

casserole

Resignitus . . .

By GINGER BRADLEY

OTTAWA—A disease which is threatening to reach epidemic proportions is sweeping Canadian university campuses this fall.

A rapidly-increasing number of campus newspaper editors are being struck by resignitus, and as the disease takes its toll, the list of former campus newspaper editors grows.

The mortality rate is high, and if the present situation is any indication, resignitus will continue to take its toll.

Although most editors resign voluntarily to qualify for membership in The Club, as the association of former student newspaper editors is called by the 'in' group, some become members by another route: firitus.

Such was the case of Sandy Gage, former editor of The McGill Daily.

Following printing of a Nov. 11 front-page story which alleged civil engineering professor Dr. Raymond

The better third of CUP's national office, Ginger Bradley, writes on a national employment problem. Namely, why campus newspaper editors seem to be a rapidly disappearing breed and why replacements are in short supply. It happens every year when exams and council begin in earnest.

Yong was conducting research "designed to aid the American war effort in Vietnam", McGill University's students' council demanded Gage's resignation.

"I am not going to resign—you will have to fire me," Gage firmly replied.

Gage was fired.

The case recently assumed even more serious proportions when McGill's student council called a Canadian University Press investigation commission to investigate and report the facts leading to Gage's firing.

Just why Gage chose to be dishonorably fired rather than honorably resign is hard to determine at a time when campus editors across the country are taking the easy way out.

Most editors beat their brains out for the required number of months, then quietly retire. Others, unable to fight the insidious germs which breed on social, financial and academic pressures, feel compelled to resign.

Confident another individual will come along to fill the editor-in-chief's chair, they apply for membership in The Club.

or editor's disease

Unfortunately, the new editor is often as uninformed as his predecessor was of the hard work and responsibilities entailed in assuming the editorship.

For the editor's job is largely a thankless one, gentle reader, uncompensated by the prestige the position carries at some university campuses.

When he accepts the position, he is accepting a full-time job—a job that can demand 50 or more hours of work each week. He is accepting the possibility of failing one or more courses and possibly his entire year.

In short, he accepts a major responsibility—one he sheds only when life and limb are jeopardized—or more often when exam time rolls around.

But resignitus is not really a disease. Rather it is a symptom of the campus editor's inability to cope with the responsibility designated to him.

Such was the situation at Loyola College when Henry Sobotka, then editor of The Loyola News, quit because the job was "too heavy a physical and mental burden to bear any longer".

In due course another editor was appointed: Don Ferguson. But last weekend, after a brief 36 days in power, Ferguson handed in his resignation over what he termed was a "hassle with the Board of Publications".

Herein lies a difficulty most campus paper editors face. If they allow their papers to become student council bulletin boards, they avoid potential council-newspaper friction, but are often blasted for becoming a council instrument.

If, on the other hand, they crusade for a campus cause or attempt to implement a hard-line editorial policy, council more often than not accuses them of using the paper to promote their own 'narrow' causes.

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