

Gazette reunited

The GAZETTE issue has been resolved. In a meeting last week the two sides in this dispute argued about their differences and contentions. It was found that, with regard to the major issues, there was little disagreement between the staffs. A co-editorship was formed between Ken MacDougall and Marg Bezanson on the following conditions: the arrangement is a trial one subject, to review at the end of this academic year by all members of staff. This would mean that the staff would co-operate in publishing the last four issues of the GAZETTE.

The combined staffs will seek constitutional changes by Council, which will enable future staffs to choose their own editor. Council would reserve the right to dismiss an editor who displays gross incompetence.

The paper will function under a system of staff democracy. The editors will perform the usual legal functions with the staff members having a full say in the running of the paper.

Nothing has been lost by either side in this agreement. The main issues of contention of the former staff have been recognized and dealt with. Minor disputes are bound to surface but hopefully these can be resolved.

Everyone should benefit from this arrangement, particularly students, since a larger staff and greater co-operation will ultimately result in a better paper being presented.



GAZETTE staffs... working it out.

Peter Clarke/Dal Photo

Applications Committee... Overhaul necessary

At Council's second meeting of the year, held March 12, it once again became apparent to us that the usefulness of the Applications Committee is in serious question.

The Applications Committee chairman, Laurie Murchison, started off the meeting by suggesting to the new Council that their function that evening was to rubber-stamp the recommendations of the Committee. This immediately drew criticism from Council and members of the gallery.

Murchison, from that particular point onward, showed nothing but contempt for anyone with viewpoints differing from his own. Irrational for the most part, he took every question the proceedings of the meeting as a personal affront. When criticism of the proceedings became hot, he reacted by attacking the speakers, either condescendingly, or with childish, immature statements that in no way related to the discussion.

The Committee admitted that they were pressed for time to make decisions, yet when pressed to table the consideration for appointment of the Communications Secretary, so that the various heads of the departments concerned with Communications could be contacted, another Committee member, Bob Pottle, reacted emotionally and very negatively to the suggestion.

We cannot understand the reactions of the Committee members. Surely they must realize that, to behave in a responsible manner, Council must be able to question the actions and decisions of the Committee, if for no other reason than to satisfy itself that the proper choice has been made. This should be the right of all members of the Union, for that matter.

We were appalled at the lack of questions from the Council members. We are not at all certain whether or not their reactions, or lack of them, were a direct result of the intimidatory comments made by Murchison on Council's role in the proceedings, or whether Mike Gardner's insistence at the beginning of the meeting that Council not use the meeting to reopen applications, stayed their curiosity.

The result of proceedings did, however, point out in graphic manner what exactly can happen when any Committee or member thereof suddenly realizes just how powerless it actually is.

Council should re-examine the role of this Committee, to determine whether or not their powers of recommendation should be binding, reduced or eliminated entirely.

There are too many potential areas where this committee can fail in its duties. It can allow personal preferences to enter into consideration for the positions being applied for, without considering the ultimate harm that may be done to students. It can do an incredibly competent job, only to be overruled by a Council not acquainted with the overall considerations made by the Committee. Or, both Council and the Committee can do an incredibly sloppy job.

Compounding these potential areas for abuse, add to the list a pressing time factor. The result can only amount to the type of outbursts that occurred on March 12th.

When any committee does the amount of work that this committee obviously did, and then jeopardizes that work by succumbing to irrational, emotional outbursts, we wonder whether or not the strain is not just too much for a mere three-person committee.

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