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CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

(Editor's note: Canadian University Press is a name most students glance at while reading an article from some other Canadian University. As far as the student newspaper itself is concerned it is a vital link with other papers across the country. Here is an article written by last year's Honorary President of CUP giving some idea as to what CUP is and what its aims are.)

By E. U. SCHRADER

The functions of the Canadian University Press are so vital to the democratic health of the member communities that perhaps it would be wise to approach the Christmas conference with a brief examination of the ideals and difficulties of Canadian University Press.

As student enrolments grow, student government and activities become complex. Canadian campuses have evolved from the "town meeting" level of administration, as recently as when I was an undergraduate, to giant corporations. Operation of these corporations is further handicapped by installing green executives each year.

Thus the exchange of information between campuses should not go beyond the report that a student was killed during initiation at X university. The exchange should provide the wealth of experiences all campuses can offer regarding common problems.

Recently, the fledgling York University, in Toronto, with its few hundred students, debated the merits of fraternities and decided against them. The University of Saskatchewan debated the same problem when I was editor of The Sheaf in 1939. Colossal University of Toronto debated this question and decided fraternities should not be a recognized part of the campus but encouraged them to provide the fellowship the university cannot provide.

Student council budgets, whether professional direction should be engaged for the production of musical revues, discipline boards for anti-social-students — all are common problems, and all information should be pooled for the guidance of all campuses. There should also be an intellectual exchange, so all campuses would know what each thinks about world and national problems.

Thus the president of a students' council should be able to drop into the office of his local CUP editor to solicit experience from other campuses. The editor would telegraph Ottawa, and the CUP machinery would turn up a plethora of campus material from across the nation.

Whether all exchanges of information would be of immediate use in all campus newspapers is beside the point. Editorial discretion must be used by each editor. But for our campuses to thrive, information must be exchanged.

To make such an exchange possible, the senior position under each editor-in-chief should be the Canadian University Press editor. He should be the minister of external affairs. He should initiate news about his own campus, even some that his own readers may not wish to read, and he should request news that might be vital to his campus.

Canadian University Press can only be as strong and as functional as its individual units. Unfortunately, too many campuses look upon CUP as a joe-boy chore and assign it to the weakest hanger-on in the campus newspaper office.

Such a scheme as I have outlined also depends on a strong national office. This means that the national president should be freed of nuisance jobs so he can get on the task at hand. One nuisance job that has occupied much of the attention of the incumbent president is the raising of funds to pay the rent. The national office must be financially strong.

Canadian University Press has other vital functions. Even as the national office must be financially strong, so must each newspaper be well supported by advertisers. The national president should create a favorable atmosphere among advertisers so that they would recognize the "captive audience" of intellectual young people across the land, the people who will be the business, political and social leaders of the future.

And Canadian University Press should be constantly concerned with the improvement of quality in each member newspaper. Information and advice should be made available on how to ferret out elusive facts and write sparkling stories, how to debate logically in an editorial, how to edit copy and lay out pages, and all the complex functions of producing a newspaper.

Canadian University Press is the nervous system of Canada's intellectual community pumping a constant flow of ideas and events across the nation. Its health depends on the health of each part, the contribution and support of all parts. Should CUP operate feebly or break down, the democratic health of all campuses would break down.

To be strong, Canadian University Press must have:

1. Strong campus editors;
2. Strong financial support;
3. And campuses that are dedicated to the worthiness of Canadian University Press as a vital part of our student life.

PRIZES FOR ESSAYS AND POEMS

The Gazette is initiating a poetry and prose contest in an effort to stimulate budding writers on campus. Two prizes of \$10 each will be awarded for the best poetry and prose submission. Two contests will be held, one this term and the other in the spring. Deadline for the first contest is Nov. 28, 1962. Poems should be of reasonable length while essays and short stories should not exceed 2,000 words.

Entries should be sent to The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette. Do not sign the entry, but enclose your name and address in a sealed envelope with the submission. The winning submission will be printed in The Gazette supplement.

VISCOUNT AMORY

We were rather disappointed that Viscount Amory did not have a bit more to say when he spoke at Dalhousie last Thursday. He certainly said something — we were in the auditorium for an hour — but it reminded us rather of Peter Seller's "Political Speech for Every Occasion" in which the politician speaks at some length while carefully avoiding saying anything that is of any significance.

Viscount Amory himself summed up the situation when he said the essence of a good politician is the ability to get off on some subject that he is conversant with and hope by the time he has finished the audience has forgotten what the original question was.

However, the High Commissioner did let the mask slip once in the course of a very erudite performance. Speaking of the British trade proposals to Canada of 1958, Viscount Amory, who brought the proposals to this country as the representative of the British government, admitted that things might have been different if Canada had accepted free trade at that time and he also exhibited a faint cynicism with regards to the Diefenbaker government.

It is inevitable that people in Viscount Amory's position are unable to speak as freely as their audiences would like them to, and perhaps as they themselves would like to. In this particular case we learned nothing new about Britain's stand on the Common Market, her colonial policies or her attitude towards Cuba. However, the High Commissioner may be forgiven on this occasion — he said nothing in a most entertaining manner, which is more than a number of Canadian politicians we know can do.

POLITICS AT DAL

The campus political season has opened with the first meetings of the various party clubs. In past years campus politics has been a somewhat sterile pastime benefiting only the few devout organizers who apparently committed themselves body and soul to their party.

For this reason we welcome the joint statement of the Progressive Conservative and Liberal leaders made a week or so ago that they intended to foster discussion and political awareness among students generally this year instead of spending the time preparing exclusively for the model parliament in the spring. The New Democratic Party has also intimated its policy will be along the same lines with the organization of discussions and study groups.

We urge the student body as a whole to take advantage of the opportunities being offered to them. If students do not start taking an interest in such things now, it is unlikely that they will suddenly blossom forth under the stimulus of the outside world.

Too often we hear students saying they are not interested in politics, or, for that matter, what is happening in the world around them. These people might just as well be living under a dictatorship for all the good they are getting out of the democratic system. Under a dictatorship most of the important decisions would be made for him, and, while there might be some measure of physical discomfort, they would be relieved of any great mental exertion.

Notices of meetings of political parties are posted around campus and also appear in The Gazette so why not drop by and find out what is going on.

MEDICAL SCHOOL 'OPEN HOUSE'

We were quite impressed with the 'Open House' put on by the Medical School last weekend. There is a fascination for the layman in seeing just how he works — or at least how he is meant to. It is also rather disturbing to see some of the things that can go wrong with one — we almost gave up smoking on catching sight of a nicotine blackened lung placed alongside an almost pure white non-smoker's lung in the Forrest Building.

The exhibition was well worth while. In fact there was only one major drawback — too much to see and too little time to see it in. It was virtually impossible to cover the whole exhibition in one afternoon or evening, and many people must have missed seeing things they would have found interesting.

We hope these 'Open Houses' will become a regular feature at the Medical School and suggest that, since it is obviously impossible to group all the displays under one roof, the 'Open House' be extended over several days instead of one afternoon and an evening.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

A Comment by an African student

In the recent issues of The Gazette and the local newspapers the term Racial Discrimination which, mind you, is hushed by most people here, especially those in the high social circles, has been repeatedly printed. I am glad it is coming to the open, that the foreign student finds himself unwelcome to "student privileges" on housing on the account of his facial pigmentation.

It would be wrong if you attacked the poor landlords and landladies and leave our house without searching for the same ills. I mean the student body. Here we have a broad-minded learned group, yet I would suggest that we look to ourselves too whether we would only support non-discrimination only by word of mouth and only if "it does not affect me personally".

The repeated cry of the Foreign Students especially the so-called Negro during the discussion when the Friendly Relation With Overseas Students was disbanded in this University and replaced by the all embracing International Students Association (which has done so much for the better understanding among students) that they encountered discrimination among the students describes the students outlook. "I asked one girl after another for a dance and was turned down", one complained, "I am sure on account of my color". Another said, "Girls are afraid because they would be outcasts". Another, "I hardly go to the Student Councils' dance at the gym unless I have a date". A girl said, "Although I can dance as well as any girl, no one would ask me".

I am not asking for an overnight change. Of course the change for the better has improved relations greatly since that time. What the so-called Negro student wishes is not to be tolerated but to be taken for what he is "a student as others". The times has changed when you went to the cafeteria (Old Men's Residence) and as soon as you were seated everybody "gulped" their coffee and scattered immediately making you feel unwanted or as if you were an intruder.

Any comments on this would be very welcome.