworthy architecturally of our present permanent buildings.

It is hoped that the dining room facilities will accommodate both the students who live in the Residence and those who live in private houses but may wish to have at least some of their meals on the campus.

The residence will be located on the north-east corner of the Studley property, that is, near the corner of LeMarchant Street and Coburg Road.

The minimum cost of the building, according to the architects' estimates, will be one million dollars, and may be considerably more. The Alumni Association has undertaken to find one hundred thousand dollars of this amount. We plan to ask the Canada Council for half of the cost, as it may be determined by further study. The Council, as you are aware, is permitted to give us that proportion, subject to the condition that the University match it, if it approves of the project and the specific plans. We intend to submit our report to the Canada Council at its April meeting, and the rapidity with which we move forward after that will depend on the Council's decision. The University on its part will be prepared to go into action just as soon as the necessary funds are in sight, and we will proceed even if we have to walk to some degree by faith in the future.

# Bargains of the Seizon

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It has now come to our attention that amounts indicated in the table which pertain to Dalhousie are not correct. Under the authority of the Board of Governors of this university the minimum salaries of faculty members are as follows:

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A PROFESSOR?

The last regular edition of the Gazette carried a comparative table of median salaries under the title "So You Want to be a Professor?". The source of the amounts listed therein was the Canadian Association of University Teachers salary survey which came to us by way of the Ubysey, the student paper of the University of British Columbia.

Assistant Professor \$5,000.  
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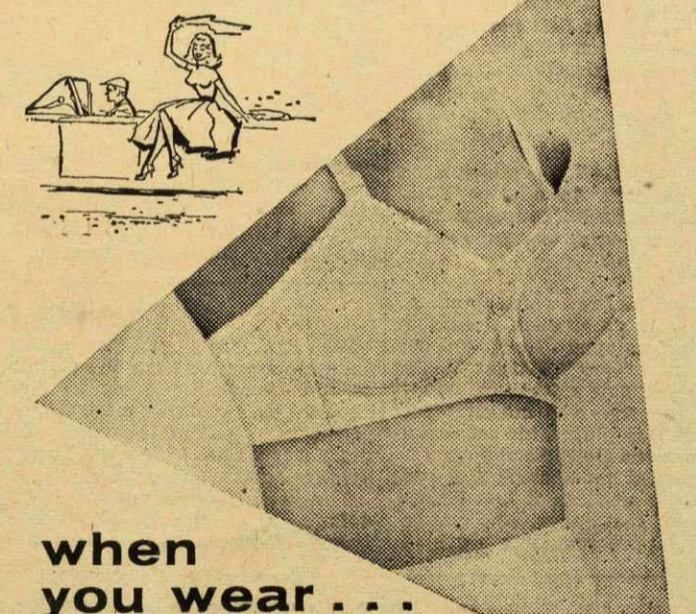
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This day I am informed by the great Killjoy that he vows to terminate my employ. 'Tis apparent the rogue is an errant scoundrel in league with Samson, Sobwell, Harrison and Wordley. This last is the most loathsome of the lot. The lady (I call her so through charity) hath adopted airs unbecoming to one of such mean beginnings. Forsooth she is the same wench known to Sobwell at Mother Midnight's as Dame Verbiage. Her epistolary effusions are so bereft of lucidity of expression and so riddled with childish error as to be beneath contempt. There was but one point in her screed worth notice. She makes mention of my casting "asperins" upon her honor. Methinks such a mild dross would do little to rendier apparent this long buried aspect of her character. Were I to recommend a cure for her malady 'twould surely be stewed prunes.

Of the evenings to the Bear-Garden. Therein a wondrous sight. The surface bedizened with head-wenches from all the branches and the periphery peopled with leering loons who didst hoot and scam. Shortly thereafter a brief diversion—several town wenches didst cavort aimlessly about the pond among them Old and Will. This latter Miss after a brief rise to prominence do seem to have faded of late. Then the long awaited contest. The Tabbies hopelessly routed showing no talent whatever. One Frostbe didst sit to one side exhorting his former colleagues to no avail. Thence by foot to the James wherein a great throng. One Cheats didst rant feebly upon frequent occasions only to be soundly hissed whenever he did so. Some relief afforded from his hapless attempts at humor by a succession of presentations offered under the guise of entertainment. The Goose greatly in evidence. Most were successful but amongst the others may be mentioned the Dry Felts best described as an exposition of anvil arches. The Fly Traps too didst attempt a strike of wit but their tongues being twisted from over frequent adulation of our Lady Hamilton one could not freely ascertain the meaning of their efforts. Thinking dark thoughts about the inutility puerilities of the aforementioned Cheats didst return to my lodgings to wreak vengeance on my wretched spouse.

Munro Day. Of the morning to the Bear Garden. Therein a most humorous contest under the name of a championship. Most amused thence to the James—nothing of consequence Dullards A versus Dullards B and none watching.

In the afternoon to the James to hear Lord Motor, who didst periphrase upon various agitations proffered by the scholars. Didst mention plans for a new edifice to replace the stables. Gratified to all attending received something and departed happily.

Again in the early evening to the James the apex of cultural and social activities at Dull to see the crowning of the Queen Wench, Pother, the Xenodich triumphant—general jubilation. Thence to my chambers—and so to bed.