

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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## Distortion

An interesting example of how news can be distorted so as to present an entirely erroneous impression was brought to our attention this week. The fault, to our mind, did not lie with the distributors of the news—Canadian Press and the radio stations they serviced—but rather with the person who supplied the original information with the downtown newspaper.

Two sets of facts and incorrect inference led to the wrong conclusion. The facts were these: (1) At the recommendation of Gazette Editor, the Student Council decided that next year the Gazette will be a six-page issue appearing once a week; (2) The Gazette was mildly criticized in a published letter by President Kerr; the inference was that the action was taken by the Council to avoid insertion of controversial material.

As presented by radio and the downtown newspaper the following misleading news was published and broadcast: "The Dalhousie Gazette next year will be a six-page publication, it was decided by the Student Council. The action was taken in order to prevent the publication of controversial material and after President Kerr's letter was published."

The Gazette would like to clarify the question of the six-page issue. The matter was discussed last September with the secretary-treasurer of the Student Council with a view of putting the plan into effect during the present term. It was felt, however, that large volume of correspondence involving national advertisers would upset the publication too much. The idea was still favored and action was taken by the Council in order that the necessary preparation could be made before next year. The six-page issue had no connection whatever with either Dr. Kerr's letter or controversial material.

If the Gazette is to continue to publish either the conventional or unconventional opinions of students, it will not be influenced by the size of the paper, whether it be a one-page paper or a 10-page publication.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir:

I quote from your issue of 30th January from your leading article. **MOCK PARLIAMENT UNDER WAY SEE 11th PROVINCE COMING.** An especially interesting speech was made by Benson Douglas—who spent some of his days in the British West Indies. He said that to take in the British West Indies and Bermuda would be to take on a political, economic, boiling pot which would be nothing but a financial liability to Canada!

It is regrettable that you did not find it convenient to publish Mr. Douglas' Speech more fully, as a passage taken out of its proper context may give rise to a wrong interpretation. If your quotation of Mr. Douglas is correct, then I must ask him to answer the following pertinent questions.

1. Did the proposal for acquisition of Bermuda and the West Indies come from the West Indians in West India or Canadians in the West Indies or Canadians in Canada?

2. Have the West Indians signified their desire to become the 11th province of Canada?

3. How does he reconcile the clause in the Immigration Act which says that West Indians are unable to become assimilated in the population of Canada, (as an argument against their obtaining Canadian citizenship) and the present desire to acquire the West Indies?

4. What is his authority for the statement concerning the political, economic and social state of the West Indies?

5. Can he state Canada's reasons for desiring to acquire the West Indies and Bermuda?

I oppose Mr. Douglas' views on the grounds that they are not only biased but unfair remarks and unsound. A company considering a merger does not assume the liabilities without appraising the value of the assets and having the satisfaction that there is a safe margin of value to be acquired.

Jamaica is my homeland, there we live comfortably and without any comparative social limitations. With a population of nearly two millions, Jamaica is a fair representative of the West Indies, which have a total population of approximately three millions.

The West Indies Islands are attaining political maturity. Their complete freedom and Dominion status is within their grasp. It would serve no useful purpose to exchange one master for another. True West Indians know what is at stake. It is our heritage to continue the struggle for freedom to govern ourselves. In the history of nations political, economic and social maturity came only after the people shouldered their responsibility and made bloody sacrifices.

This is not a matter to be treated lightly by the incompetent, especially by one who calls himself a West Indian.

Yours sincerely,

C. Henry Gray

Ed. Note: There must have been some confusion in the report of Mr. Douglas' speech or in its interpretation by Mr. Gray. Mr. Douglas as an opposition member spoke against the union of Bermuda and the B.W.I. with Canada. His view on the matter of a union was the same as Mr. Gray's.

## Tyranny or Truth

In its milder forms, which are perhaps more common to Canadian universities, censorship is "the guiding hand of those older and wiser," the curbing of the exuberant spirits of the young" and all the various other palliatives offered to console the wounded spirits of those who have unflinchingly called the facts as they saw them. This form of intellectual tyranny is much like the traditional sugar-coated pill, it looks good on the surfaces, but underneath it is the same old thing, and it still sticks in the throat a long time before it goes down.

But, cry the timid: Marxists, atheists, even (horrors) communists exist in a university. What if they should foist their opinion on us? Well and good. A healthy sign. Like a worm in an apple. It would indeed be a poor university that didn't have radicals. We could have worse things, such as people who don't even know what communism is, who don't understand the basic tenets of a political theory that guides the destinies of millions of peoples, and threatens to control ours. We could have ignorant people.

Let everyone have his say. Let Marxists, Conservatives, agnostics, heathens and Christians write their letters and articles. Let us have facts brought out in the open. What we need in our modern world is less hatred and more understanding. If our systems and beliefs are good enough and strong enough, they can take, and profit by, a little criticism. Let us see how we can defend ourselves.

Happily, on these pages of the "Gateway", these things can be done. We are quite free to print what we think, and what others think, within our self-imposed rules of common decency and the laws of this country. We do not have the reckon with a club at our heads nor with a microscopic examination of our proofs before they are returned to the print shop.

Unhappy, in some universities, varying degrees of this condition exist. Tragically, some university papers cannot print anything without first submitting it to a group of hawk-eyed, mentally-fossilized scrutineers who invariably insure the articles conformation with their particular political party, religion, or what-have-you.

A university, in spite of editorial in the Southam-tainted pages of the Journal, is the bulwark of freedom. Freedom, of thought, the freedom to express what is believed to be right and true. A paper in a university should be the voicing of the ideals of that university—some strangely unfamiliar words—the search for happiness, tolerance and truth. It has no financial concern to twist its contents, it is not a member of a "chain", a puppet controlled by a master hand from above. It should be an incentive and a stimulus to its readers, opening their eyes, making them ask questions, even arousing their anger—for prejudices are extremely sensitive. But we do not cater to prejudice, nor to dogma. We cater to truth, the whole truth, as best as we can see it.

We think we can do something towards that, we think we are doing something.

We are fortunate. Others are not. We hope that we can do something about that too.—I.W.A. (The Gateway)

## Inter-Facts

By AL SINCLAIR

Competition in the Inter-Faculty Basketball League continues to be keen and enthusiasm is at a high pitch as the eleven teams swing into the last half of the schedule. Law A remains the only undefeated team to date by virtue of their 28-17 win over Law B, who were previously undefeated. Scotty Henderson scored 9 and Arpy Robertson hit for 8, all of his coming from the foul line, to lead the A squad, while Nowlan was the big threat for Law B, notching 9.

Engineers climbed up in the standing as they won three games during the week. In a closely contested game they defeated the improved A and S squad by the score of 37-31. A and S led in this game at half time but the castly superior height of the Engineers paid off in the final frame. Pearson and Weld, each with 14, stood out for the boys from the "Shack" while former varsity player Chuck Connely led Arts and Science with 8. In their second game the Engineers racked up one of the biggest scores of the season in defeating winless Pine Hill 64-30. Hillis stood out for Pine Hill, scoring 17 points and setting up most of the others in a losing cause, while Henley and Pearson were the big guns for the Engineers. In their final game the Engineers won over Med B 29-22 in another close game. Weld notched 12 to lead them, and Miller tossed in 8 for Med B.

The luckless Pre-Meds lost two more games to run their winless streak to six. The Law B boys, paced by Doliszny and McConnell, whipped them 49-15. Paturel and Dave Bryson showed up best for Pre-Meds. Dents got back to their winning ways again after dropping two in a row, to defeat the Pre-Meds in their other game, 43-23.

The team representing Commerce managed a win and a loss over the week's play. In their win they defeated Dents 39-20 in a convincing manner. Smith and Doing were high scorers for Commerce with 12 and 8 points respectively, while Bruce Ross again stood out for Dents notching 18 out of their 20. Arts and Science defeated Commerce 33-30 in a close contest that was anybody's game until the final buzzer.

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