

M. & D.

Anne Sansom

My sad state of affairs courses interfere with regular activities. There is a law preventing it, there isn't, I was under the law. After the state of affairs to sellers more times than desire to recall, it is end the dispute once, with a plea to the all lectures be cancelled, the extra-curricular way. Be that as it may, Bob Coke has my cons, and an apology that see him win then. Let so that Wilma will have for a tombstone herself more acts to come.

The bagatelles dispatched with, there remains the bus. Inspector's General Danny Kaye's box of Prof. Alvin Shaw has species in his pocket—the deer stalking cap at inspector is out of the Just in case you missed yesterday, there will be watch for notices, etc.

P. is urging next week. w., who gets around, is of Prof. David Gal- excellent script. The cast dark script, even some production committee have as to who they may be obtains again tsk. tsk.), so cast on the fifth should an ear opener, the C.B.C. watch it's board fades.

matter what is floating these days the stage is thing. All the world's a the minds of some people. there is a great deal to it—the applause of mul- forgetting critics remarks), the thrill of perform- packed houses and the n of "Let's Pretend". The of course is the fact that we have plays enough, no proper stage on which nt them. But then, per- lay may come when people er enough and interested to earn such a glorious ment, something might be metime.

es, while we are still on ect of drama, there is an- atter still to be mentioned. trait used in "The Twelve ook" was painted by Lucy specially for the play. Art ama are not so far di- after all, no matter what ical may have to say on ject. Or at any rate they 't be. The portrait was a too in spite of the rush job was. "Our Lucy" is quite with a brush it is plain to

change the subject for a mo- it seems that the press s a precarious one. When can vanish over night it is sad state of affairs both for and for us. It is the same ry over again. "The king t, long live the... queen... in this case." It is nice to other half of the species hand in matters of import- once in a while. Editor, the very best, the last skin- never gave me that raise y.

still, the old complaint— y ever does anything. Peo- ep rushing up to me about m Club. Well, be that as it the society has gone west ill stay there until it gets members. You can't expect people to do everything, even of them is a Forester. More- how can films be rented ut money, and how can you money unless people come to e films. If there is an Eco- nt who can solve this prob- of high finance, I would be grateful.

e Inspector, one act plays, its, urp(!), films, editors and s. What else is there? There ll the old beefs, but nobody pays any attention to them; is Mount A., but paper is too sive; there are Drama Fes- s, but they are dubious; so is there of note? Nothing! ybody likes out of season modities, so they seem to have ht the out of season laziness ring fever. Of course there e Red N' Black, but then 's just spring fever over again, n) hand me that mint julep

The Story Began at Lunch in Warsaw

By John M. Scott
McGill Daily

(In the following narrative editorial, the story of the proposed student exchange between Canada and the Soviet Union is told. It was written by John Scott, last year's editor-in-chief of The Daily, and is based on an interview with Denis Lazure, who made the original proposal.—Ed.)

One day early in September, in a grey-stone Government building on Warsaw's Stalin boulevard, an intense, 26-year-old Montreal medical student talked over lunch with a Moscow law undergraduate named M. Vdovin. Each was representing the students of his country at a council meeting of the Communist-run International Union of Students. Their conversation raised an issue that has been talked about on Canadian campuses ever since.

The Canadian—Denis Lazure, of the University of Montreal—had a dramatic proposition: an exchange

of student visits between Canada and the Soviet Union, sponsored by the national student unions of the two countries.

About 20 Soviet students would visit this country for three or four weeks during the current academic session. They would tour across the land from University to University, giving cultural performances and participating in small, informal bull-sessions on each campus. Enough would speak English to be able to interpret for the rest. Concurrently or later, a similar group of Canadian students would go to Russia in return.

Vdovin, who speaks fluent English, quickly transplanted these details for the 230 lb. head of the Soviet delegation to the meeting, a Ukrainian named Pesjack. Pesjack and the other Russians present seemed immediately enthusiastic. But they wanted two or three days — the meeting lasted seven — to think it over.

Idea Neither New Nor Untried

Denis Lazure's idea was neither new nor untied. In fact, Britain had executed just such an exchange with the Soviets last winter. The president of Britain's National Union of Students, John Thompson, described it to Denis Lazure in this way: In February, fifteen Soviet students, natives of most areas within the U.S.S.R. toured British Universities. The students they met found them reasonable in discussion, and almost fantastically inaccurate in the notions brought with them about the living and economic conditions of British students. Thompson described their visit as a "real accomplishment in the field of understanding." Next month the

Britons paid a return visit.

Three days later the Soviets had "thought it over." There is every evidence that they had, in fact, cleared the proposal with the Soviet Government, through the Moscow headquarters of the Soviet Anti-Fascist Youth Committee (Students' Section). That is the name of Russia's national student's union, the equivalent of our National Federation of Canadian University Students (NFCUS).

"Yes," the Russians told Denis Lazure, "we would be happy to come. And we here and now extend an invitation on the same basis as yours to Canada's national students' union to send a delegation to visit us."

They Would Pay Their Own Way

How would the trip over here be financed? The Soviets seemed not to be worried about that at all. In the first place, they would fly to Canada at their own expense (it is likely the Soviet Government would foot the bill). Secondly, the receipts from the cultural performances they would give would be contributed towards their traveling expenses while here. And if the NFCUS couldn't scrape up enough money to cover the remaining expenses, the Soviets themselves would pay the difference.

That was how matters stood when the meeting broke up in Warsaw. It was clearly understood that both invitations would

have to be approved by the two national students' unions when the delegates returned home. At seven o'clock in the morning on Sept. 7 Denis Lazure caught a plane for Canada.

Four days later he was in London, Ont., to report back to Canada's national students' union on what he had said and done in Warsaw. He might just as well have been talking to the Kremlin's stone walls when he told the assembled student officials about the proposed exchange. The Federation decided by twelve votes to six not to ratify the invitation Denis Lazure had extended to the bulky Pesjack and his friends.

Now They Have Forgotten Why

To judge by what they are saying, the delegates who opposed the proposal at the conference now seem to have forgotten why. The Federation's Ontario vice-president has said publicly that it was turned down because having the Soviets here would cost the federation a lot of money. And from Toronto, the Federation has written to the Russian students' union giving this as a reason for the decision: "A number of difficulties were raised in conjunction with the financing of such a project and the technical arrangements for conducting such a tour across

Canada." These statements clearly misrepresent the facts. The resolution on the matter that was defeated at the conference was strictly a question of principle, it simply proposed that the invitation be ratified, and contained an explicit proviso that the Federation would incur no financial responsibility if the Soviets actually came. On the Toronto campus, the student newspaper complains that their delegates have consistently refused to give any reasons at all for voting against the invitation. There is a good reason for all this prevarication and hesi-

tation. It is not that the delegates have forgotten why they opposed the Soviet exchange, but that they have suddenly realized that their reasons for doing so were not good enough.

Like a Bolt From the Blue

Why was it then, that this question of principle was defeated? Why did student council presidents from twelve Universities say no to the question? It was because they were afraid. The proposal came at them like a bolt from the blue, and they were not prepared to think it through.

They were afraid of what people would say. They were afraid that the Federation would be tagged with a "red" label, that the students to whom they were responsible would not back them up if they voted yes, and that the Soviets, if they did come, would be banned from appearing on several camps. It is this sort of attitude that Time Magazine discusses this week in an article on "The Younger Generation" in the United States. "Educators across the U.S. complain that young people seem to have no militant beliefs," Time says. "They do not speak out for anything. Professors who used to enjoy baiting students by outrageously praising child labour and damning Shelley now find that they cannot get a rise out of the docile note-takers in their classes. . . . Many students and teachers blame this lack of conviction on fear — the fear of being tagged 'subversive.' Today's generation, either through fear, passivity or conviction, is ready to conform."

A few have been more down-to-earth in their opposition. They say quite reasonably that the Soviet Government would not allow any-one to come here who was a thoroughly-trained, indoctrinated and dedicated Communist. Moreover, the argument continues, there is not the slightest chance they could see the light while here, and even if they did, they would not be free to

express themselves once they had returned behind the Iron Curtain. It is also reasonable to suggest that the British students may have over-estimated the practical worth of the visit the Soviets made to England. However, there are imposing objections to this view: one writer suggests it would do us a lot of good to have a look at "some real, live, breathing Russian Communists, ask them questions, show them what we are, and perhaps explain why and carefully note their reactions." We are gradually learning to hate these people, and may well one day have to fight them. Certainly we can never achieve mutual understanding of we refuse to have contact with them. In either case, there will be some advantages and no disadvantages, in talking to them.

It is not sufficient, however, to think only of the practical worth of the exchange. The case must stand or fall on other grounds. Whether they know it or not, there are fifteen students in the Soviet Union today who are provoking discussion here of issues far more important than their visit in itself could ever be. Across the country Canadian students are being asked to reconsider the decision their representatives made at London, Ont. We have in the past always maintained our faith in democratic ideals and practice, and in the free exchange of persons and ideas, at international student meetings. To the thousands who today stand in indecision between the Western and Communist blocs, decisions such as this will indicate how deeply we hold to the faith we profess. And both to them and to ourselves, the decision will indicate to what extent fear makes us raise an iron curtain around us.

Geological Society Meets

The Bailey Geological Society held its second meeting of this term on Tuesday evening, November 20. Eleven members were present in the Geology Lecture Room when the President, Pat Ryan, called the meeting to order. The constitution of the Society was read and discussed; it was decided that no revision was necessary. A reporter of meetings of the Society was chosen, and members for the refreshment committee were appointed.

After the business meeting was adjourned, the President introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. C. S. Clements, Chief Inspector of Mines for New Brunswick.

Mr. Clements who is an honorary member of the Society, gave an interesting and informative talk on the Acquisition of Mining Rights and Minerals, and the hazards connected with these rights.

The group then retired to the Blowpipe Lab where refreshments were served.

The next meeting of the Bailey Geological Society is scheduled for December 3, and all students interested are invited to attend.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

By Anonymous

Barb Bell—Things aren't as they used to be.

Punchy Walker—That's the best party we ever had!

Bill Beatty — I couldn't care less.

Pete van der Meyden—That's not how it's done in India.

Joan Golding—Aw come on, buy a ticket!

Bob McGowan—Let me drive you home.

Kay MacCallum—Kelly, are you blowink de Moose vissle?

Betsy Hill—Boopsie baby, etc.

Anne Sansom—Such a bloody shame.

Joe Whiteley — Tastes better when you chew it.

Eric McGillivray—The cost of living has gone up \$2.00 a bottle.

Vic Hatheway—I should have brought my guitar.

David Vine—This is your last chance to . . .

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