



on second thought

—Peter Outhit

BETWEEN THE LINES

There exists on this persecuted planet a hardy breed of animal called the Censor.

And, since we are all subject to his lengthy shadow, I can say that this skulking, shortsighted monster with the artificially injured air has stalked the corridors of history since eyeballs were invented.

I imagine man's first censor was an enterprising fig leaf merchant in search of a better gimmick. Why he picked a fig leaf, about as cumbersome and unglamorous an article for his purposes as he might find, is unfortunately obscured by time, but beads and flowers certainly weren't good enough, so he started one helluva fad.

Unhappily, censorship may have dictated much of the strange, frustrated course of man's progress. In China, printing and libel laws grew up inseparable, and one nearly cancelled the other; publishing advancement was continually stymied by the shortness of skilled printers' lives.

This was, of course, due to the skill of the Emperor's hatchet men, who effectively censored them for all time if his name was misspelled or his concubines miscounted. Fortunately (depending on your point of view) someone's aim was bad, and printing came West.

Men who had revelled in life, libido, and the happiness of pursuit knew they were in trouble.

Naturally, the first Westerns were eked out at the rate of three or four per year, because that was all the year's news monastery journalists found fit to print.

Censorship here permitted the first slanted reporting. Whereas Good King Jeremian, let's say, who reigned six years, got 50 laborious pages of favourable press, historians were apt to dismiss Bad King John's sinful but prosperous 59-year rule with "in this century King John also reigned."

A slight hindrance to the production of bestsellers was that all printing was done in Latin. This was a boon to censors since Latin witticisms lose their pungency if nobody can read the language. Of course, here and there the odd learned monk laughed himself silly in the dark confines of an outlying cell.

Practically all the advances of modern man have come soon after being labeled "heresy" by local censors. Attribute this to the quirk in man that makes the inattainable exactly what he wants. Ban a book in Boston and its success is assured everywhere, especially in Boston.

And where is our Censor today? Everywhere, like the St. F.X. backfield and unemployment. He lives in tiny rooms loaded with movie projectors, double-bladed shears, supplied with several depths of thick glasses and carrying plenty of weight.

Often his room will resemble a managing editor's office, a presidential board room or perhaps just a small throne.

All day he sits tapping out letters, blue-pencilling literature and popping tranquillizers into his system. Sometimes he just leans back, smiling, and hates.

Television and radio provides the choicest stomping ground for the twisted obsessions of society's excitable moralists. The following script, rescued from the trembling clutches of a pallid CBC announcer, illustrates in part the new glory of Modern Censorship.

UNCLE KEVIN'S STORYTIME

ANNOUNCER: And now, little friends, the story of Red Riding Hood.
CENSOR: Sorry, you'll have to change that line. "Hood" suggests violence. Nothing must be said that might frighten the little ones. You must remove the gangster element.

ANNOUNCER (sighing): All right. How about "little Red Riding Habit"?

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DAL: AN IDEAL UNIVERSITY?

The university is a community. In broad terms, it comprises an expert, interested staff and, at best, a small student body. This is true in every university throughout the world. Last year, we wrote to students attending universities as far away as Australia and as close as Wolfville. Strangely enough, there was little variation in their concept of a university. All had the same commendations and recommendations.

It was the general feeling that there is no ideal university—it exists only in the minds of the students. Each person expects something different from a university: a whirl of social events, an honours degree in Chemistry, a football letter, a husband, or for the indefinite, a way to pass four years.

Some of us find only what we are seeking, while others, more fortunate, discover a greater meaning. A university is not made up of its buildings, but of the spirit of its students.

The basic aim of a university is learning. The professors cannot give one knowledge; he can only chart the course to be followed. It is up to the individual to utilize the facilities available: libraries, laboratories, language labs, and even the music room. The relation between professor and student is one of a partnership. The professor's main aim is enlightening the student. He is concerned with what one knows, not how much one can memorize. This concern should be reflected in the examinations, which ought to be tests of ability, taking into consideration the students' own work through the term. All of the correspondents agreed that examinations are necessary. They encourage learning and give a clear view of the student's final goal which is one's final knowledge and not one's final mark.

Learning how to study is an essential factor if one is to succeed. Homework, of course, is not checked, and one must discipline oneself to become mature and thus be able to handle both the social and the academic aspects of university life. Both of these aspects are essential in a university, but the student should divide his time in a fitting proportion between the two.

Discussion between students is frequently more valuable than just staring at a book. This was realized as far back as the time of Socrates and Aristotle. In the beginning of our own century, Cardinal Newman said: "A university is a place for the communication and circulation of thought by means of personal intercourse." High school does



not usually prepare the student for this. Thus, it was advocated that the university should set its own entrance examinations in order to evaluate students equally.

At the university, the students should be aided by a good guidance system. However, closer relationships between professors and students are only feasible in a small university. It was further felt that the maximum registration at a university should never exceed five thousand.

The university and, at the same time, a co-ordinated staff. Both classical and contemporary subjects should be available to the student. The old belief that only the classics are important must be blended with the new demand for sciences. A liberal education is a combination of the two, and a graduate should be able to discuss both Chemistry and Philosophy intelligently. The science student should realize the value of an Arts course, just as the latter should have a general knowledge of science.

The first two years have been found to be mainly a preparation for the final years of specialization. In the third and fourth years, the student should concentrate on his chosen subject. Under the guidance of the professor, the student works to gain a knowledge and understanding of his subject.

The main conclusion of the survey was an echoing of our premise: a university is a place for learning. The student will gain through his own efforts.

An interesting side-light of the survey is the fact that none of the Maritime universities answered our questionnaire, while the students from Australia, Italy, England, and the United States were only too prompt to send us their ideas.

3.3 Per Day Use Health Service

The Dalhousie Student Health Service provides students with a health scheme comparable in quality to the best group insurance plans and at about one-third the cost, says Dr. C. B. Stewart, Dean of Medicine.

Under a committee consisting of the President of the Students' Council, the Dean of Medicine, and Chairman Dr. A. W. Murray, the student health scheme is comprehensive, well organized and efficiently run.

The Student Health Service aims at providing general supervision of the medical facilities at their disposal to care for all student illnesses from a broken leg to a nasty head cold. The Public Health Clinic is open to Dal Students each day at noon, Monday through Saturday, for free examination by qualified doctors and specialists. Required drugs may be obtained free of charge from the Visiting Dispensary.

The Health Service also aids students in meeting medical expenses arising out of serious illnesses and hospitalization; the attention of specialists may also be obtained free of charge if the doctors of the clinic so recommend. All freshmen receive a full medical check-up upon entering Dal, and a program of TB tests and X-ray tests has been devised to prevent the spread of this communicable disease. Athletic injuries are also covered in full by the Student Health Service.

The most common maladies treated by the Student Health doctors are respiratory troubles, while the incidence of the more serious diseases, like cancer, TB and venereal disease is extremely low. Statistics recently compiled by the Health Service show that about 100 students per month use the services of the noon clinic; the Student Health Service helps students pay for about 40 to 50 house calls per year.

You Are Being Watched

by JOHN MYERS

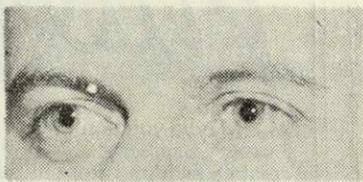
If you are blessed with any curiosity at all, you have probably wondered how your professors look on you as an individual. To put all our minds at ease, we approached two popular members of the staff with the questions: "What traits do you admire most in a student (aside from high marks)?" and "What traits do you frown upon in a student?"

Professor J. G. Adshead, who has been at Dalhousie, in his own words, "longer than I care to remember," has some definite ideas on the subject. Curiosity, he believes, is the best quality a student can have. It leads to independence, sets you apart, and helps to establish you as an individual. Professor Adshead also looks for industry and perseverance in his students.

On the other hand, he is quick to condemn those who waste both time and opportunity. Time, which could be spent in the library increasing knowledge, and opportunities to develop friendships with other students and members of the staff are often ignored by such a short-sighted youth. You may be one.

Professor Adshead urged us to tell new students, making the adjustment from high school, not to be caught napping. "Christmas is coming," he warned, and he didn't mean that you should get your shopping done early.

To drive his point home, he retold me one of his favourite stories about a little old lady who had to make a mad dash down to the station platform in a futile attempt to catch her departing train. As she returned, dejected, a porter said, "Too bad, mum, guess you didn't run fast enough."



"No," she replied, "it's just that I didn't start soon enough."

Professor Guy MacLean, who was a student here himself a few short years ago, has also earned the respect of Dal students. He remarked that as far as freshmen are concerned, the professors don't really get a chance to evaluate them individually, due to the size of the classes. But as a student enters his second and third years, he probably is being carefully judged. A frightening thought, perhaps, if you have a guilty conscience!

As for the upperclassmen, he looks for one trait which he particularly likes to see in his students.

Snobbery. That is, he likes to see juniors and seniors develop into intellectual snobs. They think they are good, with humility considered, and plan to stay good and at the top.

These people form an elite. They feel they are the best students in one of the best universities and are proud of it. Usually looking the part of snobs, they are well-groomed and have a manner that would even let them fit into Princeton without raised eyebrows.

Professor MacLean's chief objection to students was that some of them have a great lot of ideas and feelings on certain questions without ever having bothered to acquire any information about them. These students he called "snobs without humility."

Well, now you know what your professors think about you. Perhaps some of the above opinions are not typical, but they awaken us to the fact that we are being watched and should behave accordingly.

STUDENT COUNCIL BOOKSTORE

Money for books sold may be collected from the Office in the East Common Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:40 to 1:20. Unsold books may also be collected at these times.