

## REVIEW

# The Newspaper: An International History

by Anthony Smith  
review written by  
Craig MacPhail  
reprinted from the Ontario  
by Canadian University Press

Newspapers can be despised—hated for their content and the people who read them. They can also be held very dear—some cannot start the day without a fix of *The Globe and Mail*. Often they are simply taken for granted and only glanced at while relining the budgie's cage.

Nevertheless, newspapers dominate our society—they serve as sources of information, opinion and advertisements. *The Newspaper: An International History* attempts to document the newspaper from its birth as a Chinese postal route to the operation of the many large metropolitan daily newspapers of the present.

In the West, publications resembling newspapers began to appear in the latter part of

the 15th century. Often these first newspapers gave accounts of battles, disasters, scandals or other articles of which would be of interest to the small literate readership of the time.

Anthony Smith sets forth the development of the newspaper in four stages. The first stage was known as a 'relation', this consisted of the account of a single story in one publication. Often the publication did not appear on a regular basis.

When a series of relations were published on a regular basis this became the second stage: the 'coranto'. The English seemed to be the pioneers of this; bringing out newsheets weekly that gave accounts of the news from other parts of the world.

The next stage, according to Smith, was the 'diurnal', which gave accounts of events that occurred since the last publication. In the 1640's in

England dozens of diurnals appeared giving accounts of the events of the Thirty Years War.

The final stage of the newspaper development was termed the 'mercury' (no relation to the Guelph animal) referring to the mythic Greek messenger and sometime thief.

The mercuries were very close to the newspapers we see today. The pages in the publications were numbered, it contained a series of articles on recent events and carried a title page bearing the publication's name.

Many of these newspapers were biased in their viewpoint and often were backed by powerful political groups. The English poet John Donne is said to have commented on the publication: 'Thou art like Mercury in stealing, buy lye like a Greeke.'

Smith also details newspaper developments in China, which

developed from the many postal routes that were set up by the Chinese rulers so they could learn of the events in the outlying regions.

*The Newspaper* gives accounts of the major events that shaped newspapers in to what they are today.

Included is information on the newspaper and how it aided political events such as the American Revolution and the English Civil War, anecdotes about many publishers, reporters and others in the newspaper trade. The book

also tells of the power struggles that have taken place for and between newspapers. Men like William Randolph Hearst (Citizen Kane), Lord Beaverbrook and Lord Thomson play a role in many of these anecdotes.

Basically, *The Newspaper: An International History* gives a well researched, well written and detailed look at the development of the newspaper. For anyone who wants to read the inside story of what they read everyday, this book makes lively reading.

## New Association on Campus for Mature Students

by Margaret Rumsey

What is a mature student? For lack of a better name, the term mature student applies to the following: a student returning to university or entering for the first time after years out of high school; students with families/husband/wife and/or children; those returning for post-graduate work; part time students and senior citizens.

This does not indicate that the mature student is more adult than others on campus, but he or she is older, and he encounters unique problems in making the adjustment to university life. These adjustments are further complicated if he must juggle studies with family commitments.

The Counselling and Psychological Service at Dalhousie became aware of the increasing number of people who, for various reasons, have decided later in life to further their education. The Mature Student's Association was formed this semester, after a trial run in the 1978/79 school year. The main purpose of the association is to help mature students make a smooth transition into university, to act as an information source and to give its members an opportunity to meet other people like themselves.

The first obstacle to overcome was how to find the mature students. As one member said, "You can't just stand in front of the SUB and look for people with grey hairs." The Registrar's Office proved less than helpful in giving out

information, so other methods for locating them are being considered.

The main characteristic of the club is the diversity of its participants. At any meeting, the age of those present can range from 25 to 65 (although the average age is 26 to 30), each with his own particular reasons for completely changing his lifestyle. A sample of the types one can meet there may include a retired person who missed the opportunity for a university education, or a housewife whose children are in school, giving her time to obtain a degree.

This cross-section of adults creates some difficulties for the organizers in finding activities that all will enjoy and at the same time, meet goals set out for the group. Therefore, the members themselves are outlining, in this initial year, the kind of program they want—activities that will, hopefully, form the basis of next year's program for the Mature Student's Association.

What are some of the adjustments that the mature student must make in returning to the academic life? The most obvious is the age difference between himself and classmates which can cause some feelings of alienation from the "regular" student population. As well, many mature students find that they do not have much extra time to attend SUB activities or join clubs.

Writing essays and taking exams after a considerable absence from school can be an

horrendous task in the beginning for the mature student, as if it's not difficult for any student. Moreover, returning to school can mean adjusting to a university timetable after some years in a 9 to 5 routine, a sacrifice of spare time and, for some, the most difficult change, the termination of the weekly pay cheque.

However, in spite of this, you will find the mature student among the most enthusiastic on campus, for he has had time to consider what he wants from a university education, whether it be a specific goal or simply the enjoyment of learning. The motivation and sincere willingness to learn are key factors for success in their future.

Feelings of disorientation and loneliness can make the transition difficult though, and the Mature Student's Association makes it a lot easier.



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?  
I SAID SAUZA! TEQUILA SAUZA!  
THE NUMBER ONE TEQUILA IN  
THE COUNTRY! DO YOU READ ME?  
NUMBER ONE, NUMERO UNO!  
YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND IT!  
I'VE GOTTA GO NOW!



TEQUILA  
SAUZA!

NUMERO UNO IN MEXICO AND IN CANADA

**KENWOOD KA 3700 Amplifier**

**20 watts per ch.**

**M.S.L. \$239.95**

**OUR SPECIAL PRICE \$155.00**

**(while stocks last)**

**Eastern  
Audio**

2411 AGRICOLA ST., HALIFAX, N.S.  
PH: 429-6062

A DIVISION OF AMPHON ELECTRONICS