

EDITORIAL:

# Promoting National Debates

Earlier this month St. Dunstan's University was represented in the National Debating Finals for the seventh time within fourteen years. Of these seven occasions, St. Dunstan's won the national crown (Macdonald-Laurier trophy) twice, three times it lost the finals by a split decision, and only twice was it eliminated in the semi-finals.

For a university to qualify for the national finals, it must first capture the regional title in one of the four regions across Canada from which the finalists are represented. The fact that this great honour has been bestowed upon St. Dunstan's on no less than seven occasions is indeed an extraordinary achievement, and an outstanding record of which no other university in Canada can boast.

This year, as in all previous years, the national finals were conducted in Upper Canada. But although the Atlantic region is always represented in these finals and is also a very staunch supporter of the National League, national debates have never been held in any of the Atlantic provinces. We feel that the time is due for universities in these provinces to be given an opportunity to witness a national debate, and we strongly urge the NFCUS Debating Association to give some consideration to this matter.

On the subject of national debates, we wish to commend the NFCUSDA for the very fine manner in which they organize debates. We feel much time and effort is expended on this project, and NFCUSDA should be given a vote of thanks for their great contributions. However, we also feel that the systems, as they exist at present, should either be completely revised, or at least reviewed in the light of several innovations made since the formation of the National League.

The editor of this paper represented St. Dunstan's in the national finals last year, and from his experience there, coupled with information received from this year's participants, we feel urged to make some suggestions to the NFCUSDA which ought to be helpful in arranging future national debates, and in improving the manner in which they are conducted.

On the subject of judging national debates, we suggest to the NFCUSDA the following proposals:

1. All universities participating in the national finals should be notified in ample time prior to the debates as to:  
(a) the names of the judges, and  
(b) their qualifications in evaluating university debates. This practice is widely used in the Atlantic provinces, and it has been very successful in securing cordial agreements among the member universities of the League.
2. At the conclusion of the debate, the judges should be requested:  
(a) to give a critical analysis of the debate; and  
(b) to justify the reasons for arriving at their decisions. Not only does this help the debaters to pin-point their mistakes and to improve their art, but at the same time, it does provide the audience with a comprehensive understanding of both the essence and the art of debating.
3. As debating rules usually vary from League to League, the judges should be informed as to the specific rules used in the national finals. They should also be provided with these rules in suitable time before the debate so that they could study them carefully.

On the subject of publicity, we also feel that national debates should be nationally publicised. At present, the only universities which are aware of the outcome of the national finals are those which take part in these finals. This year, the Ontario High Schools' finals were conducted simultaneously with the national finals. It is interesting to note that several media of communication (including the CBC) devoted a relatively large coverage to the high schools' debates, while only a passing reference was made to the university finals.

However, this oversight should not in any way be attributed to the NFCUSDA. We feel they are doing a very fine job, and should be commended for it. We are offering these proposals, not as criticisms, but simply as constructive suggestions. We would be happy to see the NFCUSDA give them careful consideration.

## RED and WHITE

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# Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily the opinions of the editor and staff. Whether we agree or disagree, they will be published subject to the availability of space. The editor strongly urges all students to make the best use of these columns.

## ESSAY ON CRITICISM

Dear Sir:

During the year now drawing to a close, there has been a great deal of criticism levelled at the senior class. This criticism has come both from faculty and students, from underclassmen and from seniors themselves. It has even become the topic of discussion of the Junior Speaking class: "how not to be like the Class of '63". The failure of the senior class has become accepted as a fact, not merely a prediction.

Now there is one characteristic, however, which is universal to the criticism poured out upon the "unfortunates" of the Class of '63. The criticisms and the critics could be criticized for being vague and nebulous. The main criticism seems to be that the Seniors are not united, that the Seniors are not leaders.

Yet what is the criterion used by the critics to measure leadership? Is their concept of a leader one who looks upon the underclassmen as children who must be led around the campus by the hand, who must be shown in every

individual circumstance, how to act to give credit to the University. I think too often this is what is desired, yet this could never be done, because the seniors would not do it, nor would the underclassmen permit it.

It seems to me that the Senior class is being "tagged" with the failure of both seniors and the rest of the University with the load too great for the strongest to bear. Senior class has become the "scapegoat" on which all the "sins" of the campus rest. Is it then any wonder that the Senior class is disunited? They have been criticized severely since September, and they are being criticized now in the Junior Speaking class. Is this how we foster respect and support for our leaders?

I would just like to give one piece of advice to the critics: If you want to exercise the role of a leader, shut your month, get off your butt, and lead.

Mike Lane  
Proudly President  
Class of '63"

## Simmons heads Class of '63

The Class of '63 met recently to elect life officers and a valedictorian. The vice-president of the Senior Class, Tom O'Reilly, presided in the absence of the president, Mike Lane.

Bob Simmons, a native of Charlottetown and a Science student was elected Life President. He is married to the former Phillipa McNally of Summerside and has one child. For four years Bob has been doing his share in gaining St. Dunstan's football victories and has been outstanding in track and field. It is felt that his contribution to the class in working unobtrusively behind the scenes in the various committees particularly advertising, the Winter Carnival, and class rings, make him especially deserving of the office.

Since he arrived from Cornerbrook three years ago, Tom O'Reilly has been active in intramural basketball and hockey, as well as a trumpeter in the band. Tom has already served as Vice-president of the senior class and as a member of the various committees. Since he has both the fortunate attributes of Commerce man and Newfoundlander, the honour of being Life Vice-President is quite fitting.

For Life Secretary the class elected Ellen Reddin, a Monctonian by birth but a self-proclaimed

Islander. Ellen won her debating D in freshman, was president of the Girls' Debating Society, and this year served as associate editor of RED AND WHITE. She will have the task of keeping tabs on the Seventy-one members of her class (via the alumni letter) after they scatter across Canada and the United States.

Marcia Arsenault and Jim Bentham are the Life Committee members. Both Science students, Marcia hails from Summerside, P.E.I. and Jim, originally from Ontario, is married to the former Jacqueline MacIntyre of Charlottetown. Marcia was Miss Engineer in freshman and lent her executive talent to the Drama Society and the Social Committee. She has acted with great charm and elan in several campus productions. Jim played in varsity football and is president of the Amateur Athletics Association.

The Class was unanimously in choosing a member to deliver the valedictory. The thirty-six members present elected another Science student from Charlottetown; Harry Callaghan, winner of six intercollegiate debates, and an ardent supporter of collective student effort, was elected valedictorian of the class of '63. Not content with words alone he played intra-mural hockey and junior varsity basketball.

## DRAMA SOCIETY WINS SIX AWARDS

The "Merchant of Venice," S.D.U.'s entry in the regional drama festival, was termed a "splendid production" by adjudicator, William Needles. He had words of commendation and constructive criticism for the actors as well as the director, Rev. Adrian Arsenault. A feeling of tenseness and excitement prevailed before the performance, but the adjudicator soon put the players at ease with his friendliness and easy manner. To receive such glowing praise seemed rewarding enough for the hard work expended on the production.

But the greatest tribute was yet to come. On the following

evening when the Dominion Drama Festival awards were presented, St. Dunstan's players walked off with six of the seven trophies. Ron Whelan won the best actor award for his portrayal of Shylock; the best actress award went to Patricia Leightizer for her role as Portia. The other awards won by the S.D.U. entry were: the visual trophy for the best set; the Dominion Drama Festival trophy and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters cash award for the best play of the festival; and the best director's award to Father Adrian Arsenault.

It was a great day for St. Dunstan's, and especially for Father

## The Wreck of The "John B."

There seems to be many disappointed people around here lately; but the most disappointed, it appears, is John B. MacDonald, who I am sure, will be very glad to see his name in this edition. Mr. MacDonald, to be sure, was let down before and missed seeing his name in print. It was not too wise, though, for him to tear down the staff of the paper in which his name appears; it takes away from the glory.

The reason for the absence of this most noted name is debatable. Mr. MacDonald is of the opinion that the staff is prejudiced and deliberately kept his name out. Now why, I ask, would he think this? What has he done to deserve it? He is an honorable man. Why, then, should he question the editors' right to keep out any article or letter which he feels is not worthy for print? Perhaps Mr. MacDonald's pride was hurt. If so, I am sorry; but this happens, at times, to the best of us.

If Mr. MacDonald wants to know why, and by whom, his letter was removed, he should ask the editor personally, instead of airing his troubles before all; most of whom are not in the least bit interested. It could be that he thinks the editor will suffer by this kind of action. I regret to tell him that the editor suffers the least of all; it is Mr. MacDonald who is laughed at for his childishness. Growing up takes time and Mr. MacDonald seems to be taking his time, and letting everyone know it.

In conclusion, I would like to say, that the next time Mr. MacDonald takes to reading religious material, he should read the one on humility which says: "He who humbles himself shall be exalted; he who exalts himself shall be humbled."

Joan B. MacDonald.

Arsenault who spent so much time and energy in making the play the splendid success it was. Probably this will be an incentive for more of our students to try out for roles when the Drama Society announces upcoming productions. It is only with cooperation that such an undertaking can be started and brought to its end result. Mr. Needles remarked on the spirit of cooperation that was so evident among the cast members. St. Dunstan's can well be proud of its Drama society. By the way, the trophies are on display in the library (if you haven't already seen them.)

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