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today we have another letter on messrs. donnelly and nader, a letter of appreciation, a letter on the rutherford house, model parliament elections, and the pooper's union.

letters

Mr. Donnelly appears to have read "Unsafe at any Speed" with a jaundiced eye and this myopia seems to have clouded his vision and understanding when he read "The Muckrakers". And while he was speculating on Nader's future income he made the minor oversight of forgetting to mention Nader's \$26 million suit against General Motors for defamation of character—which, if successful, could provide him with a few extra bucks.

You are placing your case on rather thin ice when you refer to The Journal's article on muckraking to support your condemnation of the likes of Nader. The article in question, "The New Muckrakers", is itself a classic example of muckraking. Any industry that receives criticism as did the automotive industry has two courses to defend itself. It can either admit that there is truth in the charges and thus amend its policies; or it can sue for libel.

First of all, the article written by Warren Berry under the auspices of the North American Newspaper Alliance. Berry piously states that there is "more meat" in the newspaper sandwich than if this meat is placed between the hard covers he mentioned. The article symbolizes an attempt by the newspaper industry to put up an elaborate defense mechanism.

By using smear tactics, the newspaper industry is trying to whitewash its shortcomings in the coverage of these vital issues. An industry whose economy depends heavily on advertising is not about to start a crusade against the 'hand that feeds it.'

Furthermore, Berry claims that 'within the U.S. economy itself muckraking is becoming a minor growth industry.' Thus Berry, as

well as Donnelly, implies that there is something wrong with these people making a profit out of their critical works. In fact this minor growth industry is a classic example of free enterprise! The author provides a service to the public in the form of well documented criticism. The public is free to accept or reject the service, advertising costs are minimal because the service is its own best advertisement if it is successful. The big risk involved in the business is the threat of lawsuit for libel!

On the other hand, as J. A. C. Brown so aptly stated the case of "The Social Psychology of Industry" . . . no small part of modern discontent with existing conditions has been indirectly created by the leaders of industry themselves who by modern advertising methods have striven to create the feeling that all sorts of superfluities and gadgets are necessities of life. Berry suggests that we should take a look at the book publishing industry itself. A good idea, and with this in mind I would refer you The Journal article of Jan. 6, '67 entitled "Big Brother Publishers Inc." in which the specter of precensorship by government looms large.

The key issue is freedom of expression, or, in university terms, academic freedom. This freedom also has the responsibility attached to state the case fairly. The question of profit is incidental. But if we must make an issue of profit, let us weigh the facts. Would we rather subscribe to the idea that a man should make a million dollars in an effort to promote safer vehicles; or would we rather look the other way when we see the automotive industry 'saving' millions yearly by not including roll bars, proper padding and proper contours, etc.

I take exception to Mr. Donnelly's criticism by inuendo and sweeping generalizations. As a university newspaper book critic, he has an obligation to back up his charges with facts. This he has failed to do. Instead of dealing objectively with the issues involved, he has chosen to muckrake personalities.

helmut hoffman
ed 2

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the courtesy and excellent co-operation and reporting of your staff in connection with the recent newsworthy procedures pertaining to this department.

I am more than pleased to see in the erratum that a correction was made in regards to the competitive salaries paid to the housing and food services staff. I can only repeat what I have said by letter before in regards to the excellent high standard of The Gateway under your charge, and I trust that all further associations with this department will be carried on with the extremely high regard for the feelings of each person involved. Again my thanks for your co-operation.

d. a. bone
director
housing and food services

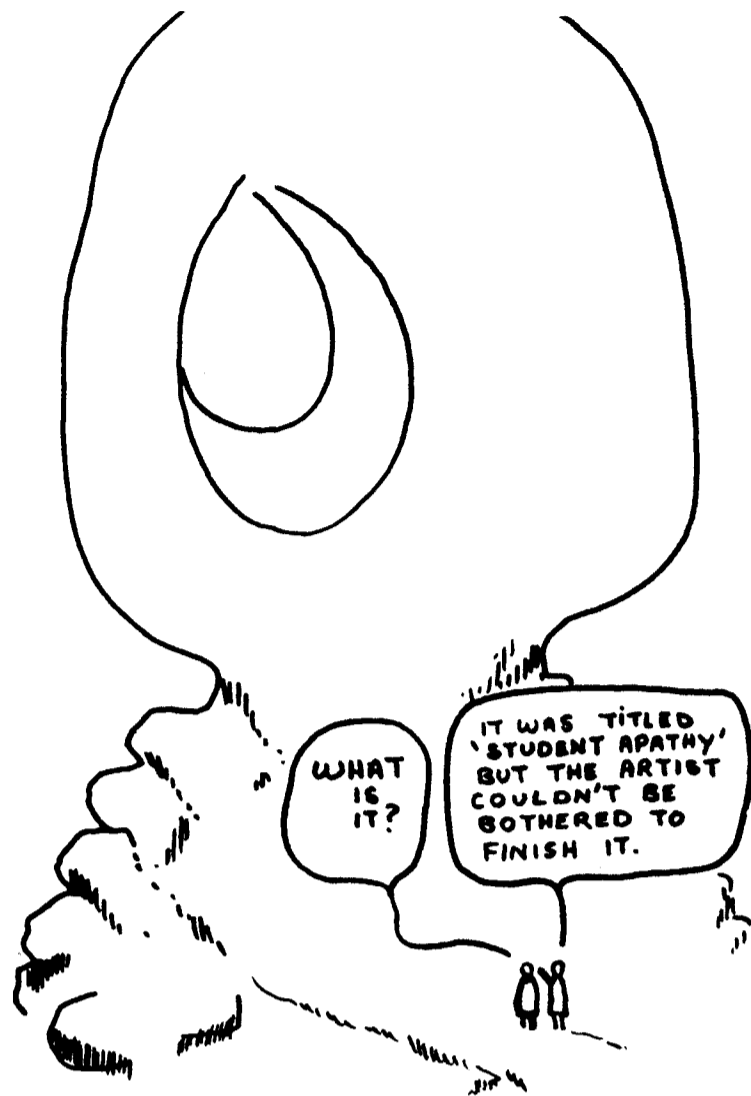
A vigorous plea for the preservation of the Rutherford house, perhaps better known to this generation of students as the Delta Upsilon fraternity house, appeared in The Gateway of February 1, 1967 over the signature of the president of the Society for the Preservation of Historic Homes.

This substantial brick house has stood since 1911 near the corner of Saskatchewan Drive and 112 Street. It was built as his family residence by the Honourable Alexander Cameron Rutherford, first premier of Alberta, who ranks with Henry Marshall Tory, our first president, as chief among the founders of U of A.

His administration prepared the first University Act, chose and purchased the present campus and began the construction of the first building, Athabasca Hall. Above all Dr. Rutherford personally persuaded Tory to leave McGill for Alberta. His interest in the university did not lessen with his retirement from political office and he served as chancellor from 1927 until his death in 1941.

Dr. Rutherford was an enthusiastic student of history and particularly of the history of the Canadian West. His outstanding collection of Canadiana, thanks to the generosity of his heirs, now forms the invaluable basis of the university library's holdings in early Canadian and Western history.

During his lifetime he gave ready access to his library to students and faculty, many of whom remember him with gratitude and affection. Almost every student who graduated before World War II was entertained



B. A. G. MACDONALD & M. LONG

—from the Carleton

at least once by the Rutherfords, for from 1918 to 1938 they received the graduating class on Founders Day, on or about May 9.

Apart from its historical and sentimental importance for the members of U of A, the Rutherford house is a fine example of the more opulent western Canadian domestic architecture of the period when Alberta was rapidly passing out of its pioneer stage. Most of the larger Edmonton houses contemporary with it have either disappeared or are likely to disappear as a result of the redevelopment of the central parts of the city.

Delta Upsilon has been an excellent custodian and no fundamental structural changes have been made. Indeed some of the original furniture is still in the house or in the possession of Dr. Rutherford's family.

It would not be difficult to restore much of the house to its original condition of 1911. Such a restoration would be a unique testimonial to the university's respect for its past and of considerable value for teaching purposes to departments like fine arts, history, and household economics.

The difficulties in the way of such a restoration appear to be purely financial. The cost of preservation and restoration would not necessarily be exorbitant but the site itself is valuable for the building purposes of the university. This consideration has so far deterred the university from giving special consideration to the retention of what is in our minds an outstandingly important historic building.

lewis h. thomas
professor of history,
chairman of the department

The name of the disease is called apathy . . .

In 1963, with only 55 per cent of the eligible voters exercising their franchise throughout the province, and less than 50 per cent in Edmonton, the present government won 94 per cent of the seats in the legislature. This can hardly be called

ed a democratic victory.

In Nov. 1967 the Liberal government returned to a minority government position with 74 per cent of the nation voting!

In Oct. 1966, 59 per cent of Edmonton's electorate cast their ballots in the civic election.

However, on Feb. 3, 1967, approximately 23 per cent of the eligible voters on the university campus exercised their democratic right to vote in the model parliament election!

If the percentage of voters at the federal, provincial and civic level reflects an apathetic attitude what can be said about a 23 per cent turnout on the university campus?

University students seem to live in a vacuum. They were either unconcerned, uninformed as to the policy of any party and some were even unaware of an election being held!

Presuming that university students make up a major portion of Canada's future intelligentsia, one may conclude from the results of this election that the democratic process is liable to become extinct.

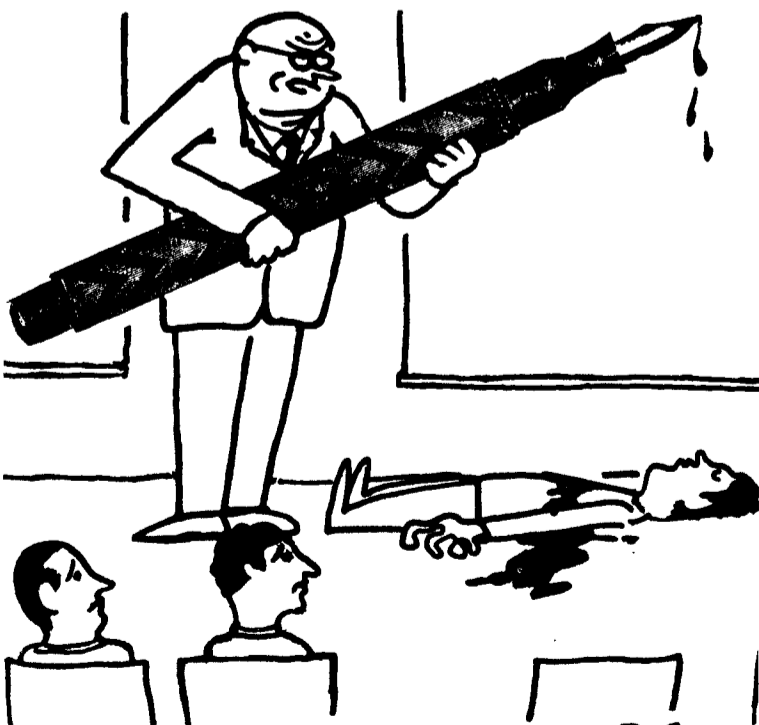
lilianne coutu
ed 3

In your news story of Jan. 27 entitled "CUS dropouts propose union" you stated; 'So far U of A's efforts have been concentrated on Bishops, Acadia and Memorial universities.'

With regards to Acadia this story is totally untrue. Acadia has not been in contact with Mr. Schepanovich since Oct. 8, 1966. As far as we are concerned there never was any mention of the creation of a "pooper's union" for the simple reason that Acadia never left CUS. (See the Nov. 25, 1966 issue of the Athenaeum for the story.)

We trust that the misconception regarding Acadia and Mr. Schepanovich will be corrected.

david chanter
former cus chairman
acadia university
students' union



D. GERRY

—reprinted from the sheet

"now then, gentlemen, would anyone else care to contest my thesis that 'the pen is mightier than the sword?'"