

# Current Comment

By ALAN MARSHALL

As I was worriedly wondering what to write for the Gazette, the postman came to my rescue with two pieces of mail: a reminder from a magazine that my subscription will soon expire, and a copy of a new Halifax weekly newspaper, "The Citadel Reporter".

The magazine advertisement started off with vigorous horn tooting: this is to be expected, of course. Thus: "We enjoy unbalancing extremists. Famous example: the MacArthur frenzy. Maybe your blood pressure rose . . . but we steered clear of extremes, happily printed all sines." They did, too, by the way. Or again, "We enjoy thwarting partisans. The reader with a one track (and usually narrow gauge) mind really fumes at us. He approves of editorial honesty except where his "sacred cow" is concerned. And that's one creature unsafe around us." Now is all to the good. Reporting all sides of an issue leads to adoption of moderate policies; and one does not have to look far into the events of this century, to learn of the inability of the extremist's methods to bring peace. They only bring hate, of which there is plenty, these days.

The trouble with extremists is that they will not compromise, with anyone who sees things differently from the way they do. This makes democratic methods unworkable, because triumphant majorities, if they believe in extremist ideas, ride roughshod over minorities, which are, understandably, unwilling to take this lying down. In this way, everything gets dragged into politics, and political contests approach the fury of wars of religion. French and German politics have been like this for decades. So we see the rise of Nazi, Fascist and Communist political theories, and parties. Communism is still with us, and Nazism and Fascism are not completely dead, and may rise again. There is some fear of extremists in the U.S., particularly on the right. There has been some increase of fear and bitterness, and some decrease in civil liberties. There is some reassurance to be obtained from the recent elections in that extremist senators up for re-election fared worse than moderates. Moderate policies, however, will become difficult to maintain, unless all sides of issues are reported and discussed. It is unfortunate, therefore, that magazines and newspapers, or some of them at least, still consider that it is their duty to report all sides of the case.

In line with the need for full and fair reporting, it is pleasant to report that reporting in Halifax is to be improved by the existence of a new paper: the "Citadel Reporter". This paper has been going for four weeks. Editor Russ Lownds. Circulation Manager Russ Lownds. Business Manager Russ Lownds. No doubt about it: this is a weekly in the fine old tradition. Shirtsleeves and all. He stops short of printer's ink however. Its prospectus is in the fine old tradition too: "We abhor sensationalism of any kind. An accurate, faithful account of doings in Halifax from day to day is our sole objective."

The paper itself starts off with a report on the art exhibition at the city library about to be opened by the Lieutenant Governor, a history of civic improvement in Halifax since the 1890's, and a description of the Halifax coat of arms. Then, a pleasant, discour-

sive essay, by Howard Greer: just the sort I was racking my brain for before I wrote this. He wrote about the Halifax Burlington Bun. The paper includes an editorial, spot news, a plea for greater support of Community Chest campaigns, and an article by Keilor Bentley of the Classical Record Center (Georgian Building) on LP recordings of operas. There is a discussion of musical comedy production in Halifax, household hints, and notices of some books available at the city library. I have never seen this before in a paper, but it is a very good idea, and should have been included in papers years ago. The paper finished with a schedule of Halifax church services, and an article on current sports events.

There has been a good deal of discussion concerning the danger of allowing the sources of information to be monopolized. Recently, the numbers of newspapers has declined, as unyielding economic facts have taken their toll. There has never been any satisfactory answer to the question of how to maintain two newspapers in a city that can support only one, or ten papers in a city that has room only for five. It may be, that in the future, we will see many small papers in cities with only one or two large ones. The big papers will support the world wide wire services, while the little ones will fill in the chinks. Both will express opinion through editorials. There would be no competition between the large and small papers and people would become used to the idea of buying two kinds of papers. Just as some people believe that both big and small business can get along in the world together, and that each has a job to do; so we may see large and small papers equally recognized by the public, with comparable circulations, and equally respected editorials, and each with its own job to do. This way, there would be no monopoly of the resources of information and editorial opinion. By having more information reported, on all sides of every question, discussion and argument will lead to fair solutions to today's problems and one-sided extremist actions become unlikely. Congratulations, Russ Lownds, and the best of luck with your paper.

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# Nifcus Notes

By DAVE SNOW

Are you interested in spending one year at another Canadian university? Or perhaps you are thinking of taking a jaunt over to Europe next summer? What about Christmas rail fare reductions? Is anything being done about the high price of text books and the Unemployment Insurance "tax" on students?

These and many more are topics that will come up for discussion in the coming weeks, all under the heading of NIFCUS Notes.

For those of you who travel at Christmas, here are a few facts you might jot down.

Mr. J. A. D. Fawcett, City Ticket Agent for the C.N.R. writes that The Canadian Passenger Association has again authorized reduced rail fares for student Christmas travel.

These fares are based on regular one-way fares and a half, and represent a reduction as compared with round trip fares.

The reduction applies only to round-trip travel within Canada, or to border points in the United States.

A Vacation Certificate must be completed and presented to the Ticket Seller to obtain these special fares. Vacation Certificates may be obtained now at the Registrar's Office.

That's all for this issue. See you in the New Year.

# Here and There

By X, Y, Z

This afternoon, while walking home from that notorious institute of higher learning, Dalhousie University, I suddenly noticed that I was caught in a rather wet rainfall. I had not noticed this before as my higher self was off somewhere dashing madly through space (I suppose), and my lower self is usually oblivious to such aesthetic things. (much as I hate to admit it).

However, there it was, so bending down like the "Lemon Drop Kid", I picked up a few faded Gazettes from the gutter and placed them inside my tattered burlap bag (close to my heart, of course). I always use it in winter, not being able to afford a new winter coat, because of the ever increasing cost of membership in the Communist party. Well, I see that this is getting us nowhere fast, so on to my little tale.

Anyway, it was raining, and the rain tended to sort of veiled the trees and houses and things in an enchanting mist. It was thoroughly delightful, mist stealing over those golden Autumn trees, and all kinds of little birds were hopping on the branches, and I said to myself, Autumn is the Renaissance of beauty.

Now this is the point I would like to make, most people have stereotypes in their heads (reference Walted Lippman) and one of

ROME, Nov. 8—(AP)—An authoritative Roman Catholic publication said yesterday there could be reasoning beings on other planets.

Such beings, said Civiltà Cattolica, fortnightly review of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), would not be part of the human family, which has its head in Adam.

"Thus, they would not have (the stigma of) original sin, at least that of Adam."

But, added Civiltà Cattolica,

there could also be reasoning beings who, like Adam and Eve, failed in a test set them by the Creator. "They would not have been redeemed, at least directly, by Jesus Christ."

The Civiltà Cattolica writer, Rev. D. Grassi, S.J., said that "if, in a more or less near tomorrow, science should ascertain the existence of human being outside the world, neither dogma nor theology would be in difficulty."

God help you Martian creature  
For you're now beyond the pale  
We regret you're not included  
In our history's tragic tale.

We have failed the Great Creator's test  
And are condemned with native sin.  
The gates of hell are open  
But alas you won't get in.

The verdict now is written  
By our wisest theologs  
In defence of Christian doctrine  
They include you with the dogs.

Though we are God's own beings  
And are born with stigma drear  
Yet hark you Martian Creatures  
And to my verse lend ear.

For though the Church excludes you  
Of our family you're no part  
Don't fear, for God still loves you  
As he has right from the start.

the Spring—beautiful, wonderful, and everything else, an enchanting lady dressed in white apple blossoms, and old man winter, death, devastation, and tears. We know that this idea of Spring does not hold true in Canada, or at least in the Maritimes. Our Springs are slushy, rainy, gooey, miserable affairs, with sodden brown grass, days too cold for summer, too hot for winter, days when one feels like doing things, going fishing, or on picnics, etc., but when one just can't because it is still damp and soggy out. That is our Spring. And summer, what is summer? pretty yes; but hot, muggy, everyone hibernates in summer, even love goes into hiding, because as the song says, "It's Too Darn Hot". It's too hot to work or play, and unless one is a paramecium, by chance imprisoned in an ice cube, one might just as well be dead. Summer then for me is Death, devastation, and tears.

But with the Autumn, one feels a quickening pace in the air. People rush about buying new clothes. Preparations and great new resolutions are made for school, college and career, the

weather improves, living is possible again. The air is full of life, and peacock nature struts in all his brilliance. What is all this preparation for? Winter is the time of action, a time of life, and of love.

Winter is a pure season. Autumn and winter then for me are times of rejoicing, and when spring comes, you need only look underneath the nearest buttercup where I will be fast asleep in my long summer hibernation.

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