

Memorial Paper Attacks Gazette



Muse Charges Gazette Story On 'John the Baptist' An 'Insult To Newfoundland'

The Muse, the student newspaper of the Memorial University of Newfoundland, last week brought out a special issue attacking the Dalhousie Gazette for an article printed two weeks ago, entitled 'John, the baptist, meets the Multitudes in the Promised Land'. A petition was also circulated on the Memorial University campus demanding a formal apology and retraction be printed in the Gazette.

LETTER TO THOMPSON

Peter Lebens, editor in chief of the Muse, in a letter to the president of the Dalhousie Students' Council, claimed "this article, although cleverly written, is an insult to Newfoundland and her people".

"We, in Newfoundland are well acquainted with the gullibility of most mainlanders," the letter continued. "This article contains the trend of thinking which is all too prevalent in mainland newspapers."

Misconceptions

The Government of Newfoundland had spent a considerable amount of money to clear up misconceptions about Newfoundland, Mr. Lebens said.

Articles such as this can do irreparable damage to Newfoundland. There are numerous references in the article, which, to state it bluntly, are in extremely bad taste. Particularly the reference to the igloos and the starving Newfoundlanders."

Mr. Lebens continued that the staff of the Muse and the student body could see no reason for the publication of this article except to slur the Prime Minister of Canada at Newfoundland's expense.

Petition

A petition signed by about 300 Memorial students — there is a student population of approximately 1,800 at Memorial — was enclosed with the letter.

The attack on the Gazette came as a complete surprise to its staff.

The first intimation the Gazette had of the attack was when staff members heard about it on a local radio station, which had in turn received the story in a Canadian Press release from St. John's.

Criticism of the Gazette, was, however, not confined to Memorial University students. Ron Humphrey, publisher of the St. John's Woman, the Conception Bay Times and the Newfoundland Veteran, in a telegram to the editor of the Gazette, said he deplored the fact that the Gazette "while being the voice of such a fine university, would lower its editorial standards such as that portrayed in covering the opening of Memorial University."

"Full public apology should be made to the Prime Minister, Premier Smallwood and residents of Newfoundland," the telegram concluded.

The editor of the Xaverian in Antigonish also sent a telegram to the Gazette. "I see no need of apology for publishing those opinions, simple case of hurt pride," the telegram went.

MUSE EDITOR SUB-EDITOR RESIGN

Pete Lebens and Verna Robbins, the editor and assistant editor of the Muse, have resigned. Their resignation became effective last Saturday. In his letter of resignation, the editor stated that he could not fulfill his duties due to the pressure of studies.

Thompson Replies To Demands by Muse

President of the Dalhousie Students' Council, Dick Thompson, has replied to a letter from the editor of the Muse demanding the Gazette publish a formal apology for an article printed two issues ago. Mr. Thompson termed the demand "preposterous", and added the Gazette would not be requested to publish an apology. Following is the text of Mr. Thompson's letter:

Text

In reply to your letter, I must inform you that the Council of Students of Dalhousie University does not consider a formal apology and retraction necessary for

baptist, meets the Multitudes in the article entitled "John, the Promised Land", which appeared in the October 25th issue of The Dalhousie Gazette.

Satirize

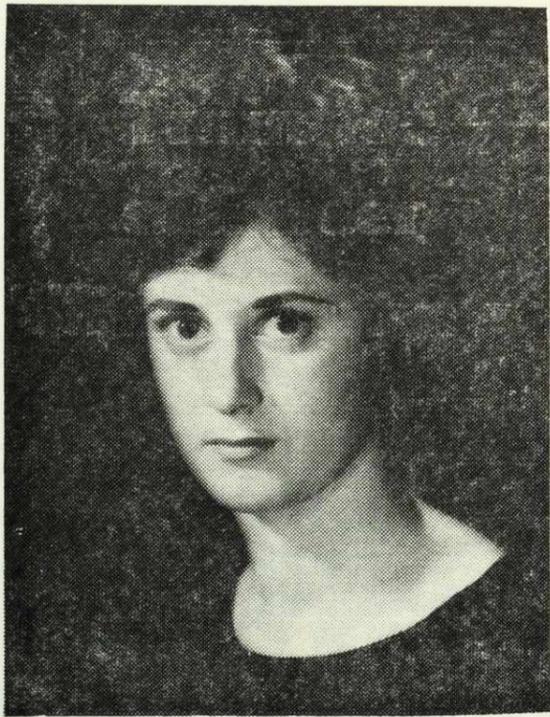
The Council feels that this article was not written to make fun of the people of Newfoundland, but to satirize the campaign techniques of the Prime Minister of Canada. If the people of Newfoundland have taken the article in a different light, then I feel it is they who must be sympathized with for their ignorance of Canada, not the ignorance of the rest of the Canadian people.

Preposterous

The Council feels that this request for a formal apology and retraction printed in The Dalhousie Gazette is preposterous. The Council has examined the matter thoroughly and on reading the article finds it impossible to believe any student of Dalhousie would find it detrimental to Newfoundland. Anyone who would believe that the people of Newfoundland live in igloos certainly is not living in the twentieth century. Would you expect a Nova Scotian to complain bitterly and demand a formal apology every time he was called a "Bluenoser" or "Herring-Choaker"? I certainly do not think so.

No Apology

In conclusion, I have not ordered the editor of The Dalhousie Gazette to print a formal apology and retraction in the newspaper because I do not feel one necessary.



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CUP President 'Innocent Bystander'

"I'm just an innocent bystander," was CUP president Ted Johnston's comment on the dispute between the Dalhousie Gazette and the Muse of Memorial University of Newfoundland.

In a special statement to the Gazette, Mr. Johnston said all he knew was that the Muse had made a protest over a story which purported to represent the visit of the Prime Minister to Newfoundland. He said he did not know what the specific bone of contention was.

"I can see where the Muse might take offense at the loose reporting of the Gazette," he said, "but I fail to see a direct insult as alleged by the editor of the Muse."

Mr. Johnston said the regional president had been asked to investigate the matter and both editors requested to send further information.

NFCUS Head — 'Failure At Council Level'

Ottawa (CUP) — The president of the National Federation of Canadian University Students has charged that student councils are responsible for the apparent weakness of the organization.

"The real failure of NFCUS," said Walter McLean, "is at the council level. NFCUS is being regarded as just another club instead of the council's and the student's voice in national and international affairs."

Deep Interest

Mr. McLean, just returned from a tour of universities and colleges in the Atlantic provinces, said he found deep interest in the Federation, as well as "solid backing", but he charged that the basic problem to be overcome was the "unawareness of councillors."

NFCUS, he said, was not being seen in its right context. It was the local students' councils' opportunity to lobby for those concerns which were of interest to particular students.

Mr. McLean will begin a tour of universities and colleges in Ontario and Quebec this month and expects to be in Western Canada in January.

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