

WHAT'S A NUS DAY?

By DENIS STAIRS

Today, March 5, is National University Student Day in Canada, a day in which students throughout the country are working to acquaint the public of their problems. Press, radio and television are carrying reports on the need for student financial aid, and are stressing the importance of education in a highly technical age. The idea for the special day originated last year after a brief submitted by NFCUS to Prime Minister Diefenbaker received wide public attention and acclaim.

The Prime Minister commented very favourably on the document, which pointed out the serious financial problems of the university student, and suggested how the situation might be alleviated. Similar briefs were also submitted to provincial government leaders.

Because of the publicity which these briefs received, NFCUS decided to follow up their campaign this year by creating NUS Day, the purpose of which is twofold: (1) To emphasize once again the need of financial aid for students, and (2) To impress the public that all people who have the necessary ability should be able to attend university. It is hoped that enough public opinion will thus be aroused to move the government to action.

Besides the extensive coverage by press, radio and television, panel discussions, symposium, public debates and open houses are being held on the various campuses. NFCUS President Mortimer Bistrisky is to interview the Prime Minister in the hope that something constructive may come from last year's brief.

On the provincial level, NFCUS Chairmen are to see the Premiers, whose opinions are to be asked regarding the Toronto Plan recently proposed by Claude Bissell, U of T's President. The plan recommends free tuition for first class students, bursaries for second class students, and a rearrangement of terms in the academic year, so as to provide two months holiday in the summer and one month both at Christmas and Easter. NFCUS has strongly approved the proposal in principle, although it has disagreed with many of the particulars. The plan is now under revision in Toronto in the light of NFCUS criticism.

Why Did You Come to University?

By LORRAINE KIRBY and PETER GREEN

Why did you come to University? In an interview with a cross-section of Dalhousie students the Gazette found that students come to university for a number of reasons. Here are the reasons that those interviewed stated for coming to university.

Betty Archibald: I came because I liked to idea of general academic life, of being able to take advantage of the facilities offered at university for a general education as well as preparation for a future career.

Alan Beattie: I came to university because education in high school seemed inadequate. University appeared virtually essential for business. I also had law in the back of my mind.

John Chambers: I was interested in the educational material available at university and I thought I could benefit from this. Higher education is also thought of as a necessity these days. The contact with people at university is also desirable.

Pam Dewis: When I decided to come to college I was too young to work, (so I thought) and I didn't see what else there was to do. I'm staying because I like every aspect of it. It seems the more I learn the more I want to find out. Incidentally I disagree with the theory that girls go to college for the social life only.

Ruth MacKenzie: I came to university mainly to study for a degree in English because I am interested in it and I think it is important. After I have my degree I may teach but I have not definitely decided.

Libby MacRae: I came because I wanted more than a high school education and I wanted to follow the courses in which I was interested.

Gannes Maharaj: My main reason for coming to university was a desire to be better educated than the average person at home. There is a great need for doctors in the country districts and working with the country people really made me decide to follow up my ambition to be a doctor at once so that I may return and help these people. Doctors are very highly respected people in Trinidad.

Henry Roper: My reason for coming to university was to find out what I am interested in and what I want to do.

Denis Stairs: It was always a generally accepted fact in the family that I would come to university to further my education. The real reason I suppose is because of the social and economic advantages to be gained.

Mary Whitman: I came to university because I consider that a college education is essential for any advancement and as a basis for a career. I wanted a broader education than high school provided and to study and learn more.

Rogue's Gallery



Council President

President-elect of the Council of the Students, Byron Reid, Med. III, is a resident of Middle Musquodobit, N.S. While in pre-med at Dal, he became quite well-known in the Glee and Dramatic Society and the S.C.M. Later, transferring his attention to Forrest Campus, he became secretary of the Medical Society, and Council Representative from his faculty.

Throughout his term of office, Byron has asked that students, for better campus cohesion, familiarize themselves with their Council Representative, and take any problems which might develop to him or to Byron personally.

John Chambers—Senior Boy

John, a Halifax boy, is taking Honors in English. He has worked on stage crew for DGDS and last term acted in the DGDS production "The Hidden River." He has also acted in "Antigone," produced by the Classics Society and has a part in this year's "Medea." An enthusiastic supporter of SCM and a hard-working member of the Pharos staff, John is best known on the campus as one of the Gazette's top cartoonists.



Council Vice-President

Wally Turnbull, newly-elected Vice-President of the Council of the Students, is a native of Rothsay, N.B. His interest in campus activities has been shown by the great volume of posts and positions he has held in various organizations during the last three years. Ranging from Managing Editor of Pharos last year to participation in Finian's Rainbow and Lizzie Borden, his byline is familiar to most people who read the Sports' Page of the Gazette.

Wally reiterates the need for a strong, independent Students' Council, for he believes that the coming year, with the opening of the new Men's Residence and the disposition of the present structure will figure quite highly in council considerations.

Senior Girl

Elliot Sutherland, a third year Arts student from New Glasgow, was elected to the offices of Senior Girl and president of Delta Gumma this week. After working on the Gazette news staff last year, she became assistant Features editor. Her other activities include being a member of Sodales, debating manager of Delta Gamma, secretary-treasurer of the Junior Class, and make-up manager for Paint Your Wagon.

Reviewer Receives Favorable Impression — "Wagon" a Success

By DAVE HILTON

Lerner and Loewe got a little more mileage out of their eight-year-old wagon at the Dal Gym last week; the royalties from these performances only increasing the prolific team's tax-burden.

But more important to the "wagon" rolled around last week was the axle-grease applied to it by DGDS. Faced with the possibility of a sophomore slump last year's successful staging of Finian's Rainbow, the Glee and Dramatic Society came through with a patchy but very good production, certainly one good enough to sound the death knell on that other prolific writing team, Gilbert and Sullivan, for all time.

Last week's show, above all else, seemed to show that everyone involved with Finian's a year ago, profited from the experience and were ready to apply their new-found knowledge in this year's production.

This is especially true of the show's braintrusts, Prof. Lamberton and Julia Gosling. The show was staged well, with an awkward script it's a credit that it didn't have too many awkward moments. On opening night, no one in the cast blew a line, somewhat of a rarity for a Dal production.

Musically the show was a success. And when you consider that after the first twenty minutes there are really no more good tunes left to be done, the success is even more outstanding.

I'm not sure if the pit chorus was written into the show by the authors or was the idea of the show's producer but it was an excellent idea and at times saved the chorus singing on stage.

The chorus also had the added advantage of giving balance to a good pit band, but which at times, had the habit of getting just a little too loud. But any criticism of the music or musical direction of the show must be minute for if there was any single facet of the production which turned the presentation from an average to a worthwhile effort it was the musical direction of the chorus, the orchestra and the leads.

And the leads all had talented singing voices. Most pleasing of all was the singing voice of Craig Fry as Julio. Although his acting as the romantic lead was quite stiff at times, each time he moved to the front of the stage he had his audience convinced of his part. Jim McKenna playing the part of the wandering sourdough (or is sourdough applied only to Klondike gold miners) looked the part, sang the part but once again was a little weak on the acting side. But as the show went on, McKenna stopped resorting to some very awkward mannerisms and seemed to give his performance a little more depth.

Don Aitken was the most experienced member of the cast. Last year he was excellent as Finian, this year he was just as excellent as

Jake Whippany. His singing voice was more than adequate, his acting polished and what's most important he seemed to give confidence to the rest of the people on stage. Aitken didn't have a solo number until the beginning of the second act, but when he did come on as a principal, he seemed to give the whole show a much needed injection of life.

The sole feminine lead in the show is the part of Ben's daughter, Jennifer. While the musical would not fall apart without a good Jennifer, it would be an awfully long first act to sit through. And Charlotte Gibbon, another alumnus of last year's Finian's Rainbow cast, did more to sustain the pace in the first act than any of the leads. Her timing was good and her acting expressive. Her voice is restricted with a rather narrow range but she made the most of her numbers. The first, "What's Goin' on Here?" was a neutral for her and she belted it out with enough verve to capture the audience's attention which up to that time seemed to be taking the whole show more like a concert than a musical-comedy offering.

But the show didn't have to lean on the ability of the leads and for this I think the performance was much more balanced than Finian's Rainbow of last year.

Many of the better moments of the show came from persons with small parts. The first of these was

when the Chinese boys trooped across the stage in the number "I'm On My Way." Garnet Pettipas as Salem Trumbell was another who did an excellent job with a small part and the same can be said of the dancing and acting of Phoebe Redpath.

But the best of the bit players were the trio Maura Morton, Marlene Matthews and Phil Koven who played the part of the wandering Mormon Family—husband, wife and wife. Their number was the best in the show. The girls set polygamy back another fifty years. All of the trio showed a fine flair for comedy, a good sense of timing and best of all they sang well.

The dancing, which is an integral part of any musical had its moments both good and bad. The first number between Julio and Jennifer was too long and should have been done with a more dramatic flair to set-up Jennifer's number "How Can I Wait?" Even with the talent of Joey Martin, the miner's dance in "They Called the Wind Maria" was just out of place and hindered all the more the rather mediocre choreography.

But notwithstanding the fine performance of the girls the best dance number was the miners' "Whoop-Ti-Ay" which was staged well and set an exciting pace that carried till the end of the first act, when Cherry and the girls made their entrance.

The girls added a lot to the show's second act. Joe Martin's dancing covered up a lot of the sins of the choreography in some of the other numbers.

The show was well costumed, the only weak spot perhaps being Julio, and the make-up was the best seen on a Dal stage in at least three years.

The sets were fine and credit must go to the work of Forbes Langstroth and his crew whose work was much more ambitious than the sets of last year. Restricted by lack of fly space, they can't be blamed for having to stage so much of the show in front of the curtain and their sets, especially the half set of Ben's cabin and Salem's store front were both done very well.

The conversion of Dutchie's saloon to Jake's Place didn't come off quite so well but their work did much to make the whole production seem a colorful affair.

Paint Your Wagon was not quite as good a musical as Finian's Rainbow and from here on the DGDS should be careful in just what vehicle they chose for their annual offering. Undoubtedly they are going to be restricted in choice by budget, talent and the stage they have to work from, but they are never going to have a real smash success unless they pick a musical that has some depth, artistic and entertainment value to it.