

R Q *news* S

Queen's Spirit

ALL THE FOOFARAW about Homecoming and Aberdeen Street raises the question why Queen's persists in perpetuating this irritant. I am not privy to the reasoning but assume that it is partly because folk celebrations are very hard to stop by administrative edict and also because some believe they foster the once-famous Queen's spirit. The latter is important to fund-raising – a concern understandably never far from the University's mind.

Institutional loyalty is declining, an impression strengthened by a recent personal experience: Arts/PHE'56 this year invited their surviving profs to a celebratory Homecoming dinner. We greybeards and greylocks noted the extraordinary cohesiveness of this group compared to bonds among more recent graduating classes. The consensus was that few of the recent crop of Queen's grads fashioned so strong an *esprit de corps*.

Why should this be? Several causes leap to the mind: **Fa** is one. About 3,000 students graced the campus when I arrived in 1949. Look at the place now! Greater numbers foster anonymity and inhibit intimacy. They also engender **a a**. Whereas earlier students dealt with only a few university-wide persons (the registrar, padre, dean, professor – all of whom had their home phone numbers listed in the campus phone book), they now confront an army of agencies and officials charged with catering to minute academic, health, social and personal concerns. Most of these are service- rather than university-centred.

Student **a**. Our constituency was ethnically, religiously, and geographically much less diversified. It was consequently easier to identify with everyone else and to create a sense of family.

Presidential News and Views

Hardly any students left the campus except during holidays or long week-ends. In my first few years I had Saturday 8 am classes that were well attended. (OK, *reasonably* well attended. Such shortfall as there was, was related more to the hour than to the day.) Nowadays the campus begins to empty on Thursday evening and does not recover until about Tuesday. An enormous proportion of people flee to Toronto and other centres, loyal to their own sub-communities.

In the 21st century, virtually every student must work at one or more **a**, further watering down their "Queen's experience." This was anything but a universal pattern in the old days. Furthermore, it was formerly easier to find **a** upon graduation. Today, a more problematic future often deflects undergraduates' attention from campus concerns. A related phenomenon – the growing practice of undertaking graduate studies – also undermines the centrality of Queen's. Loyalty to one's first college becomes diluted by attachment to other schools.

These are only some of the causes for the attrition or diminution of a healthy and binding attachment to, and identification with, Queen's. If school spirit – becoming a well integrated member of the university community – is deemed to be a useful byproduct of student life (I consider it invaluable), then one ought to seek redress.

The number and complexity of the causes for the decline in Queen's spirit preclude any simple or single solution. Does it make sense for RAQ, many of whose professorial, administrative and other members have a warm attachment to Queen's, to study this problem and seek solutions? It would, in fact, make a fine area for exploration by the Student/Retiree Committee we are developing with the Rector and the AMS.

JOHN MEISEL, *Past-President*

Mark your calendar!

R Q **a** **and**
Monday, April 30, 2007
University Club
Bar 11:30 Lunch 12:30 Meeting 2:00

P... a... a...

On September 22, a beautiful fall day, 16 RAQ classical music lovers and friends met for dinner at the Lake of the Mountain Inn before proceeding to the evening concert in Picton's beautiful Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

RAQ Events Winter 2007

Monthly Lunches:

Attendance continues to be high at these informal meetings for lunch at various restaurants, usually on the last Monday of each month.

Everyone is welcome. E-mail Jessica Roddy, jroddy@kingston.net or phone 613-353-6959 to be notified of the lunch locations and/or to reserve your place.

Tour of 'new' Gordon Hall a , Ja , a

The Registrar's Office will welcome RAQeteers to this newly refurbished building, with its exterior restored to the original design.

Completed in 1911 and named after Principal D.M. Gordon, Gordon Hall was built with a gift from the Ontario Government and provided a home for the Department of Chemistry for some 90 years until Chemistry moved to Chernoff Hall.

The building was added onto several times. In 1964, an extra floor was added. The Gordon Annex was constructed 1947-1949. The Frost Wing, added in 1961 and named in honour of Grenville Barker Frost, was torn down in 2003. Gordon Hall has been completely redone since then, including removal of the anomalous extra floor. It now houses the Office of the University

Registrar, Career Services, the Dean of Student Affairs, and the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

The building faces Union Street opposite the Phys Ed Centre, between Nichol Hall and the Douglas Library. We will meet in the front lobby. If you plan to come, please e-mail morgana@post.queensu.ca or call Alison Morgan 613-544-9854

Queen's Theatre Matinee: Meet the Director of Faustus S a , a a ,

The Drama Department presents *The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe (Elizabethan). Briefly stated, the main character "seeks the ultimate wisdom and with it the ultimate power, but becomes obsessed with power to the neglect of his spirit." Professor Jillian Kelly will be the guest director.

Price for seniors is \$8.00.

P a , a a ,

"The Viennese Waltz" – a talk by John Burge, Director, Queen's School of Music a , a ,

Join us for another music talk in the Graham George Seminar Room in

the W.D. Jordan Special Collections and Music Library, in the Douglas Library.

Professor Burge's presentation, which will include musical excerpts, will provide a glimpse into the flurry of activity that led to the waltz craze in Vienna and will trace the influence of the waltz on composers over the last 200 years. Even today, Vienna is called "The Waltz Capital of the World," and the works of the great waltz composers such as Johann Strauss Sr. and Jr. continue to be very popular and frequently performed.

To give us an idea of numbers, please contact Juliet Milsome either by phone 613-544-9893 or e-mail

milsomej@post.queensu.ca if you plan to come..

As a prelude to this talk, you might consider attending "A Night in Vienna," the School of Music's gala fundraiser on February 9 and 10 in Grant Hall.

This event will feature Austrian music, song and dance, performed by the Queen's Symphony Orchestra, vocal students, alumni, faculty members and professional ballroom dancers. A dance floor will allow guests to dance to the music of Strauss and other Viennese masters.

Specialty Austrian treats will be offered, plus a cash bar with Austrian beer and wine. For tickets for this event, contact the Performing Arts Office.

Also, watch for details of upcoming "Monday Morning Forums"

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