

St. Mary's Journal faced with the final solution

HALIFAX (CUP) -- When you pick up a newspaper you usually expect it to contain news. When it doesn't questions are asked.

A recent edition of the St. Mary's Journal has prompted calls for tighter control of the press by student council because of its total lack of news coverage.

Council president-elect Tim Hill unveiled a set of proposals March 5 that he felt would alleviate the Journal's internal problems.

Both the Journal and Hill agree that the brunt of the problem lies in the paper's lack of staff, although newspaper and council executives disagree on the remedy.

"Human resources aren't adequately managed," says Hill. He cited that most of the news stories were written by the two co-editors, Dan O'Leary and Greg Merchant, not allowing them time to co-ordinate staffers.

Hill proposes that the paper redefine the editor's job description so that it would be more managerial in nature.

"If we had some human resources to manage maybe we could manage or mismanage them," says O'Leary. "Because of the lack of staff, if we didn't write the stories nothing would get written. We'd manage a blank paper with ads and CUP (Canadian University Press) stories."

Other proposals from Hill include:

- o A committee made up of 2 council members and the Journal editor to hire sub-editors on the paper.
- o Honoraria be increased as an incentive to staff, including \$1200 a year for "managing editor".
- o Discounts in the price of council and society advertising up to 40%.
- o Recruitment during the summer months conducted by the Council.
- o Prizes for contribution of the month.
- o Improved billing of ads and accounting.

Merchant and O'Leary feel that what Hill is proposing amounts to interference with the freedom of the press, something Hill campaigned to strengthen, not destroy.

"Increased autonomy and increased control are two mutually exclusive terms," says Merchant. "By taking the handcuffs off one hand and putting them on another Mr. Hill may be satisfying himself in thinking he has exercised his righteous role as guardian of student interests, but the fact is the student interests would be best served by increased student participation on the Journal, not council control."

Hill denies he is in any way trying to control the editorial copy of the Journal.

"We just want to know what's happening. We make to make sure students are getting their money's worth." Hill calls the proposals "fire fighting" steps.

Both parties agree increased honoraria would help the situation although the Journal sees the proposed levels as being too low.

Hill based the honoraria of the managing editor on a 15-20 hour work week.

"The fact that he sees 15 hours as sufficient to run this operation shows his total lack of knowledge as to what's necessary for the total operation of this paper," says O'Leary. "It's precisely this lack of knowledge on the council that makes increased control totally unacceptable."

Hill did promise that he would give the paper time to straighten out its affairs, but warned that a referendum to close the paper could be taken if something isn't worked out.

"That would be a tragedy though," says Hill. "A properly run student newspaper is essential to campus life."

Merchant and O'Leary admit the paper has a problem, but it won't be solved by "threats" from Hill.

Student SWAPing is a great experience

SWAP is back. And 1982 promises to be the most successful year yet.

SWAP, the Student Work Abroad Program, is a money saving and experience oriented concept. Designed specifically for the needs and requirements of Canadian students, it enables the participants to travel, live and work overseas.

"SWAP has become a tradition for Canadian students," explains Linna Evans, a coordinator for the Association of Student Councils which administers the SWAP program. "It is a practical and sensible way to cut the high cost of foreign travel."

The SWAP program, which was first started in 1974, is currently operating to New Zealand, Belgium, Ireland and Great Britain. Thus far, many thousands of Canadian students have taken part.

What kinds of jobs are available? "SWAP is not for those seeking a career," responds Ms. Evans, pointing out that the type of employment varies from country to country. Jobs can range from working at a resort hotel in Ireland or Great Britain to shearing sheep on a farm in New Zealand.

The salaries aren't bad, either.

In fact, they average approximately \$150 CDN per week and, in some cases, the jobs include meals or accommodation.

"It was an experience I wouldn't trade for anything," says Jan Arnison, a student from Edmonton who participated in a SWAP program to New Zealand. Jan spent several months in this beautiful country working in a diverse variety of occupations including one as a counsellor for the Parks and Recreation Department in Auckland.

"I'm glad I went on a SWAP program and I would do it again if I was still a student," explains Nancy Heaps, of Toronto, who last year returned from Great Britain after a stint working at the YMCA in central London.

The purpose of SWAP is not only to save money while travelling. It also provides a unique opportunity to meet and become friends with people in a non-touristy environment.

"SWAP gave me an insight into the British people," admits Kevin Pryer, a student from the University of Regina who spent a few months working in a central London hotel. Kevin also managed to save enough money to go travelling in Europe for four weeks.

Dave Lawrence, a student

from Toronto, worked as a bartender and waiter and really enjoyed the experience. "It was a truly adventurous way to spend a summer," says Dave.

Participating in the SWAP program is easy. The first step is to contact the nearest Association of Student Council office and obtain an International Student Identity Card. Possession of this card, which fulfills eligibility requirements for SWAP, also entitles the student bearer to valuable and wide-ranging discounts on goods and services around the world.

Payment of a registration fee is also required for the SWAP program. The fee, which averages \$100, is for the processing of the working visa and all the necessary paper work.

If Great Britain is in your plans, the registration fee will also cover 2 nights orientation and accommodation plus the services of AOSC's London SWAP centre. In addition, AOSC guarantees that within five days of arrival in London you will have a job interview.

For further information about the SWAP program, contact your nearest Association of Student Council office located in the Student Union Building at Dalhousie University or call 424-2054.

Federal government no funding solution

by Paul Creelman

Secretary of State Gerald Regan said last weekend the federal government cannot guarantee universities will not receive cutbacks in post secondary education if the provinces do not meet their share of the responsibility.

Speaking to a staunch Liberal audience at the Nova Scotia annual Liberal convention, Regan fielded several pointed questions from the audience on federal intentions for changing the current funding arrangement with the provinces. (The federal Established Programs Financing payments presently make up 59 per cent of the cost of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia.)

Regan was asked by a Liberal youth delegate, a university student, if the federal government would guarantee no cutbacks would take place. "The simple answer to that question is 'no,'" said Regan. "The federal government is not a bottomless pit of money." An attempt to control spending and bring down inflation was the basis of the federal budget, he said, and consequently the federal government could not cover all bases. However, Regan qualified this, saying "post-secondary education is a very high priority." The federal government would not cut the amount of money it contributes to the funding of post-secondary education, he said.

Accountability and visibility of its funds are of prime concern to the federal government, he

added, stating that "You and other university students will be able to tell this better if we cut the education dollars away from health dollars." In other words, funding for different programs should be separate and visible.

The federal government is now involved in negotiations to make sure that federal money intended for post-secondary education is actually spent there, Regan said. In case the federal government cannot arrive at a suitable agreement with any of the provinces, the federal government will consider a number of options, including the establishment of a voucher system for students, or funding some of the universities directly, if possible.

A question from the floor concerning the diversion of other funds such as those for Petro-Can, and putting these into the funding of post-secondary education, was quickly shot down by the Secretary of State. Regan affirmed the importance of the national energy policy.

Regan also had harsh words for the provinces, who have not been keeping up their share of costs for post-secondary education the way the federal government has.

"We are not cutting back on post-secondary assistance. This is not the case with most provinces. In some cases, if the provinces continue reducing their shares, they will be paying exactly nothing, but still be getting one hundred per cent of the credit."

CFS looks to Dalhousie

by Cathy McDonald

Dalhousie students will be voting in a referendum next week on whether to join the new student organization, Canadian Federation of Students.

The referendum reads: "Do you wish Dal to join the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the new national political student organization, which would give Dal national and regional political representation, as well as many new services at a cost of \$4 per student?"

Student council is solidly in support of joining this organization, and could not find anyone to spearhead a 'no' campaign.

CFS replaced the National Union of Students (NUS), which became CFS's political wing, and the Association of Student Councils (AOSC), which became the service wing, at the founding conference last

October. The Students Unions of Nova Scotia (SUNS) has the option of becoming a provincial wing of CFS, thereby coordinating its activities with other provincial organizations.

A selling point of the four extra dollars students will be paying on top of the current one dollar to NUS, is the International Student Identity Card. Formally available at a cost of five dollars, one dollar from the fee now goes towards the card, entitling the owner to discounts in certain Halifax stores, and shops in Canada and Europe. A card will be sent to all students at the beginning of the year, if Dalhousie decides to join CFS, according to Rob MacClellan, Atlantic fieldworker.

Other services included in the organization are Canadian University Travel Service (CUTS), and the Student Work Abroad

Program (SWAP) through which a student can find a job in a country they wish to travel to.

NUS has been in the past and CFS will continue in the future to research and lobby the federal government on student issues.

MacClellan said the student demonstrations across the country last September, in anticipation of severe cutbacks in funding to post secondary education, were a major reason why the government decided to postpone the slicing of \$1.5 billion to next year.

The fight must continue, he said, as student merely "bought some time." The extra fees will bolster the national office, and put a second fieldworker in the Atlantic Region. The current fees have remained the same since 1971, MacClellan said.