

# The Dalhousie GAZETTE

Canada's oldest college newspaper. Member of Canadian University Press. Opinions expressed editorially are not the official opinion of the Council of Students. Official publication of Students of Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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## A CRIMINAL ACTION

Inter-university rivalry is, we suppose, the sign of healthy university spirit; although this competition often seems a tremendous waste of energy, it is nevertheless basically a harmless thing.

Quite another matter, however, is the sort of perversion which leads supposedly mature university students to visit the grounds of a rival college and engage in senseless, wanton destruction. And these are the terms which must be used in connection with the destruction caused by students who painted over large areas of the Dalhousie campus last Halloween.

It is impossible to say just who caused the damage. The letters painted were those of St. Mary's university. There is, of course, no proof that the damage was indeed caused by St. Mary's students. But since there was no word from St. Mary's students about the damage, one can only assume that it was students from this university who took part in the juvenile action.

The Dalhousie administration this week received a letter from the administration of St. Mary's university which suggested police action would be taken were such incidents to occur again. The Dalhousie administration will presumably concur.

This seems a sensible course. The damage caused to the campus was considerable. Although no damage estimates were immediately available, removal of the damage will easily mount to a high figure.

College spirit is futile at its worst. But even this is a far cry from the criminal, and most immature, action taken on the Dalhousie campus last week.

## A PRESSING PROBLEM

At present there are two playing fields on Studley campus, one used mainly by Dalhousie students, and the other by Kingsmen. However, in the near future a new residence and other facilities will be built on the King's field, leaving only one field between the two universities.

As it is, sports facilities at Dalhousie are overcrowded. For example, in a nine hour period the Dal football field might be used for two interfaculty football games, a junior varsity football practice, a varsity football practice, a soccer practice and a girls' ground hockey practice. In fact there have been times when three teams have been seen practicing on the same field at the same time.

The intercollegiate events, the junior varsity football team has as often as not to play home games away from home, while the soccer team waits its turn until the varsity football squad gives up the Studley field.

This being so, the question we would like answered is what is going to happen when Dal students find King's asking for a share of our field?

One solution to the problem, we suggest, would be to clear and level some of the scrubland behind the Arts and Administration Building for practice fields at least. We would also advocate the construction of a running track and facilities for field events, something which is sorely lacking at present.

Last month Mount Allison University opened a new million-and-a-half dollar sports centre

containing a gymnasium and swimming pool. We realize that, despite the overcrowding of the Dal gym and lack of a swimming pool, there are other facilities which have a prior claim if this university is to keep up its academic standards.

However, we feel that it is not unreasonable to ask for better outdoor sports facilities, and that any money spent on constructing playing fields on land not at present being used for any useful purpose would be money well spent.

## A TOAST TO HUCKLEBERRY

Many campaigns have been launched against television. It has been accused of poisoning the minds of our youth, of destroying our desire for exercise and the great outdoors, and of helping to ruin our moral fibre.

Contrary to this national trend of criticism we would like to be among the first to praise TV and to toss a bouquet of roses at one programme in particular, namely Huckleberry Hound.

This Wednesday afternoon feature ranks among the most popular programmes in the country and is viewed by people of all ages. Here at Dalhousie it is seen regularly by a host of avid fans. What has made this programme so popular? Why is it considered to be intelligent as well as entertaining?

It's popularity rests mainly on the human qualities which its characters possess. Huckleberry Hound, Mr. Jinks, and of course Yogi Bear all portray some aspects of the typical North American. They are not perfect and contrary to the normal run of events on TV they can be beaten.

We will never see Robin Hood being hung by the Sheriff of Nottingham or the Rifleman being gunned down in a duel or even see Perry Mason lose a case, but we can often witness our friends on Wednesday evening being easily duped, as we so very often are in real life.

Huck has been known to be taken in by someone selling a new invention. Yogi and Boo Boo usually fail in their attempts to trick the park ranger. The mice are very human in their attempts to tease Jinx.

Human beings like laughing at their own faults when they are expertly portrayed and in Huckleberry Hound we have a very good mirror of our own image.

But there is a more serious side to this programme which reminds us of the brilliant satirical works of Mark Twain and Jonathan Swift. The characters in the show give many comments on the passing world which are as pointed as an arrow. For example, Yogi commented one day recently that if so much money was being spent on nuclear weapons, which will soon be obsolete, why not more and better food for the bears at Jellystone.

Indeed, all the members of the cast find opportunity to give asides which reflect the passing world scene. The tension over Berlin, the question of nuclear arms, the pennant races are all treated with the deftness and power that has become associated with Huckleberry Hound.

We are happy to see this form of entertainment being patronized by college students. We suggest that producers of many of the other so-called adult shows such as the Flintstones sit up and take note, for none of them are in the same league as our beloved Huckleberry.

## LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"BY THE WAY, DEAN, I'VE BEEN HOPING SOMETHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT THE SHORTAGE OF SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL IN CHEM 1-A."

## OUR REPLY TO THE MUSE

In a special issue published last week the Muse, the student newspaper of Memorial University of Newfoundland, attacked the Gazette for what was termed a slanderous article on Newfoundland. The story in question appeared in the October 25 issue of the Gazette and was entitled "John, the baptist, meets the multitude in the promised land."

In an editorial the Muse charged that the Gazette had "violated the code of ethics of the Canadian University Press" and had done irreparable damage" to Newfoundland. The editorial went on to say that the Muse was circulating a petition asking that a full public apology and retraction be printed in the Gazette.

Despite such serious charges and the graveness of such an attack, the Muse failed to send a copy of its special issue to the Gazette and therefore we cannot reply directly to many of their charges.

We can, however, comment on the petition received Friday by the president of our Student's Council which was signed by about 300 Memorial students, and also on the letter accompanying the petition which was signed by Peter W. Lebens, the editor in chief of the Muse, until he resigned last Saturday.

The comments by Mr. Lebens show that the staff of the Muse and the student body at Memorial completely misunderstood and misinterpreted the Gazette's articles. To infer that the Gazette honestly believes that the people of Newfoundland are easily lead down the garden path or that they are starving is non-sensical. Surely the Muse does not believe that because we live in New Scotland we have blue noses, wear kilts and speak with a Scottish accent.

As for our comments that "the people of Newfoundland have been hearing promises for twelve years" and that "they will be hearing them for a long time to come"; we would like to remind the Muse that the last provincial election in Newfoundland was fought over Term 29 of the Act of Confederation. And it was Premier Smallwood himself who said that Newfoundland had been "promised" money which Prime Minister Diefenbaker had said the federal government would pay no more.

To claim that most Mainlanders are gullible or that many mainland newspapers contain the trend of thinking which was present in that article is equally preposterous.

It would appear to us that Mr. Lebens and those who signed the petition are far more gullible, and for more ignorant, of the Canadian political scene, than we could ever be.

And so, gentlemen, the Gazette will not apologize. In the opinion of the Student's Council and of many Dalhousie students, if an error has been made it has been made by you.

The charges and wild accusations you made against us we can best describe as foolish and as the results of a poor attempt at cheap journalistic sensationalism.

We would suggest that the Muse, Peter W. Lebens, and the three hundred students at Memorial who signed the petition should be more careful in the future before they launch such an unwarranted attack. It might well be worth their while to make sure that they have grounds for complaint before they go to the extremes that they did against the Gazette.

If anyone, gentlemen, has done damage to Newfoundland, it is yourselves. As a result of actions such as yours it is easy to see why so many Mainlanders picture the residents of Newfoundland as a little backyard and as extremely sensitive to any comment on their homeland. It is people like yourselves who have forced Premier Smallwood to try and change the average Canadian's views on Newfoundland. And it is reactions like yours which do much to destroy the excellent job which your Premier has done.

And so, gentlemen, we can only conclude that if an apology is to be made to the people of Newfoundland, that apology should be made by you.