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STUDENT HOUSING

The Dalhousie Administration is studying a questionnaire sent out by the Canadian Universities Foundation asking for the opinions of university authorities on proposed loans by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to help in the construction of residences for married students.

On Oct. 10 Davie Fulton, Minister of Public Works, said he was asking the CMHC to study a proposal to help finance the building of university residences for married students. The questionnaire sent round to the universities suggests loans for up to 90 per cent of the cost of such residences. The loans would be repayable over a period of 50 years at 5 1/8 per cent interest.

There are approximately 345 married students at Dalhousie and, as Dr. Kerr points out, there is a very real problem in housing them. If a residence for married students was built and apartments rented out at reasonable prices the financial strain on such students would be alleviated considerably.

The Administration is anxious to find out what the feelings of married students towards such a project would be. We urge students with families to write into The Gazette and express their views on married residences.

THE SHEAF

Styling itself the "Underestimated Undergrad Newspaper of the University of Saskatchewan, the Sheaf this year has committed repeated and irresponsible breaches of good taste in violation of the Charter and Code of Ethics of Canadian University Press of which it is a member. As another member paper of CUP, the Gazette must formally protest this disregard for the principles and standards to which members are bound to adhere.

In one issue, the staff of the Sheaf indulged in a display of vulgarity by printing on the front page a picture of their deserted parking lot with the caption "between the crosses row on row". There is no excuse for this sort of humour, except an utter lack of imagination and decency.

Since the Sheaf appears unable to produce interesting an unbiased news copy, the staff is frequently forced to resort to slang, in-group jokes editorializing. The occasional use of colloquial phrases, even the occasional breach of good taste can be excused in student journalists who are, after all, amateurs. The invariable use of profanity and the references to sex and drinking in the Sheaf become, however, a part of that newspaper's policy.

In the September 25 edition of the paper, an editorial on "Sheaf Policy" states: "Since this is a student paper, we do feel justified in introducing touches of levity and facetiousness into what might otherwise be rather dull material. We believe that our readers are perceptive enough to distinguish which is which and thus do not overly concern ourselves with running flat and dry news stories merely for the sake of convention."

The Sheaf is defying convention to the extent that it ignores the Code of Ethics of CUP

which states that "The student journalist should strive continually to be unbiased and accurate in his reports . . . he should realize fully his personal responsibility for everything he submits for publication."

One might gather from the "touches of levity" which the Sheaf introduces into every issue that the chief interests of the academic community at the University of Saskatchewan are drinking and sex. Perhaps this is so. If the Sheaf is fulfilling its basic duties and is presenting the "varied opinion of the students it represents (CUP Charter) then the entire student body is to blame for this disgrace to student journalism.

The October 19 issue of the Sheaf has a banner headline announcing "Sexcursion Tonight" over a story, one of many stories which extoll the virtues of various campus affairs whose main object is apparently drinking and sex. The attempts to conceal their lack of intelligence with these adolescent references represent the sophistication of a seventeen-year-old at his first burlesque show and the worldliness of the freshman who believes that getting drunk will initiate him into the mysteries of collegiate membership.

The Gazette does not wish Canadian University Press to be associated with a student newspaper which disgraces its membership in the organization by its blatant disregard of its responsibilities to itself and to the community of scholars which it serves. We urge the editorial staff to re-read the Charter and Code of Ethics of Canadian University Press and to realize that it is possible for a university publication to be lively without being foolish.

TO WRITE OR NOT TO WRITE?

This week our letter column is full — for the first time.

Up to this week we had received some three or four letters, two of them from Catholics who objected to a story on the feature's page. Do we have to go out of our way to offend campus societies before we raise any sort of a reaction from students?

If this is the case it is rather a deplorable comment on the intellectual life of the campus. What has happened over the past few weeks? The Cuban crisis did not raise so much as a squeak from students — most other campus newspapers had their letter columns overflowing. The editorial on Christmas examinations went apparently unread, as have other editorials this year. Only Mr. Abbott and Mr. Brazier have been able to arouse any sort of a reaction.

The editorial staff of The Gazette has two choices it appears. We start writing letters to ourselves, or we put out a sensational paper that everyone will read and react violently to. We hope neither of these expedients will be necessary.

Sir:

The time has come for the student body to stop and review the purpose, reasons for existence, and content of our weekly student publication. The Dalhousie Gazette bills itself as the oldest student newspaper in Canada. The only question in my mind is how it has survived this long, if this year's Gazette is indicative of the quality of the paper in the past years.

I would say that the paper's budget runs to about \$10,000 a school year, advertising might cover 30% of this figure, which means the student body, through the fees we pay, subsidizes the paper to the tune of \$7,000 a year. IS IT WORTH IT?

This year's paper has run from very poor to excellent, leaning to the former thus making the average mediocre. Let us examine the paper department by department. The news section has provided poor coverage of Dalhousie events with dreamed-up versions of meetings and the like being featured on the front page.

The features in the paper are headlined by a syndicated cartoon series whose humour is odorous to say the least. Another column is devoted to reviewing magazines and television which I suspect lifts its material from publicity news releases from the sources that are supposed to be reviewed, i.e., movie and television studios.

The sports department manages to so slant its reporting that a casual reader would believe the Dalhousie football team was a power in the Atlantic Football Conference. Enough of "moral" victories.

The editorial pages fill up to 50% of its space with material mysteriously headed CUP, filler I believe its called.

The above material is complemented by poor grammar, typographical errors (poor proof-reading), and equally unimaginative layout.

I sum up this letter by saying the Gazette is not justifying its expensive existence.

I don't know if many students agree with my criticisms, they probably are lucky enough to read the paper, or read it and think it mediocre. I say disband the Gazette and put the money into the Student Union Building Fund. Students, read the thing, at least once, and decide for yourselves. I say no more Gazette.

Sincerely,

A disgusted reader.

* * *

Sir:

In the Dalhousie Gazette of November 14, Mr. Abbott impliedly invites criticism of his article on University education.

Rarely have I read with amusement a more disjointed and illogically constructed argument. Mr. Abbott's inability to express himself in a precise and intelligent fashion reflects the weakness of the Canadian University system adequately to educate its mediocre students.

Mr. Abbott spends four paragraphs of the reader's precious time rambling through a series of unconnected ideas which on the surface seem to be of some relevance, but on examination prove to be as illogical as those of a paranoid. He states that the issue is that of the method of educational instruction. However, in his childish outburst condemning Law students, he reduces what otherwise might have been a very provocative argument into one of fretful adolescent babble.

The Law school practices the "case study" method which requires full participation by the students. Argument: so long as the argument is on a point in question; issue: a form of discipline from which Mr. Abbott castigates might well profit. The lectures of the type he believes exist are relatively rare. Ironically, the Law school system which Mr. Abbott castigates that which he proposes as being the best. The volubleness of the law students of which he complains so bitterly, is an objective manifestation of the stimulation engendered by the "spirit of critical inquiry", which is the hallmark of good educational instruction.

The analogy between "an army of sartorially impeccable

intellectual cretins" and a method of University instruction, obviously does not fall within the ambit of "some opinions based on evidence", but rather into a "valueless expression of sentiment."

To quote Mr. Abbott's words again, he has indulged "in the luxury of having opinions without making the corresponding effort of thought."

I would suggest to Mr. Abbott that he keep the blind of his monastery window closed until such time as he is capable of indulging in an opinion without resorting to "merely valueless expressions of sentiment."

Sincerely,

N. G. D. Gray, Law 2.

* * *

Sir:

Regarding two letters that appeared in the Gazette last week, casting doubt on my ethics as a reporter, I would like to say that I stand by the quotations that appeared in the article under my name. Whether or not Mr. Wayland and Fr. Hayes affirm or deny the statements attributed to them is their business; however I am not going to be a butt of their hypocrisy.

No one can really believe that Fr. Hayes was convincing in his bumbling ramblings of an attempt to purge himself of the obvious meaning of his statements. As for Mr. Wayland, there is nothing in the article to imply that he said the statements that he attributes to himself, which would make me doubt his literacy. The only quotation from him in the whole article he does not even mention! The fact remains, these two men have denied statements that they made to me concerning the Newman Club. The question now is, why? Here is why.

In his search for Truth man has been thrown against certain monolithic ideologies. Such a one is Roman Catholicism. These ideologies, in their attempts to make their own doctrines and dogmas the most prevalent have suppressed or attempted to suppress opposing ideas. Such was the position of the R.C. Church in Western Europe in the later Middle Ages. However, with that liberation of the human soul known as the Reformation, changes came about. In North Western Europe the R.C. Church was no longer the all-powerful dictator. However in other parts of the globe, e.g., Spain, Portugal and certain Latin American countries the Church is still the master. Among the clergy of these countries and certain other clergymen, too (Mr. Hayes is one, it would seem) the old ideological neurosis, the strangulation of open discussion still exists. The R.C. Church has failed, we have seen, where failure is the most damaging. That is, they have fled from competition in the field where it really counts, the COMPETITION OF IDEAS.

It is for these reasons that the Church will not allow discussion on Birth Control. Unfortunately, Fr. Hayes is about 400 years behind the times. He felt that the Catholic intellectuals and Newman alumni would back him in his statements. However, as it turns out, they did not. They were annoyed at these reactionary mental gestures. So a scapegoat was needed and claiming the author of the article has pulled quotations out of thin air seemed the most likely one.

This is the reason why.

Sincerely,
Don Brazier

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Sir:

With regard to Mr. Brazier's article which appeared in the Dalhousie Gazette of Oct. 31 entitled "If We Only Knew", we would like at this time to say that Mr. Brazier was not acting in an official capacity as an SCM representative.

We regret that this might have been the opinion of Mr. Wayland and can only say that as far as we are able this misunderstanding will not occur again.

Sincerely,

Penny Clouston (SCM President)
Lorraine Cole (Sec.)
Diane Pringle (Publicity)