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The Downer Dial, December 18, 1959

Milwaukee-Downer College

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THE DOWNER DIAL

MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE

December 18, 1959

Students Launch "Reuss For Mayor" Campaign

A lesson in practical non-partisan politics is being had by a committee of Downer students who have organized for the purpose of working for Henry S. Reuss in his campaign for the office of Mayor of Milwaukee. This committee is a part of a city wide group of college students which is called the Young Milwaukeeans for Reuss.

Core members of the Downer Committee, Jan Schmidt, Judith King, Jane Hoar, and Ann Mead, met with Mr. Reuss at the "Reuss for Mayor" campaign headquarters Saturday, December 5, 1959. Mr. Reuss, who is presently a member of the House of Representatives from Wisconsin's 5th district, presented and discussed his campaign platform and explained how college students could aid him in his race for the office of mayor.

A number of campaign activities are in process now and will be continued until the primary election March 8, 1960 and the final election April 5, 1960. The campaign activities which Downer students will be undertaking will include "bumper sticking parties" at Milwaukee shopping centers, the distribution of "Reuss for Mayor" buttons, and office duties at the campaign headquarters involving the stuffing of envelopes and the answering of phones. Nomination papers are presently being circulated from house to house.

The Downer Committee of the Young Milwaukeeans for Reuss is open to all enthusiastic volunteers. Those interested in taking an active part can sign up with Jane Hoar or Dr. Walter Peterson.

Wassail, "St. George, And The Dragon" To Precede Christmas Dinner



"Downerites for Reuss" meet their candidate. Left to right Jane Hoar, Mr. Reuss, Jan Schmidt, Judy King, Ann Mead.

Posters already on display show a change in the plans for the annual Christmas Dinner to be held Thursday, December 17. This year, a program will precede the dinner beginning shortly after 5:00. Both the program, which is entitled "St. George and the Dragon", and the Wassail Bowl will be in Greene.

This year's dinner will be unusual and exciting since it is the first year in which Greene has been the scene of the program. Last year was the first time a program was given, but it was held in the Commons during the dinner.

Everyone is urged to come to Greene for a cup of wassail even if it is not possible to be there in time for the program. Students, faculty, administration and staff are all invited. Student hostesses will accompany the guests.

Students in charge of this year's dinner are: Co-chairmen, Judith Underberg and Mary Ellen Swanty; Decorations, Susan Fletcher; Program, Jackie Thiel; Etiquette, Carolyn King. Julie Swenby will lead the singing during the dinner.

An Evening Of Comedy And Music

Have you ever heard, "The Ballet of the Chicks in their Eggshells"? Or, "The Benevolent Cuckoos under the Yellow Dominoes"? You will if you attend Ilene Hanson's Reader's Theatre entitled "An Evening of Comedy and Music", Wednesday, January 13, 1960 in the Merrill Hall Auditorium at 8:30 p.m.

Originally designed as a class project to let the student interpret what she had found in the fields of prose, poetry, and dramatic literature, Reader's Theatre has increased its scope to include presentations off campus to organizations desiring them. Since 1956, the participants in Reader's Theatre have given 92 performances throughout Wisconsin and Illinois for more than 6,7000 people.

Joanne Madsen recently gave her Reader's Theatre, "For the Love of Music!" during Christmas Bazaar. Future Reader's Theatre productions include "The Incomparable Miss Adams!" with Carolyn King, and "Courtly Secrets" with Susan Meek.

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Ilene Hanson to star in "An Evening of Comedy and Music".

Splish-Splash

How very exciting it is to huddle tight on a well washed rock, down, down almost to the water of some rocky shore, and watch frightful ocean mountains crashing all around. Or, must as frightful, are Lake Michigan mountains during a brief December twilight, when the grey blotchy sky over a yellow world smooths into blackness and the yellow world turns black, and the eerie grey-green water turns into a mysterious invisible ocean of sound. Crash! ssssssssssh!

Oh, dear! It almost got us wet. How cold it is! How exciting, to almost be touched by the cold wave. Slap. Slap. The little ones aren't as much fun. But look! There's a huge one building way out there! Boy, when that hits, it is really going to splash! We should move, but lets not. It's getting so big! (giggle) Oh, dear! Oh, oh dear! Ohhhhhhhhh.....Slap! It broke too soon. Darn, now if.....CRASH!SSSSSSH! Darn!

Judith King '63

Departmental Note

Those students interested in presenting a "Reader's Theatre" program either for the second semester or for next year please see Mr. Mac Arthur.

Christmas Assembly

On Tuesday, December 15, 11 a.m. in Green Memorial Hall the pre-Christmas Recess Assembly was held. The chairs were assembled in arena style and entertainment was provided by Downer students. Those participating in the program were Joyce Price, who played some waltzes by Straus on the piano; Portia Richert, who presented an interpretive dance depicting the art of archery; Gloria Grummel, who sang; Joan Macomber, who gave a reading from the Pickwick Papers; and Susanne Schaup, who gave a reading.

This assembly, which was sponsored by S.G.A. was a cute Christmas package filled with fine entertainment.

Mead Of The Matter

Because of the well-known story of the coming of the Magi, many people have the belief that our custom of giving gifts at our winter festival originated with their presentation to the Christ Child.

However, the idea was prevalent much earlier in certain parts of the world. In Egypt, for example, at the winter celebration, parents placed toys such as puppets and small chariots on the tombs of their dead children.

The Romans exchanged gifts from very early times. They went out into the forests and gathered boughs of laurel, olive, or myrtle, which were sacred to Strenia, goddess of health, and gave the branches, which were symbolic of health, happiness, and affection, to their rulers.

In time, the Roman emperors began to desire and demand more material rewards from the populace instead of mere greenery. Clothes and art objects made of fine metals, such as statues of the gods and goddesses, became usual presents for royalty. Emperor Caligula even made a law compelling his subjects to present him with gifts; and he stationed himself on the porch of his palace and waited there to receive the offerings.

During their winter festival, the riotous Saturnalia, which began December 17 and lasted for several days, the Roman citizens freed their slaves to do as they pleased, and gave "good luck" presents, or "strenae", to their friends. At first these consisted largely of fruits, but later other things took their place. They gave "honeyed" gifts to make life sweeter; or lamps, to assure the recipients of light and a bright future; or gold, to provide for their wants in the coming year. Since the rich shared with the poor during the Saturnalia, the custom of giving alms to less fortunate persons is said to stem from this era. Con't Page 4

From The Editor's Desk

Something very remarkable has been happening on this campus. It involves a very real change, a change which should be recognized and appreciated by everyone. But the change has taken place quietly, without much fuss, unheralded by loud congratulations. Yet the people who have worked for this "metamorphosis" have labored long and hard.

I am referring to our Student Government Association. After last year's struggles with speaker Policy and the new constitution, it may seem that all the work is done. We have now elected our new "Exy" Council to take care of administrative matters. This change is greeted with sighs of relief.

But did you ever stop to think of what SGA has done since September? The President of this organization promised during her campaign last spring that administrative duties would be handled outside of SGA meetings. This she has done. She advocated use of committees for research on problems before they are brought before the student body. She has fulfilled this promise.

Together with "Exy" council and the other officers of SGA she has given us a real "service organization". Consider the Activities Carnival in September, the leadership conference in October, the weekly Library sessions, the AWS conference held in October on our campus in conjunction with UW-M. The Christmas Assembly was abndled by SGA. Many coffee hours have been taken care of by this organization.

I think we all owe the old "Exy" council and the SGA officers a vote of thanks. They have accomplished much that they set out to do and it is, only December. Plans are being made at the present time for meetings which will deal with issues which are of interest. SGA has become an efficient, business-like organization. The task which was undertaken seemed large, but positiveness and hard work has proved that much can be accomplished.

Jan Schmidt

Henry Reuss Interviewed By Student

The last time you attended a play or a concert at the Pabst Theatre did you find it a structure which is worthy of a city the size of Milwaukee? Or would you like to see a Music Hall built on the lake, next to the Memorial Center?

Do you find the Northwestern Railroad Depot an attractive building, Or would you like to see that area cleared out, with modern apartment buildings in its place?

Compare the downtown shopping district with that of other cities. Look at the buildings, above the first floor level. Observe the bridge with the "scenic" Milwaukee River running under it.

Would you like to see these things changed? Well, so would Henry S. Reuss, candidate for the office of Mayor of Milwaukee. Reuss, who is at present a Democratic Congressman from this district, decided to run for mayor because "there's a bigger job to be done in Milwaukee. A congressman can talk. A Mayor can build," he said to a meeting of young Milwaukeeans Saturday, December 5.

Reuss's platform includes a "flexible master plan for downtown--not an inflexible design, but a layout of what Milwaukee needs, so that the geni of enterprise can go to work and transform it into reality." His plans include a way for the "Northwestern Railroad to tear down its antiquated lakefront passenger depot and replace it with structures that can give some pleasure and pay some taxes," he explained.

Reuss spoke of "releasing our cultural energies". He said we need "a new Music Hall to complete the lakefront War Memorial. The Zoo, the Museum, other planned public improvements, need to be expedited."

Another point in his platform includes Marquette and UW-M. He says: "Milwaukee's two great universities can play a much greater community role. Marquette, for example, with its excellent schools of

medicine, dentistry and nursing, might develop into an internationally known medical center; and it might take the lead in blighted-area redevelopment near its campus. The University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee, with its excellent start in municipal studies, could make Milwaukee a laboratory for progressive cities everywhere; and it could take the lead in a major housing conservation program for its neighborhood."

"We can do a little good-natured "borrowing" from the rest of the world," he said, for example, a Goethe House in connection with the Library, to make available the best in German culture; and a Labor Day costume parade modelled on the famous Munich Oktoberfest."

"The Seaway must make us all look outward. Expanding world trade should be accompanied by an expanded student exchange program."

In conclusion Reuss added that Milwaukee must do all these things, and many more in order to maintain our position as one of the largest cities in the United States. He stated that private enterprise will provide the funds needed if the city invites them to.

"Milwaukee's future is bound up with the future of America. In the world, we face the toughest challenge in our history. Let Milwaukee in the 60's, by her dedication to truth and clean government and civic progress, prove herself a city that can inspire the whole nation," he stated.

Jan Schmidt '60



"Syncopated Silence"

Whispers Ahmad Jamal

Crystal drops tinkle into a marble fountain. They shimmer together--Stop. They spill over the edge making a wet warm sound with the dust--Stop. Smoothly, Smoothly, they wind down the keyboard--Stop; (Beat Out One--Time 5:22.) Now they're joined by a deep vibration from the string base. They pick up speed, the drum joins them--Stop. And they swing along down the white and black--smoothly, smoothly and always.....cool.

The easy, easy sound flows from the dexterous hands of Ahmad Jamal, inventor and master of the "Syncopated Silence." Ahmad takes you off into space--stops, leaving you in a sort of suspension, then subtly, subtly picks you up again on a lyric flight through a completely different mood. These breaks, sometimes lasting up to 16 bars are a masterly integrated part of that ever present rhythm which seeps into the listener before he has a chance to defend himself and which causes Jamal's music to be described as "disciplined but relaxed,"...the real test for music that swings.

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Winter Playday

Dinner on Friday, January 8, marks the start of a gala weekend. Our guests for the weekend will be the Illinois Institute of Technology choir and band. That night the choir will give a concert, at 8:00 in Merrill auditorium which will be followed by a mixer in Greene. Music for dancing will be provided by the band that travels with the group. Besides the I.I.T. fellows, men from other schools are being invited. This event is sponsored by Social Committee. On Saturday, Social Committee and the Athletic Association are jointly sponsoring a "Winter Playday" at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The I.I.T. boys are invited. Skating, skiing, and tobogganing are just a few of the fun winter sports that will be available. Transportation and a meal are being provided for a minimum fee.

Downerite Tells Of Christmas

in a D.P. Camp



Christmas Card Custom Initiated By Cole

Of all types of Christmas art known today, perhaps the best loved example is the Christmas card. Each year one sees the noble mailman stooped a bit lower beneath the towering mass of communication sent by sell-wishers to their friends and in-laws. So important has the Christmas card become that industries are built around it and many consider it a vital part of Christmas tradition and custom.

...And it all goes back to merry old England of the early 19th century, 1846 to be exact. The post office department may rail at Sir Henry Coleas--the source of all their misery; lack of time drove him to sending colored lithographed cards instead of the traditional Christmas letter. The card itself shows Cole and his family imbibing "Christmas spirit". There is brimming cheer for everyone from grandma to little Nell. The local temperance committee soundly criticized it as a promoter of "out and out drunkenness", which gave it so much publicity that it has been going strong ever since.

The Japanese New Years cards are also interesting. The merchants send them to their customers. Quite often they are decorated with the symbol of a stork which is supposed to live a thousand years, or a turtle which lives 10,000 years. These cards include a message wishing the recipient a long life, which is very appropriate if you happen to be buying things on time. They may also include the Seven Gods of Good Fortune --Ebesu, happiness; Daikoku, prosperity; Benten, music; Gero, long life; Fukuroku, good luck; and Bishamon, protection against evil. The Pine tree, which is the symbol of good fortune, is also used in the design.

Kathleen Parmentier '61

What is Christmas like during war time in a displaced person's camp in Germany? Well, let me tell you.

One of my most memorable Christmases, perhaps because it was actually celebrated, was in Fürth, Germany in 1945. We had moved there in September of that year and to our amazement we were still there in December. We usually were forced to move about every two months. I still remember those three story brick buildings--we were on the third floor along with about ten other families sharing one big room and using army blankets as dividing walls. Christmas eve one of the men dressed up as Santa Claus and all of the children who lived in the room had a sort of a Christmas "party". But in order for us to get any present from Santa Claus, called jõuluvana in Estonian, each child had to either sing a song or recite a poem. If then, they had been good children, they received their presents. The presents were usually candy, fruit or a small toy supplied by the Red Cross. That particular year I remember getting a small doll dressed as an Indian and my brother, then one-and-a-half years old got a top. But our biggest delight was the chocolate M & M candies which were distributed afterwards. It was not often that we got something like this and it was really a treat!

So, Christmas was gone once more and ahead we looked to another year and more surprises.

Malle Vaarsi '63



Mead of Matter Cont.

In the fourth century, a Greek named Libanius wrote that the spirit of generosity seemed to take hold of individuals at this time of year, for then each one gave lavishly of what he had to make others happy.

Ann Mead '61



Downerites Decorate The Dorms

Ahmad Jamal

Ahmad's music is Ahmad His distinctively understated and easy style is sented through-out by a taste of the exotic. In 1950, a young man named Fritz Jones looked back to Asia and Africa and found a piece of his ancestral background and heritage. He re-established his original name and "went back to his own vine and fig tree." In 1950, Ahmad Jamal was born, a witty, astringent, young man...yet, somehow, evasive, who made music; music enriched by distinct spices of the past.

"I'd love to have a little boy with red hair, green eyes, and a black face--who plays piano like Ahmad Jamal."

-Miles Davis-

Carolyn King '62

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**