

EDITORIAL

# Freedom of the Press

The following are excerpts from the Canadian University Press Commission of Inquiry into the dismissal of the editors of the student newspaper of the University of Windsor for their printing of the article *The Student as Nigger*.

Any university administration that takes on the role of spokesman for the morality of the university's financial supporters, the parents of its students or the community in which it is situated, does not take its academic responsibility seriously.

Any university administration that attempts to legislate the morality of its students has long forsaken the concept of freedom of expression, essential to the vital exchange of ideas that should be encouraged in a free community.

We recognize that external pressures operate on a university administration. We feel, however, that an administration has no business allying with outside forces against the members of its own academic community. The members of a university community must individually and collectively work with the public to insure that the university plays a responsible and creative role in the society, while maintaining its academic integrity.

This commission reaffirms the clause in the Constitution of Canadian University Press which states:

... that one of the major roles of the student press is to act as an agent of social change; that it should continually strive to emphasize the rights and responsibilities of the student as a citizen, and use its freedom from commercial control to examine the issues that the professional press avoids.

The common debate about pornography in the press is a sterile one. It is useless to set up institutions to try to direct or affect public taste, whether these be university administrations or public censorship boards.

The real problem here is that much that is going on in the public media today reflects a lack of human values and a severe moral crisis in our society. Amorality or immorality in the public press is a symptom of this. Censorship, as an attempt to cover up the symptoms, has no effect whatsoever on the causes, the basic sickness of a society that expresses itself in terms of physical and sexual violence.

If the editors of *The Lance* have shown a fixation on four-letter words and if these words have been interjected into the paper sometimes to liven up otherwise dull material or even to shock certain individuals, surely it is the morality of administrative formalists, concerned about issues of taste rather than content, that creates an atmosphere which encourages such responses.

However, in a situation like this, the editors' repeated use of four-letter words is a court jester response to a straight-laced administration. It is unfortunate that the editors could not be more creative in their criticism, choosing issues that, in the long run, might fundamentally alter university structures that are conducive to administrative paternalism.

## ACTION NEEDED HERE

Students at the University of Moncton went on strike for one day last Wednesday in protest of announced fee hikes. We commend their action.

Their university president said he was in favour of free tuition but "they (the university) had to pay their bills".

Fees at UNB without a doubt will rise here too. The new council as it takes office this weekend must take action on this serious problem. Past councils have all gone on record as opposing any increase in tuition fees. Whether or not any boycott of classes or demonstrations can alter any change is immaterial. The Council has a responsibility to make their protests known.

Free university education is closer than most think. It is up to the student community across the nation to do their part to make this process become a reality. Only through co-ordinated action will this dream become more than a thought for the future.

IT'S ALL OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR, KIDDIES.



## Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Professor Farber, in his article "The Student as Nigger", compares the relationship of student to teacher to that of slave to master. He also offers an explanation of both these relationships in terms, ultimately, of sexual drives. What is the function of this explanation?

The master-slave relationship is morally objectionable whatever its explanation may be, and his criticisms of higher education draw their force more from the direct analogy with slavery than from any common basis in sexuality.

However, his explanation might still be use-

ful in suggesting ways of improving the situation he describes. Yet, when we come to the final paragraphs, we find no such application, but merely a reiteration of the old student power slogans.

This suggests that Professor Farber is not offering an explanation in terms of sexuality at all, but rather making extended use of sexual metaphor; a use so over-extended that I, sir, would judge it to be, in Farber's phrase, a series of "obscene titters and academic innuendo".

Yours faithfully,  
Neil W. MacGill,  
Dept. of Philosophy

## CAUT WANTS PROF POWER

WINDSOR (CUP) — Student power hell — the president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers wants faculty power.

Dr. Howard McCurdy, who teaches biology here, told a *Lance* interviewer last week the professionals of any institution should have the most say in running that institution, and in a university the pros are the pros.

"In fact, the addition of students to the senate in response to student pressure may have been premature. It was done in advance of what should be major reforms in the structure of government of the university," he said.

"Professors should have the majority of

seats on any committee or organization which formulates academic policy."

McCurdy said students tend to see faculty as part of the administration, which isn't true. "Students and faculty don't know each other, don't know each other's views."

He suggested student victories mean students will have to accept more control over their activity from other parts of the university structure.

"If students become involved in the government of the university, they will become part of the gang; and when one part of the gang does something, the other members of the gang ought to have some say in what that part does."

## UBC SHORT ON PROF MONEY

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The University of B.C. cannot yet afford to hire next year's new profs.

Faculties of arts, science and education are particularly affected, and have been told by the administration to cool it.

Arts dean Dennis Healy wants four new full professors, 12 associates and 23 assistants. "But I've no idea when we'll know if we can go ahead and hire them," he said.

"No appointments will be made at UBC until the provincial budget comes down Feb.

9, although in previous years profs have been hired between Christmas and the end of January."

The B.C. government annually short-changes all three universities, and this year is expected to be even worse than usual.

Healy said the only appointments now being made are to fill vacancies in the departments.

The hiring ban has forced deans to make two fall course schedules — one with needed new appointments, and one with present staff.

## Brunswickan

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