

SENIOR SLABS

By John R. MacDonald



First Floor Memorial, the den of our Senior citizens, has been stung with "Beatlemania". Bereft of hair-styling only, half of the floor has been holding two sessions daily rehearsing a host of Beatle favorites. Little has come out of it thus far, except that in Dick Manz we've found Canada's answer to Ringo. Dick incidentally, only dropped his weights once in the last two weeks. Dick is apparently in training for something, be it the summer Olympics or whatever. This is especially manifested at the table where he stuffs himself like a bear the day before winter. A lot of people, granted, have "seconds", but captain Tarnitz usually manages "fifths" or "sixths".

The Engineers have been crying for a few weeks now about their elimination from the Buzzer Hockey playoffs. Since my roommate is buzzer hockey manager I have been privileged to listen in on two or three heated conferences in our room. It seems that the boys think that they have been cheated by my honourable roommate. Led by Joe Murphy, their illustrious President, they have practically torn down our door with their demands for justice. I expect to see them bearing placards about the campus any day now. Employing their traditional ingenuity, Joe and the boys will probably use this for an excuse for another day of "wine" and roses. Face reality, gentlemen.

The class is justly proud of its own "towers of strength" on this year's championship hockey club (no matter what Dr. Stuart may rule). Though some have been critical of Dick Tingley's sub-par season, those "on the inside" report that his love-life may be a dominant factor. (Maybe their just jealous, Dick.) I heard that A. J. has charged the "Gumper" a sizeable sum for damage to the boards created by his size 9 squash. Jim Peddle, for those who didn't know, received a few stitches above the eye. The question being asked, "Will June still look at him?" This is in view of the rumors that said the blow was not received on the ice, but in the "jungle".

News Briefs... Jim Hickey, the most loyal of Her Majesty's servants in the RCN (in fact, he should be a recruiter) hasn't slept in a week. He is deeply disturbed by the threats of violence to Her person during the October visit to Quebec... In filling out a biography sheet for the Yearbook in the blank for parents Foster Burke wrote "Mummy and Daddy". George Swift in the space for future plans, wrote: "to attain by ultimate end". Father Tammy, I am sure, is rejoicing over his conversion... After having five teeth removed, one member of our class is almost wishing that he were a toad. The repercussions are devastating: he has been ostracized from the den for a period of two weeks. What now will he have to look forward to on the weekends?... Chuck McEwen, elsewhere in this issue "dumps" on me quite heavily. Though I would like to retaliate I would not want to create a scandal... Walt Buotte is planning on returning next year to pursue a B.Ed. Someone also told me, though I don't believe it, that he invested in a pack of cigarettes on February 26. What was the occasion? Washington's birthday was the 22nd... John Flanagan, for who would imagine why, has lately been cussin CUS.

The life time executive has recently been chosen for the Class of '64: President, John Dunphy; Vice-President, Foster Burke; Secretary, Noreen Cameron. Two honorary committee members were also chosen, they are Paul D. Foster and Ann Callaghan. EXTRA! EXTRA! I have the privilege to announce that Mr. Colin J. McMillan has been chosen valedictorian. I wish to express sincere congratulations to the above mentioned people.

Cus to Promote Visits to High Schools

John Flanagan, CUS Chairman at S. D. U., reports that several members of the Junior and Senior Classes are currently engaged in visiting various high schools on the Island. The talks being given to the students are intended to encourage more of them to go on to higher education and to answer any questions they may have about university life.

Prohibitions and Politics

By Peter Grant

"Let's face it. In almost every democracy, the goal of the party in power is not the common good but the perpetuation of itself." This statement was recently made by one of the better-informed persons at St. Dunstan's University. And, this condition seems to be present in our own provincial government, as the existence of our obsolete temperance laws indicate. Strict prohibition has no place in

a society. It breeds boot-legging, and thus, contempt for the law, and secret drinking which promotes alcoholism. It does not produce abstinence, its ultimate goal.

But, until recently, no party in power has made an attempt to rid society of this burden. The legislators are afraid that if they make such a move, they will be promptly removed from office. But this threat should have no influence on their decision. These are educated people and the evils of prohibition should be obvious to them. They should have no alternative except to act for the common good. However, they are not doing this!

Two recent occurrences illustrate the elements which cause our members to tremble in their shoes. An article recently appeared in a local paper by one of our self-styled promoters of the virtue of temperance. This person related the various evil effects of alcohol, broken homes, ruined lives, divorce, etc., and then came to the conclusion that strict prohibition was the only solution. This person, thus assured of his righteousness, went on to challenge anyone to write an article which could possibly defend the opposite view, confident that no one could be ghoulish enough to wish all the afore-mentioned evils upon society.

This person is obviously confusing the abuses of alcohol with alcohol itself. If he were to follow his line of argumentation to its logical conclusion, one might expect that his next article will condemn sex because of the evil abuses associated with it. Anyone with any perception whatsoever sees that prohibition is just another abuse of alcohol. It solves no problems and creates many more. But there was no reply to this disillusioned person's letter. The college graduates, the educated people, the brains in our society seemed to ignore this obviously misguided article. But how many people did it win over to the side of prohibition? How many members of parliament were nervously awaiting the approval of society in the form of numerous replies to this article before they would make their move? They didn't receive it!

Just the other day, the people who know the difference received another major setback. Shortly after a bill to eliminate prohibition was introduced in parliament, one of the members took the floor and proceeded to give a brilliant, emotion-filled performance. He said that at one time he himself had been the worst drunk in Charlottetown. He was cured now but he pleaded with the government not to do away with prohibition, the only saviour for himself and many other unfortunates. Obviously, prohibition had actually been a contributing factor to his alcoholism, and he cured himself in spite of it. However, because of its bad effect on him, he now abhors alcohol and feels that everyone else should abstain from it lest they suffer the same fate. Regardless of how unreasonable his viewpoint

was, his excellent delivery had its effect, and no one dared challenge him lest they be marked as supporters of vice. Indeed, this would hurt their chances in the next election. Thus, progress towards prohibition was further retarded.

No government, whether moral obligation exists or not, is going to cut its own throat. Prohibition will not be abolished unless people speak out against it. Very few members have the courage to stand up for something if they suspect that they do not have the public support. But bad legislation such as this should not be accepted passively. We, the public, must make our views public! Thus assured, the legislators will be able to abolish such laws as prohibition without the fear of being put out of office.

Anyone for a D?

On the campus there has been established for some time a system by which deserving students receive, as recognition of services rendered to the university, a gold or a silver administrative D. This mere letter is the symbol of four long years of hard work and sacrifice mixed with equal parts of enthusiasm and determination. Obviously, the motivation behind such a system was to help ignite in the student the latent capacity for good leadership. Thus, there would be both benefits for the individual and for the institution.

Initially it was decided that certain societies on campus would be selected and the executive officers of these would obtain from fifty to five hundred points per year depending on the relative value of their positions. Are we turning this high honor into a farce? After a few years it would not be hard to imagine—"Seven hundred and twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven... what shall it be, silver or Gold, my administrative D? Only silver, what? Why I remember the time, yes, it all comes back to me now—my second year in freshman it was—"Vice Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee to Obtain Contact Lenses for Cross-Eyed Dogs".

"Well, could I help it if there weren't any cross-eyed dogs on campus?" A Special Awards Committee was set up whose function seems to be to record and add up points attained by the students. The theory behind this idea of awarding students of outstanding leadership and ability is admirable but the practicality of it is not quite so. For in its execution we are apt to see the defeat of our purpose. Are we not over emphasizing that the important thing is to be the head of a society? It's not really whether you fill those offices well or not, it's that you get your points that counts. And, on this level a revision of the point system is badly needed.

To consider a second point, it would seem unnecessary at the university level to set up a committee simply to add points.

Should not the function of the Special Awards Committee be rather that of deciding upon the real contribution the candidates for D's made and are making in their respective offices? Actually, it would seem to be the primary role of the Students' Union to see that the societies which are recognized and supported by it, be as efficiently organized as possible.

Now in a case where a student has fulfilled all the requirements for a silver or even a gold D, it should be such an occasion that all would rise to honor him. Could not arrangements be made to have such awards presented by the President of our University before the whole student body? Could not some ceremony and tradition surround the occasion? After all, the people who receive these D's have given much to their University and ours and truly we all receive the fruits of their labors.

CENTENNIAL YEAR

Some very prominent citizens of Charlottetown spoke to the St. Dunstan's students in general and the High School students in particular about the 1964 centennial celebrations. The speakers were Mr. Walthen Gaudet, Mayor of Charlottetown; Mr. Art Ross, Chairman of the Charlottetown Centennial Committee; Mr. George Chandler, President of the Charlottetown Board of Trade; and Sergeant Gus Dowling of the City Police Force.

In a thirty minute talk, Mr. Gaudet emphasized the importance of the Centennial Celebrations to the people of Prince Edward Island and its visitors. Referring to the recent agricultural convention held here in January, Mr. Gaudet said he was still receiving letters of thanks to the people of Prince Edward Island for the warmth and hospitality shown to them. Deviating from his prepared text, he said he was told by members of the Dominion curling executive that the recent Dominion Brier Competition, held in Charlottetown was the most successful Brier in its history.

Mayor Gaudet pointed out that it was most important that the people of Prince Edward Island, especially the student, know something about the history of the Island if they are to be host to the many thousands of people expected to visit the Island this year. Giving a brief history of the Maritime Conference held in Charlottetown in 1864 and the subsequent meeting in Quebec that same year, he referred to Rev. F. W. P. Bolger as the foremost authority on confederation in Prince Edward Island and encouraged the students to purchase Father Bolger's book which will soon be released on the subject.

Wishing St. Dunstan's students a happy and successful centennial year, Mr. Gaudet introduced Mr. George Chandler who emphasized the importance of playing "the perfect host" this year and participating in the celebrations. He was followed by Mr. Art Ross who outlined just a few of the many events being staged in Charlottetown.

Mr. Ross was followed by Gus Dowling of the Charlottetown Police Force who stressed the importance of cooperation between the police and the people which would be necessary to make the centennial celebrations run smoothly and successfully.

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