

CUP: a riddle wrapped in an enigma

Not many of our readers probably have much of an idea what goes into the *Gazette* they pick up on campus news stands every week. The typesetting, layout and design, headlining and printing processes must be mysteries to most. So must the actual structure of our office—the typewriters, files and news desks; the radical posters and silly cartoons; the reams of student papers from across Canada and the unwatered plants; and the people up here themselves. And unless you are able to make a few inferences from the number of errors in the *Gazette* every week, you probably have no idea of the squeeze we undergo in trying to publish on schedule every week. Life, we all know however, is a riddle wrapped in an enigma (apologies to Churchill). It is not surprising, then, that a bigger mystery lies behind the mystery of the *Gazette*.

The unknown entity we are referring to is Canadian University Press. You may have seen the letters CUP preceding some of our news stories or you may have read in our staff box that the *Gazette* is a founding member of Canadian University Press. You come into contact with CUP in less visible ways as well. All of the national advertising in our paper (Colts and Julius Schmidt ads, for example) is supplied us through an agency which is contracted, ending this year, to deal exclusively with CUP's 64 members. John Parsons, CUP staff person for the Atlantic Region, frequently assists in many aspects of the production of the *Gazette*. The workshops and informal advice he offers enable us to publish a more relevant, more professional product.

Every Christmas delegates from every CUP paper leave family and friends to go off to some remote part of the country and attend CUP's national conference. Melting pots for newspaper fanatics, tireless partyers, workaholics and social activists, these conferences convey to its participants the diverse flavour and the cooperative spirit that is Canadian University Press. This year's 43rd annual conference was a landmark for CUP and should usher in a new era of stability and prosperity for Canada's student press. While in-depth discussion of CUP's statement of principles and the nature of cooperatives broke new ground in understanding the goals of the organization, the outstanding achievement was the formation of a CUP-owned national advertising agency.

In the ten years since CUP members combined together to offer themselves as a package to national advertisers, we have been dealing through another corporation, Youthstream Ltd. whose parent company is Cameron Consultants Ltd. Though Youthstream has been able to return us over several million dollars worth of advertising since then (over \$600,000 last year), they have drained CUP of valuable time and resources through the troubles required in negotiating and administering contracts, not to mention extracting sizable rewards for their work which could well have been returned to CUP members. Three and a half years of unsuccessful contract negotiations finally pushed CUP this year into forming its own ad corporation. While considerable expense is being incurred in its establishment—a couple hundred thousand dollars will be invested and it may be necessary to borrow money from banks who invest in repressive regimes—the end product will mean more money to CUP members and a greater opportunity to fulfill our goals as an organization. The '80s thus could well be the banner years for the student press.

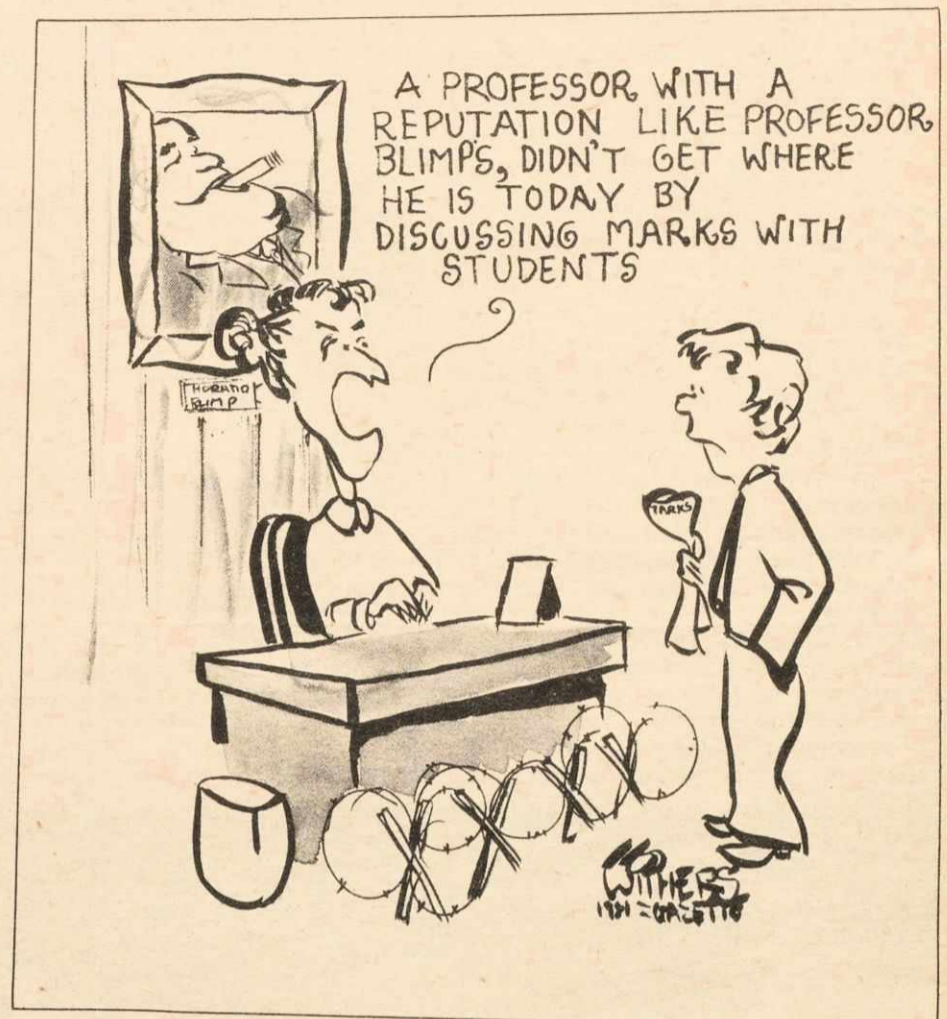
voices

The Irrational rationalist report leaked to *The Varsity* this week exemplifies the Arts and Science Faculty's inability to see beyond the next calendar.

The most ominous aspect of the 'Faculty Goals and Objectives' document is its proposal to phase out departments that are not outstanding nationally or internationally. The theory behind it is easy to grasp: cutbacks are here, universities have no choice but to accept them, and the least job-conscious disciplines — e.g. Arts and Science — must bear the brunt of them. — The Varsity, the University of Toronto's student newspaper.

Ultimately, the capacity of the Soviet government to act decisively in Poland depends upon the degree of support it enjoys from its own citizens — in the factories, on the farms and in the army. A movement inside the Soviet Union that supports the Polish workers, or indeed any action which weakens the government's capacity to act, would be a most encouraging addition to the growing movement of solidarity in Europe and North America, the independent trade union movement formula for victory, especially if it is workers internationally — STUDENT, the national newspaper for Ukrainian-Canadian students

Our international indebtedness has increased — the balance of payments deficit has reached approximately \$8 billion — and will become much worse as we continue to pay for large volumes of imported oil because we allowed our own oil to be taken out so quickly and sold so cheaply; as we continue to pay dividends, service charges and management fees to parent companies and as our deteriorating manufacturing sector earns increasingly less money. — the Independencer, the magazine for the Committee for an Independent Canada.



the Dalhousie Gazette

The *Dalhousie Gazette*, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members, and is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in the *Dalhousie Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for reasons of space, legality, grammar or good taste.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced.

Local Advertising is handled by DAL-ADS—the advertising department of Dalhousie Student Union: Tel. 424-6532. Ad copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the *Dalhousie Gazette*, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. You can reach us by telephone at (902) 424-2507.

The subscription rate is \$10. per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5819.

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