

FEATURE PAGE

Canadian Universities

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McGill University

"James McGill, James McGill,
Peacefully he slumbers there,
Blissful though we're on the tear."

Beneath the rare "Ginko" tree just outside the Arts Building, James McGill lies peacefully. Were James to return from his "Blissful" state for the purpose of visiting Montreal he might not recognize in Montreal as it stands today—the embryonic beginnings of a university, placed on the gentle southern slope of Mount Royal and surrounded by rough grazing land, that was McGill in its genesis some 120 years ago.

Now approximately eight thousand students throng McGill's campus with its wide lawns, presently buried under winter's whiteness, its graceful trees, its grey stone buildings and historic Roddick Gates. This university is financed privately and many of its buildings are named after famous men who have donated money or services to the institution. Among these are the Redpath Library, the Redpath Museum, Moyses Hall, Duggan House, Molson Stadium, the Donner Building, Morris Hall, Purvis Hall and the Roddick ("erotic") Gates. Since the war, and partly because of the war, (the influx of veterans), McGill has undertaken an extensive programme of expansion, which is now nearing completion. Most publicized of these additions is the Radiation Laboratory and Cyclotron, an ultra-modern establishment staffed by students who are working toward their Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Another of the post-war projects is Dawson College, McGill's annex, 30 miles from the mother campus. Dawson has its own lectures and entertainment, Students' Council, and—perhaps because it is on the site of an ex-RCAF camp—its own gripes and grumbles.

McGill's Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, its Board of Governors and Senate do, of course, control the most serious workings of the University. But, for college life, the students depend on their Students' Society, the governing body of which is the Students' Society, the Presidents of the Men's and Women's Unions, and the Editor-in-Chief of the McGill Daily sit in on this council—assisted in solving their knotty problems by representatives of the various faculties. Out of their late-at-night sessions come such decisions as grants to many of the campus clubs, approval of the constitutions of new clubs, the discovery of a necessity to raise students' fees, and to lower the Society quorum from 500 to 300.

Clubs, societies and such things run the gamut, from the McGill Student Veteran Society, where ex-service types can air their views to the barn-dancing section of the McGill Outing Club, where city types can air their heels. There are literary clubs and language clubs and sport clubs, till the harassed fresher wonders why he bothered to register in the ordinary courses, Canada's four main political bodies come together periodically in a Mock Parliament, and direct the usual kindly remarks to one another.

The University has organized its sports activities under the newly formed Department of Athletics, Physical Education & Recreation. The recent completion of a drive, organized by the McGill Graduates Society, for funds to build a war memorial in the form of a Swimming Pool and Rink Auditorium will enable undergrads to take an even more active part in sports. At present the senior hockey team holds place in the University league.

The month of February promises to be a sparkling one for McGill. We will witness the second major production this year, of the Players Club, also the annual Red and White Revue and a presentation of Gay's "Beggar's Opera." The mammoth effort in this direction will be the three-day Winter Carnival, when students, professors, and guests will be invited to witness all types of winter sports, garnished with dancing, feasting, bands and bonfires.

With all this, and perhaps graduation too, students at McGill generally seem to find life an interesting and happy occupation.

BUT INCIDENT
By Fred Cogswell

A singer weaves
the words' design,
a sculptor hews
the rock's outline,

and the living sun
that moulds the earth
works but as they
creative birth.

But radiant life
for all its toil
can but shape, not pierce
the inert coil. . . .

The singer dies,
the words remain;
the rock outwears
the sculptor's brain;

even as each sun's
dynamic light
must yield its place
to static night

so life shall pass
and creation be
but incident
to eternity

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