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GAZETTE POLICY

At the last meeting of the Students' Council discussion arose concerning policies which should be observed by the Gazette. During that time, certain misapprehensions were brought to light . . . misapprehensions on various topics held by no one member in particular or even the Council in general . . . but nevertheless erroneous ideas which may be held by students outside the Council.

Firstly, the Gazette is not now and was never intended to be an organ of the Council. It is, of course, under Council auspices, but more as a means of carrying information and opinions, than as a medium of expressing and furthering the Council's aims. A student newspaper should be answerable to its authorities only for violating those restrictions to which all newspapers are subject. It should not be required to answer for mere differences of opinion.

Freedom of the press is an intangible concept, and one often voiced to further individual ambitions, or used without an accompanying sense of responsibility, as are all freedoms. But in the case of a student newspaper, particularly, (individual ambitions are easily discernible, and their effects easily weighed. As for responsibility, felt or not felt, as the case may be, that is due to the students and not their Councils.

Some may say that responsibility to a Council and to the students is an indivisible whole. If this were so, they must also agree that representative governments are perfect . . . that Parliaments make no errors. Obviously that is incorrect. And with no opposition party to place a check on a Council's actions, a student newspaper is the most obvious and logical substitute.

The Gazette was also criticized for inconsistency, with the idea that this would cast a shadow of doubt on all prior and subsequent opinions expressed. It was conceded that inconsistent opinions might be expressed in an editorial and a by-line column respectively, but never should the editorial policy of a paper change over a period of time.

Let us generalize that statement. Two minds may draw different inferences from the same set of facts at any given time, but one mind may not draw different inferences from sets of facts changed by time. That goes beyond the prohibition of a change of mind in the present to the point of bulldog tenacity with no reconsideration allowed in the future. It would appear that a student newspaper should follow a non-existent party line. and brand any attempt at reflection as the lowest form of vacillation.

The final point worthy of consideration which arose at the meeting concerned the suppression of news. In certain cases this year, at the request of the university the Council, or others involved, stories have not been printed. The Gazette, too, deemed the suppression wise. but the question remains—should a student newspaper suppress any news of interest to the students?

Justification for such an action lies not in the news itself, but in the effect which its publication might have. Often the printing of a story could lead only to the aggravation of an existing situation, with no specific purpose served, except the satisfaction of sensationseekers. No editor is bound to print "all the news that's fit to print", and so that problem, devolves into one of weighing relative responsibilities, as do all questions of editorial policy.

Students' Council Report

(Continued from page one) had wired and written the Editor without answer or acknowledgement, and I called a meeting of those Council members then in the

The meeting was worried and indignant after a review of the situation, which then amounted to this: a considerable amount of material was missing; advertising could not be collected nor bills paid; the book looked as though it might be very late indeed and the Editor had not acknowledged the printer's corres- August 24th we spoke to him. pondence. The meeting had the benefit of the advice of Mr. Miller (who was not present) and Mr.

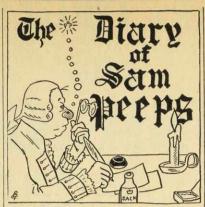
Love (who was).

terms outlined in the minutes and ask for prompt action and an explanation.

Burns was phoned during the meeting, and promised us a letter which arrived in a few days. The following material was missing; a dummy, captions for all cuts except biographies and copy for pages 1-93.

In the meantime we had no answer from the Editor, although we had asked for an acknowledgement, and the Vice-President and I decided to try and get him by phone. On

There were two principal features of the discussion which I wish to note: the first, to which we should undoubtedly attach import-The meeting instructed us to ance, dealt with his reasons. He write or wire the Editor in the had had a considerable amount of



Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1950 - Up betimes and to the college on the hill where I did pay a visit to the Library, for I did wish to see the scholars at work in their native habitat. I was greatly surprised to find, however, that they do not go to the Library primarily for the purpose of furthering their education, but in hopes of finding some diversion or other, for they seem much disinterested in debating and other means of improving their

I did meet with a group of students discussing the last meeting of their Parliament and the memmers of that noble group. All did agree that Less Ozone, the Prime Minister, was a distinguished parliamentarian. Gorgon Cinders was also mentioned. They did speak of Cinders' attempt to besmirch the honorable name of the Spectator, for he did not approve of allowing

trouble with his staff, which had left him with a great deal of work after exams. He had taken this work to Ingonish, hoping to complete it. Then (in July, I believe) he had sustained an unfortunate injury, which had further delayed work and resulted in trouble with his eyes.

The second feature of the discussion was his statements as to progress. He told us that most of the material was in the mail to Kentville, and the rest would go forward in a few days. We were glad to hear that, and wrote to Burns for confirmation, and subsequently kept in touch with him regularly by phone. The material did not arrive, and had obviously never been sent. We later made several attempts to contact the Editor without success.

The only thing we heard from Burns was to the effect that he had no dummy-the Editor had said that he had. In fact there was a dummy for the complete sections which had been returned to Halifax and held by Richie Love until he turned it over to me. The dummy for the missing sections was ab-

About this time (it was early in September) I had exams and dropped Council work except arrangements for the Nifcus conference in Ottawa. I did wire the Editor asking for a reply collect regarding (Continued on page three)

and one did say that it was all a tempest in a tea pot. Another did add, "Yes, and the pot is filled with King's Cole's Tea." Whereupon all did laugh, but another did say that he was unfit to sit among Parliamentarians, for he did believe in the Divine Right of Kings. They did speak thus for a great length of time and did discuss Far-Off, the students' Doomsdaybook, and many other matters. I did say to them that they should make their opinions known at the grand assembly of the scholars to be held soon, but they all expressed a disbelief that it would do any good; and said that they would not even attend.

Thursday, Feb. 16, 1950 - Did rise early and breckfast on some bacon and a few dry crusts of bread left over from the grand party my wife did hold last night, at which they did play this new game of cards.

I then did pay a visit to the Lady Hamilton where I found a much larger number of students than usual. None seemed willing to depart and go to classes, but stood around outside, and I could not understand this so I decided to go to the college on the hill and see for myself what was the reason behind this strange reluctance. As I entered the building I was confronted by an impressive table behind which two damsels sat as if in judgment upon all who entered. They were Misses Ran Down and Sinbright. They did frown at me and say in ominous tones, "Mr. Peeps, have you yet signed to give your blood?", whereupon I replied that I had not heard that there was a war on and that I was too old for the army. They replied that age was no matter, and pointed

Blockheads to run around Loose, to a sign reading "Blood Is Life". I replied that if this was the case I was quite unwilling to part with mine before it became absolutely necessary. Miss Down did then take a large needle from out of her pocket and jab it in my arm, while Miss Sinbright did hold a large flagon. I thus donated my blood to some cause, and I do believe that I did so in vain for I heard that the usual procedure is nothing like this and I feel that the two charming young damsels were having fun at my expense, for this is Co-Ed week and they are allowed certain liber-

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