

# DISTURBING SEQUENCE

Student journalists across Canada, as well as in the United States, are incensed by the methodology involved in the recent firing of Gary Althen, editor of the University of Colorado "Daily". And with good reason. It is an ugly affair.

According to reports reaching this office, the facts of the matter are these:

- The "Daily" printed an article by a senior student in philosophy, Carl Mitcham, attacking various political notables, including Republican Senator Barry Goldwater.
- Goldwater demanded that Althen be fired.
- Goldwater received written apologies from both Mitcham and University President Quigg Newton, together with a statement from Newton in defence of Althen and the free press.
- Goldwater still called for Althen's scalp, hinting that Newton's own position was becoming insecure.
- Newton asked for Althen's resignation. It didn't come. He asked for action from the Board of Regents, the Publications Board, the student government and the faculty senate. All four refused to fire or censure Althen.
- Newton fired Althen himself.
- A campus-wide referendum was held to measure support for the president's action. It was 2,000 to 900 in favor.

It is conjectured that the heavy student vote against Althen was in revenge for his previous attacks on the football team, the Greek system,

the student government and others.

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This is a disturbing sequence of blundering and cowardice. If our facts are correct, there is cause here for deep concern about freedoms and values.

We are disturbed to see political pressures on university administrators.

We protest administrative meddling in a sphere that should be student controlled.

Most of all, we are ashamed that students will use a vote *against* the "free press" to take revenge on an unpopular editor.

We defend neither libel nor irresponsibility.

But libel is a matter for courts to rule on, and we suggest that if Mr. Goldwater has been insulted, he has the same recourse to the courts as have ordinary citizens.

At the same time, responsibility and good taste in student journalism should be matters of student, not administrative, control. We suggest that it is appropriate, under extreme circumstances, for a student to be expelled from university by administrative edict, but not to be fired from an editorial post. If a student editor is unsatisfactory the students themselves should replace him, not wait for someone else to act for them.

Most of all, we are unhappy to see that our fellow students in Colorado value their own self-respect so little that they will permit, and apparently condone, recreant administrative action based on political bullying, and extending into an area of student rights which should be cherished and ardently defended.

# DISTURBING FARCE

The president and members of the Coffee Booth Society have questioned "irregularities" in the 1962-63 Students' Union budget. In this issue, Iain Macdonald, secretary-treasurer of the Students' Union explains the questioned points. Why should this be necessary?

Students' Union meetings at U of A are not closed. Any and all students are free to—and expected to—attend at least some of the bi-monthly Tuesday evening sessions.

Student government at U of A enjoys a minimum of intervention on the part of the administration or government. Unfortunately, it also enjoys that same minimum of student interest. It can only "appreciate the odd (?) student who wants to make sure we're well guided." If student government is to be properly effective, it must not be taken for granted.

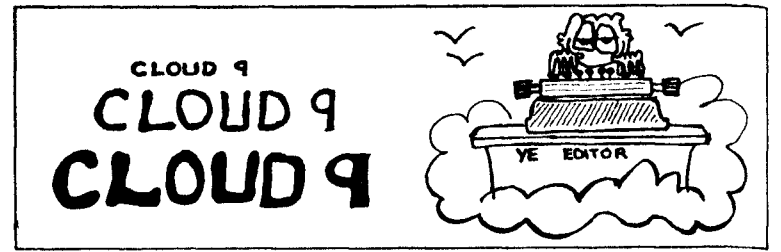
At university, where student government enjoys our degree of autonomy, we should expect a level of maturity such that the student body would voluntarily take an interest in its government. This should be particularly true when, as the coffee boothers seemed to have realized, a sizeable portion of university fees is absorbed by the Students' Union governing machinery.

It could be said, however, that U of A students don't give a damn and that the time-consuming effort of maintaining a representative government is a farce. For all the interest displayed in past years, a four-member autocracy could perform the the functions of a student council with a lot less fuss and red tape.

Annually council makes a special effort to publicize one meeting as open. It seems to have been accepted therefore that all other meetings are not open.

Occasionally, as when business concerns individuals by name, attendance is limited to council members. This happened recently. On this one occasion an interested (or bored) student adventurously decided to sneak into a meeting uninvited. Ironically he chose the evening of the closed session, and his belief in closed meetings was confirmed. That particular meeting was an exception; Students' Union council meetings at the U of A are generally open to the student body.

Why do students have to question council's actions through the medium of letters to the editor? Why don't they take their questions, interests and evaluations—and themselves—to council meetings?



## TO BE ANNOUNCED . . .

This is a promotion of the promotions committee—and more specifically, of their first, lone, now long-departed newsletter, "To Be Announced. . ."

As long as promotions sheets are readable and in reasonably good taste (this one was both), I am in favor of them. They perform a useful function in publicizing campus events.

Why did the brave effort die after one issue? It seems to me that there are enough activities to justify a promotions sheet pretty well every week. (Oh, I'd be big-hearted and let you off the hook during midterms.) So I'm hoping that you promotions people have merely been hibernating, collecting energy for a grand show of enthusiasm. I'm hoping it will soon be announced that "To Be Announced . . ." is back.

This promotion of promotions leads nicely into a bit of that EDITORIAL POLICY that I promised you a while back. It goes this way:

I'm glad to see a nicely-done promotions sheet because it can take some of the pressure off Gateway—because my conception of the function of a campus journal leads (ideally) in another direction.

• Our first concern should be news. We are concerned, of course, with coming as well as past events. But there is a difference between promoting and reporting. Our function is the latter. It is to keep you informed.

• Our second function is to give expression to opinions, ideas, and analysis. This includes editorial comment (both ours and yours), letters, features, and columns. There are a lot of exciting ideas in the air on this campus and in the world student community. It is our job to get some of them down on paper.

• We have a third function which

includes the fringe benefits. It is our privilege to be a medium for self-development of several kinds. This includes the creative writing you will find in the fine arts department, and elsewhere. It includes the several kinds of practical training involved in producing a newspaper. It includes the social benefits enjoyed by such deviant souls as have a taste for our kind of fun.

Our job is made easier—we can serve you better—when there is an active promotions committee and a lively promotions newsletter to share the load of publicity.

Aunt Pheobe is wondering how I justify such oddities as front-page Guy Fawkes satires and front-page editorials. This sort of nonsense simply isn't to be tolerated, so she insists—not by "respectable" newspapers.

I just grin and remind her that one of the chief joys of putting out a university journal is the freedom to climb out of the groove, to take off on an occasional tangent into the unaccustomed. I never pretended, dear auntie, to be overly reverent about tradition.

I am reverent before sex, sunrises, and inquiring, experimentiv minds. But I'm not particularly awed by orthodoxy.

Nevertheless, be comforted. This week you will see that we do after all know how to put out a normal "news"paper.

le baron



Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, this is Harold Baum speaking to you from Outerspace, from Telstar as a matter of fact. In just a few minutes time we'll be bringing you the play-by-play telecast of today's action-packed spectacle.

(Enter the screen of bevy of beautiful chorines and a bloated announcer.) Hi there! Are you looking for the satisfaction and safety that can come only from a fallout shelter? The Womb-Tomb Corporation guarantees a lifetime of happiness, free from radio-activity, fallout, sunlight, bad

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