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The Downer Dial, Number 1, September 29, 1960

Milwaukee-Downer College

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THE DOWNER DIAL

No. 1

September 29, 1960

Art Exhibit to Open Oct. 2

"Contemporary Miniatures" will be the theme of the first art exhibit held at MDC this year. The exhibit will be held in Chapman Memorial Library from October 2 to December 11. The showing will open with a tea from 3 to 5 p.m. on October 2. Hostesses for the tea will be recent graduates in art living in the Milwaukee vicinity and some art majors from MDC.

At the exhibit, 26 drawings and paintings by prominent artists from all over the United States will be shown. The paintings were organized by the exhibition committee of MDC composed of members of the art faculty and the president of Studio Club. There was a size limitation of seven inches by seven inches put on the pictures so as to conform to the miniature theme.

The miniature theme was carried out to show that it is not only the large pieces of art that are important but also the small works. Also, the small works would prove an interesting contrast to much of the work today which is so large.

"All the artists contacted showed an enthusiastic response to the exhibit," stated Mr. Carl Riter, chairman of the MDC Art Department. He further explained that the walls of the gallery had been completely done over according to the specification of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Candidates to Address MDC Students Oct. 18

Candidates Henry S. Reuss and Kirby Hendee, who are seeking election to the House of Representatives from the Fifth District of Wisconsin, will be presented to the students at an assembly on Tuesday, October 18. Dr. Walter F. Peterson will moderate the

Marjory Irvin to Present Piano Recital Oct. 9



Next Sunday, October 9, Miss Marjory Irvin, associate professor of music at MDC, will present her annual piano recital in the college auditorium.

The program will include three short sonatas by Scarlotti and two longer works, Beethoven's Sonata 31, Opus 110 and Schumann's Symphonic Etudes. The latter are a series of studies in the form of variations on one basic theme which is stated in the first few notes of Etude I.

Miss Irvin has given many concerts throughout the city of Milwaukee and the upper Midwest region and has traveled extensively performing throughout the country with the choir's annual tour.

program which will include a 20-30 minute address by each candidate on the issues of the campaign, followed by a question period.

Co-sponsors of the project are the Student Political Association and Lecture Committee.



Downer Welcomes New Foreign Students

"Hello," say Frances Dee, Hara Papadopoulos, Katy Ghawi, and Julie Juan, our new foreign students, to their fellow classmates this year at MDC. Although this is the first year at Downer for all four girls, Katy Ghawi is the only freshman. Frances and Hara are both juniors, and Julie is a sophomore.

Our new Downerites are from several parts of the world with naturally varying interests. Frances, who is from Basayct in the Philippine Islands, is an occupational therapy major. Medicine is also the primary interest of Hara, whose home is Athens, Greece. Julie Juan came here from the Inter-American University in Puerto Rico to study medical technology. Julie came to MDC at the suggestion of Dr. Rowland, who is presently serving on the faculty of the Biology Department. Katy, who is from Israel, came to MDC to complete her college education after taking her senior year of high school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

All four of the girls heard about Downer through friends or relatives who knew of Downer and recommended it. Julie came at the suggestion of a faculty member as was mentioned earlier; Frances came at the advice of her brother, a student at Milwaukee School of Engineering. (It's nice to know that all those smiles at mixers and small courtesies don't go unnoticed, isn't it?) Hara heard of MDC through Priscilla Whiteley, an old classmate of hers from Cottey College; Katy was steered to Downer by the principal of her high school.

Cont. Page 3 Column 1

Assemblies to Meet with Critical Reviews Throughout Year

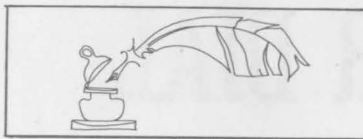
There is nothing quite as controversial as controversy, and if you don't believe me just listen to some of the red hot discussions currently in progress. First, and foremost, are the election issues which seem to pop up rather regularly every four years and are just as promptly shelved after the November election. Everybody's talking about them except the politicians who know that there are two subjects one doesn't talk about in public — politics and religion. Equally interesting is speculation on Krushchev's next move. The great baseball mystery of who will win the world series has been replaced by other teams whose status is equally baffling, namely, Lumumba, Kasavubu, Mobutu, and the United Nations's forces.

With all these problems floating around let it never be said that MDC has been left out. We can proudly stand with the rest of them with our "assembly issue." This year the Downer Dial staff has decided to meet the controversy with critical reviews of our assemblies.

The purpose of these reviews is not criticism for the sake of criticism. It is rather an attempt to improve and search out problems of one aspect of our intellectual experience here at Downer. It is hoped that this effort, coupled with the efforts of Lecture Committee, will make the assembly an eagerly awaited event.

The convocation address given by Dr. John B. Johnson, president of MDC, set a high standard of quality with which following assembly programs will have to compete. My decision to undertake this project is based on personal reflection on the goals of education inspired by Dr. Johnson's convocation address. He set the standard for the school to follow, but he as an individual can do no more than that. We have a quality institution in the terms he outlined; however, that can only

Cont. Page 3 Col. 2



From The Editor's Desk

Last semester a bold venture was undertaken by six faculty members and ten students. It was called Humanities 302. Conceived across a coffee table in Kim, nurtured by excited faculty and students, this brain child bewildered some and inspired others and was perhaps the most talked about and argued over issue of the year.

The theme of this course was "The Dilemma of Modern Man in the Western World"; the subject matter was a series of contemporary literary works; the activating ingredient of this learning situation was a free group discussion wherein all the members of the class, students and faculty alike, were to discuss and search out knowledge about the contemporary human experience in an attempt to throw light on the dilemma of modern man.

Campus interest was aroused last year by this course; I spotted this topic as good feature material for the paper. When I approached various student members of the class and invited them to write up an evaluation and their impressions of this course, I was met by a stream of bewildered comments and puzzled glances—"I don't know what to make of the class...", "I'm not capable of evaluating...", "I can't seem to make a personal evaluation...", "I don't know..." So through questionnaires and direct questioning this evaluation, based mostly on student replies, is an attempt to throw some light on this intriguing and baffling course.

My questionnaire asked for their evaluations of (1) the organization and selection of the subject material in relation to the topic and (2) the size and composition of the class. In general these were held to be very satisfactory. When asked their reaction to the free group discussion

Con't. Col. 3

technique, the replies held that such a technique was necessary to this type of course where spontaneity and mobility of ideas are basic; but, tragically, this technique had somehow fallen far short of expectations. The freedom from discipline in the method of approaching a work, coupled with an undirected, unchecked discussion seemed to give a lack of direction and purpose to the class sessions. This same undisciplined, free discussion seemed to make difficult the establishment of rapport between the class members, all of whom employed different approaches to a work.

In spite of the mechanical breakdown, all of the students who replied felt that they had greatly profited from the experience of the course. That it would be a grave mistake and a serious loss to discontinue this course was also emphatically expressed. As one student put it, "To abandon this after only one semester would be a great loss!" Another said, "...we need more practice in this."

Yes, aspects of this bold venture failed, but to my way of thinking there was a great degree of success. It revealed two very important factors about our campus. First, isn't it remarkable that a creative and bold experiment was able to be tested and tried? It is a vital campus that dares test the unique and the new.

Second, the very fact that this course was a "blood and guts" issue on campus seems to reflect a very real desire for intellectual stimulation on the part of the students above and beyond the lecture-assignment-test cycle...a desire to study the contemporary human experience in an attempt to understand the student's own life experience.

Where do we go from here? Should we structure current courses with more emphasis on contemporary issues? Should we refine and modify Humanities 302? Should we organize student discussions of contemporary literary works such as SGA's experiment of last year? We COULD do all three!

Jane Hoar
Editor

Cont. From Page 1 Column 3

In all the rush of new students we almost forgot Susanne Schaup from Vienna, Austria, who is returning as a city student this year. Welcome to all our new students and glad to have you back, Susanne!

Mary Abrams '63



Left to right: Katy Ghawi, Hara Papadopoulos, Francis Dee

Cont. From Page 2 Column 1

go so far. What we are deficient in is an exciting intellectual atmosphere, and that is the responsibility of the student body. It seems to me that so many of the students are so preoccupied with the daily assignments that hardly anyone has time to be intellectually excited.

Our assemblies can and should be the stamping grounds for this atmosphere. They should be an integral part of our college life, whether they be entertaining or purely intellectual. They should be equal to the formal education we are getting. In my articles I want to show that we, as students, are discriminating, and we demand quality not just a place to go at 11 a.m. every Tuesday morning!

Piret Korkmann '62

"Mikado" Uniquely Presented at Open Air Theater

The Mikado, the bizarre, delightful comic operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan is indeed congruent with its setting at the bizarre and certainly delightful outdoor Skylight Theater. Cleverly arranged within a generous slice of relief between two buildings and flanked by colorful pennants, the Skylight brings unique theater pleasures to Milwaukee audiences.

Perhaps, however, this word "unique" is not absolutely correct. For although it is adequate to describe the Skylight in relation to modern stages, it is not adequate when in connection with the whole history of drama. This funny little outdoor theater has captured some of the very excitement and intimacy felt, perhaps, by Greek audiences sitting around amphitheaters watching masked performers; or by medieval spectators standing around a wagon viewing the life or, maybe, the death of Jesus; or by children in their backyard theater taking turns being the actors in costumes made from recently discarded grown-up clothes. Starlight audiences feel this important sense of intimacy (strived for by modern arena stages) under the stars and a large, green

tent flap, in a radiantly heated outdoors. Modern comforts in an ancient setting!

In this exciting atmosphere the audience is set for a lively performance, and the Boston Comic Opera Company does not disappoint them. The actors enter and brisk merrily through songs and dialogue and even through the audience. The happy group is quick-moving and fun-filled. Especially delightful was the rendering of the haughty character of Pooh Bah, which included managing gracefully what looked like a three-foot fan. KoKo was extremely lovable in his strawberry print kimono and gay, red stockings; however,

his virtue is certainly not rewarded as he ends up having to marry Katisha, a terrifying shrew who slithered wonderfully about the stage, but whose character is somewhat unclear in non-shrewish portions of the operetta. Yum Yum, although hardly distinguishable by costume from her very vivid friends, Pitty-Sing and Peep-Bo, gives a beautiful vocal performance. In general, the costumes and sets are simple and colorful, adding to the all-over informality and intimacy and fun of this production.

Judith King '63



MDC Student Visits London's Lower Life

Coming face to face with fellow beings, dirty, poverty stricken and unsettled emotionally is usually depressing and disturbing, but it can be an elevating experience. This was Joellen O'Neil's reaction to her summer with the Winant Volunteers in Bethnal Green, an underprivileged community of East London, England.

The Winants are a group of American students, founded by "Tubby" Clayton, known English episcopalian leader, who assist in the church sponsored Toc-H program which is similar to the American YMCA groups. Joellen sailed to England with 59 other students, 40 boys and 19 girls. The group was then diffused throughout 40 of the Toc-H clubs or settlements of East London, no more than two students to a club.

There were many things about people to be learned here. "The little ones are rude and nasty," Joellen explained. "They are the biggest disappointment." Apparently the parents, who suffered so during the Nazi blitz, sacrifice everything for their children. Though there is much poverty the children are kept stylishly dressed and thoroughly spoiled.

The intelligence in the community is generally low, 20 per cent of the members have an I.Q. which wouldn't enable them to pass ninth grade. Out of 150 high school students, only one club member planned to go on to night school. At age 11, the school children begin smoking, and by 15 they are working full-time and have a lot of their own money.

Joellen found the girls kept their thoughts to themselves and were hard to get to know. The effects of being on their own so young, however, were

Cont. Page 4 Column 1

Swedish Arrival Experiences Hectic Introduction to MDC Life

If I had him here I should apologize. I mean the man who was sitting next to me in the Greyhound bus, when early one morning we drove into a town somewhere in the Midwest, and who was suddenly awakened from his sleep by a hard elbow pushed into his side and a voice with a foreign accent that shouted, "This is Milwaukee, isn't it? Don't you think it's just wonderful?" It took him two minutes before he could answer a somewhat dazed "yes," but I'm sure that it, all the same, was sincerely meant...

An hour later four big suitcases and I were delivered to the front of the impressive Milwaukee-Downer College; and before I even had time to consider the fact that this was to be my home for the next

year, I found myself rushing around in the corridors trying to catch up with a girl in a red blazer, who rapidly carried away most of my heavy suitcases.



If it's true that you learn by your mistakes, I must have learned quite a lot during these two weeks. One of the first things I realized was that I didn't know the English language. For example, I thought that a tea was a casual meeting to which you went to take a nice cup of tea. By experience, however, I soon discovered that it instead was a formal party, where you had coffee standing on the floor in a crowd of people trying to talk to as many of them as possible. I was also quite startled to hear one of the ladies ask me if I would like some punch. I answered apologetically, "Thank you, but that's too strong for me." Not until later did I understand why she suddenly looked at me that way...

There is also a big difference between the American and the Swedish system of education. In Sweden, for example, the university studies are free—that is, it's up to the student if he wants to attend

the lectures or not. He can try to pass his degree as soon as he feels qualified, and there are no rules governing life in the dormitories. However, I think that the American system has many advantages, especially at the undergraduate level. You can't so easily be lazy and postpone your studies to the last month before your exams, and you get a more personal and informal contact with the professors.

Of course, many of the rules are puzzling to a stranger, but I think that most of them, by and by, will become habit and will make me understand this very specific and fine thing that is called the atmosphere of the college.

Marianne Ahrne

Cont. from Page 3 Col. 3

evident. They were socially very immature and still giggled like little girls.

Most of the satisfying work—meeting the people and helping with their problems—came with the evening activities and the youth centers. Much like our teen centers, these youth centers had places for dancing, painting classes, or discussion. Joellen's job was to get people mixing, to organize discussions, to watch for stealing and to break up fights among the 14 year olds.

Thanks to the boys, Joellen found that these hard, half-children, half-adults were extremely sensitive, interesting, and could be true friends. This she learned when she was a cook for an eleven-day camping trip with the boys. Joellen found also that, though these boys had quit school and were often supporting their families, they, too, were socially young and considered her a young adult of as many as 24 years.

These are only a few of the things that happened to this Downerite during her three months abroad. Her travels included visits to Scotland, Belgium, and a bike trip in France. But these needn't even be mentioned for us to know what a gratifying summer this must have been for Joellen.

Carolyn King '62

Hans Hohlwein Exhibits Work

Sunday, September 19, heralded the opening of the Hans Hohlwein exhibit at Mount Mary College. The collection of oils and prints, which will be on display through October 17, represents much of the works Mr. Hohlwein has produced from 1958 to 1960.

Mr. Hohlwein creates primarily in the abstract with a religious theme prevailing in many of his oils and prints. One painting which caught my attention was "Coronation." Of a vibrant, blue-green background, it is pierced by slender, brilliant lines in reds, pinks, and earth tones. These gave the painting a quality of a vibrating movement. They seem to represent a crown of thorns above a Christ-face. Much can be read into Mr. Hohlwein's paintings, owing to the method of "non-definiteness" in its presented form which is found so often in modern art. This allows the viewer, however, to identify himself with the artist's creation because he is forced to interpret it himself.

Many other works by Mr. Hohlwein, especially the prints and woodcuts, have been done in the last year or so. It is interesting to note the gradual changes which have appeared in his works in the few years he has been at Downer.

Corki Parmentier '61



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