

November 17th. 1930.

Dr. Alfred T. Bazin,
Medical Arts Building,
Montreal, P. Q.

My dear Dr. Bazin,

I have your letter of Saturday, with your comments on certain of the contents of the "McGILLIAD".

The question of control over such a periodical as the "McGilliad" is fraught with many difficulties. You know how ready professors, students and others who make pretence of being academically-minded are to insinuate that academic freedom does not prevail at McGill. Personally, I never could see any grounds for such a criticism, and on more than one occasion in public and in private I have made it as clear as I could that a professor or a student is free to make almost any comment he pleases on any subject. I only suggest respectfully that they disclose that they have a knowledge of what they are writing or speaking about, that they recognise that there are two sides to a question, and that the language they use is not offensive to good taste.

What can I do with the "McGILLIAD"? I loathe the sort of stuff to which you call attention, but you would find ready champions for that sort of thing. I remember on many occasions last year I found it necessary to urge the DAILY to purge one or two of their columns of a good deal of filth. But that was regarded as interfering with this nebulous thing called "academic freedom". I often wonder why the students themselves do not try to stop it. I know it does not appeal at all to the great majority of them; they snicker about it and shrug their shoulders. Perhaps the best thing to do is to discourage it in every way you can without taking too violent repressive action. The "McGILLIAD" will soon die. Of that I am certain. In the meantime we shall have a talk with its editors and see if we can bring to bear upon them a decent influence.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.