

Poppies And A Principle

Principal Malcolm Taylor of the University of Alberta in Calgary has recommended that a Students' Council editorial board be strengthened and a faculty adviser appointed to oversee the UAC newspaper, The Gauntlet. He took the action after publication November 11 of a Gauntlet editorial opposing the sale of remembrance poppies, and generally attacking the contribution of Canadian soldiers in two world wars.

The Gauntlet editorial was extreme, ill-considered, and resting on an incomplete knowledge of the facts of world war. It ranks high, but not alone, among the examples of irresponsible college journalism.

Unfortunately the action of Principal Taylor in recommending what amounts to a censorship committee is no less extreme and, we fear, no better considered.

Censorship in any form is an enemy to freedom. Though intended to play only a minor role—as Dr. Taylor's adviser and board seem intended—it can, when applied to a free press, grow into a monster which throttles independence.

Censorship is a policy followed by governments only in time of crisis, because it is a policy which, by restricting freedom, strikes at the way we live. While it produced unfortunate publicity for the University, The Gauntlet editorial can in no way be said to constitute a crisis.

Nor does it mark the beginning of a pattern of irresponsibility which Gauntlet editors will necessarily follow, and Students' Council need fear. It is a case as exceptional as was the invasion of the privacy of Professor Harry Crowe, or the McCarthyite charges of conspiracy against professors in the United States. And in fairness it must be treated as such an exception.

It is in the tradition of a free press that only an editor's sense of responsibility will restrict his exercise of freedom. In the lives of all who write there occurs at least one instance

when that sense of responsibility is not strong enough or is ignored. Journalists are as fallible as the rest of men; editors make mistakes.

It has been asserted many times that the young men who edit college newspapers are more prone to these mistakes, because their judgment is not yet mature. That college editors are often immature is demonstrably true. But if it follows that censorship should compensate for that immaturity, it must also follow that young scientists should not be free to investigate, nor young historians to challenge the opinions of the old.

One of the significant contributions of a University is that in academic surroundings young men are free to mature and develop. They are free to make mistakes, to learn from them; and they are free from the fear that the mistakes they do make will forever haunt them. Unless Dr. Taylor reconsiders his recommendation, the apparatus of censorship he constructs will always stand as a public mark against this year's Gauntlet editor, and as an instrument restricting the freedom of Gauntlet editors in years to come.

At Universities where press irresponsibility has caused more discomfort than the poppy editorial at UAC, the principle has been established that the control of student and University government over a student newspaper begins and ends with the power to hire and fire an editor.

Dr. Taylor's proposal completely contradicts that principle. By establishing a strong Students' Council editorial board, he would give to student government the opportunity and the right to decide what is to be published and what is not. By appointing a faculty adviser he would make The Gauntlet less a student paper, more an administration publication. It is important to The Gauntlet, to the Canadian University Press, and perhaps in the long run to the democratic institution of a free press, that these steps not be taken.

Pootrid He Said

Hodtoter was reclining on a divan in the executive suite of the SUB Janitorial Services, and looked up from his "Pocket Machiavelli". "Whattser matter now, Dustbane?"

It's them cottin-pickin' stoodnts agin. Things is got so's a body would think that this here institooshun was made for 'em, or summim. Messin' up the West Lounge, that's what they're doin'. It'sem pootrid lunch bags they leave all over the place."

Go See Emily

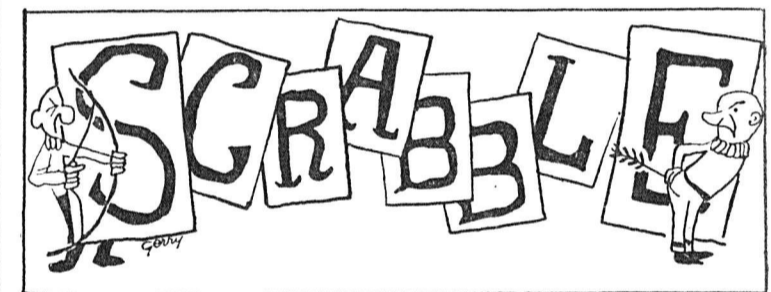
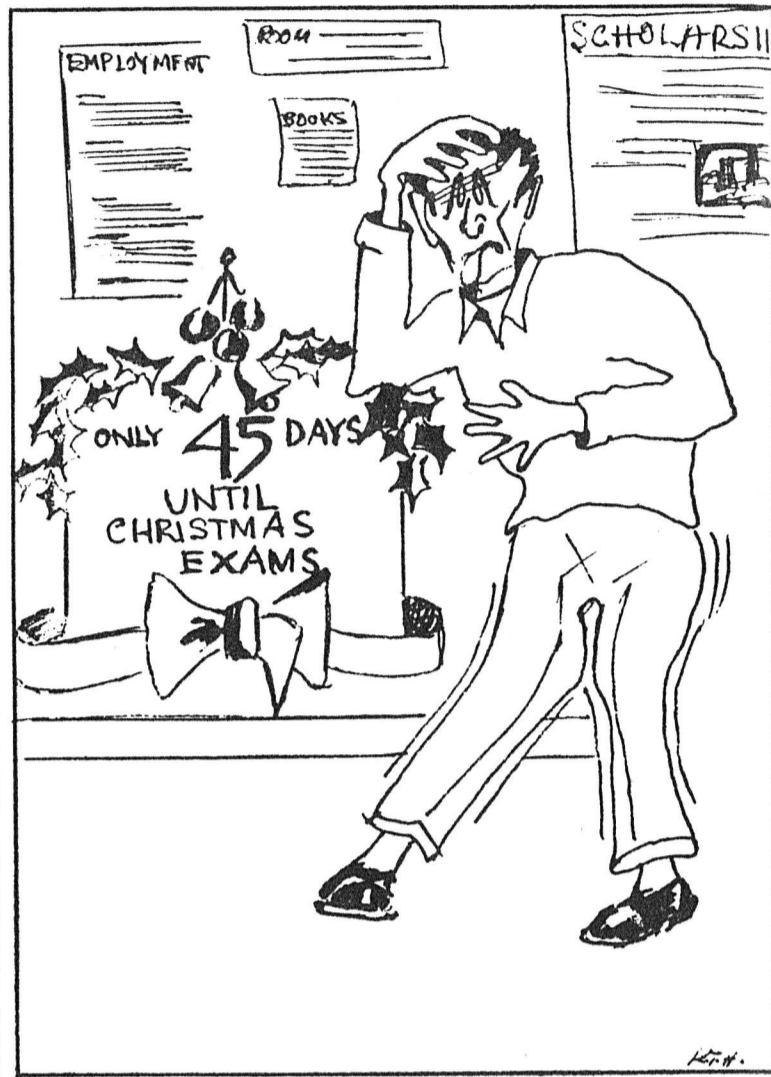
A CFRN-TV cameraman and a student chairman made disgusting spectacles of themselves at the press conference held Tuesday for the four touring Soviet students.

The cameraman arrived at the beginning of the conference. During the conference, he trained his lights on the touring students, and with his lights on, spent fifteen minutes adjusting the lense, checking the light metre, and rethreading the film. He filmed for five minutes, after having forced the visitors to sit under the lights for what appeared to be a sceret police interrogation.

The chairman, in his introductory remarks, continually referred to the visitors as "them" or "they". Not once did he refer to the Soviet students as "our guests", or "the Soviet students" or even "these students". Not only did he commit this grave insult, but said: "I think these three will talk when they're alone," completely overlooking the leader of the party. And this in their presence.

His greatest insult, however, was requesting that the city newsmen not ask political questions because "all 'they'll' give are vague answers."

Perhaps the Student's Union would do well to donate a copy of Emily Post's etiquette book to both CFRN-TV and to the Public Relations office.



By Chris Evans

Disgusted Dept.: Remembrance Day has just passed, and memories and emotions stirred as citizens across Canada mourned the Canadian blood that was spilled in the infamous world wars. Nevertheless, if you pick up last Tuesday's Gateway and examine the front page, you will realize that these same fellow citizens who bowed their heads on Remembrance Day are sanctioning (by making legal) a vile group that stands for the very principles that all the Canadian blood was spilled for in the last World War.

The Canadian and American Nazi parties are a very real threat today to every decent human being. Are we forgetting that thousands of people of the Jewish race perished at the rate of 20,000 per day in order that the bestial Nazi and their sheep-like sympathizers could make possible their dream of the Herrenvolk—the supreme white race? What makes men such beasts? What the Nazis in North America are saying now is: "We don't have the money

now, but when we get it (and they will) watch us go! Pow! Hitler did it! And I suppose we will all stand by and watch it happen. If these manipulators get up in front of a group of poorly-educated, unemployed, desperate people, and enumerate some of their erroneous creeds which they stress in their pamphlets, they're gonna' make hay!

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THE GATEWAY

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