

The Dalhousie Gazette

CANADA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER



Published by the Dalhousie Students' Union
Halifax, Nova Scotia, 429-1144. Printed by
The Dartmouth Free Press, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office
Dept. Ottawa, and for payment of postage in Cash.

Volume 100, No. 6
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Opposition is what?

During the past few weeks, the editorial policy of the Dalhousie Gazette has sparked a certain amount of controversy. This may be a good time, therefore, to present a definite explanation of what that policy is.

The whole question of editorial policy includes such things as priorities and content. These priorities and content derive primarily from a conception of the role of a student newspaper.

There are those who suggest that a student newspaper should exist as an organ of internal publicity and coverage concerned solely with university, or student affairs, drawing the university together through organic blanketing of student activities.

They further suggest that the vast majority of students have no concern for political issues, and that because they partially finance the newspaper they are entitled to a determination of its policy, and therefore its content.

On the other hand there are those who suggest that while the student newspaper may, in fact, have a legitimate interest in international and national affairs, most people outside the university see the newspaper as a reflection of general student opinion, so that this should be taken into account when determining coverage and content.

Neither of these role analyses are compatible with the one which shapes the editorial policy of the Gazette.

One who would proffer the view that the college newspaper's proper function is to deal with the student only in his particular, immediate circumstance not only does not comprehend the role of the student press, but has no understanding of the role of the student.

It is generally recognized at least by students that the student, as a full-member of the society, must bear the responsibilities which that membership entails. One major responsibility is an interest in more than one's local situation.

The only thing which a student as a student, can give immediately to society, is his awareness of both the society and its problems.

These in turn can only be determined by applying the methods of the student's trade, analysis and criticism, to allow him to synthesise objective understanding.

Because the student's role, both in his chosen field of study, and in terms of his study of society, is based on critical analysis, the student newspaper must reflect, enforce, and strengthen this concept. The student newspaper must be primarily a vehicle of analysis and criticism, for these things are the students legitimate concern.

To argue that the student's financial contribution to the newspaper entitles him to be a determinant of its policy is as ludicrous as arguing that the student's council should exert editorial control over the newspaper. This is not to say that the newspaper can afford to disregard its readers.

The argument that the newspaper must reflect general campus thought because off-campus readers will regard its content as such is as naive as it is ridiculous. To begin with, exactly how does one determine "general campus thought"? It seems obvious that students hold a nearly infinite number of different political positions.

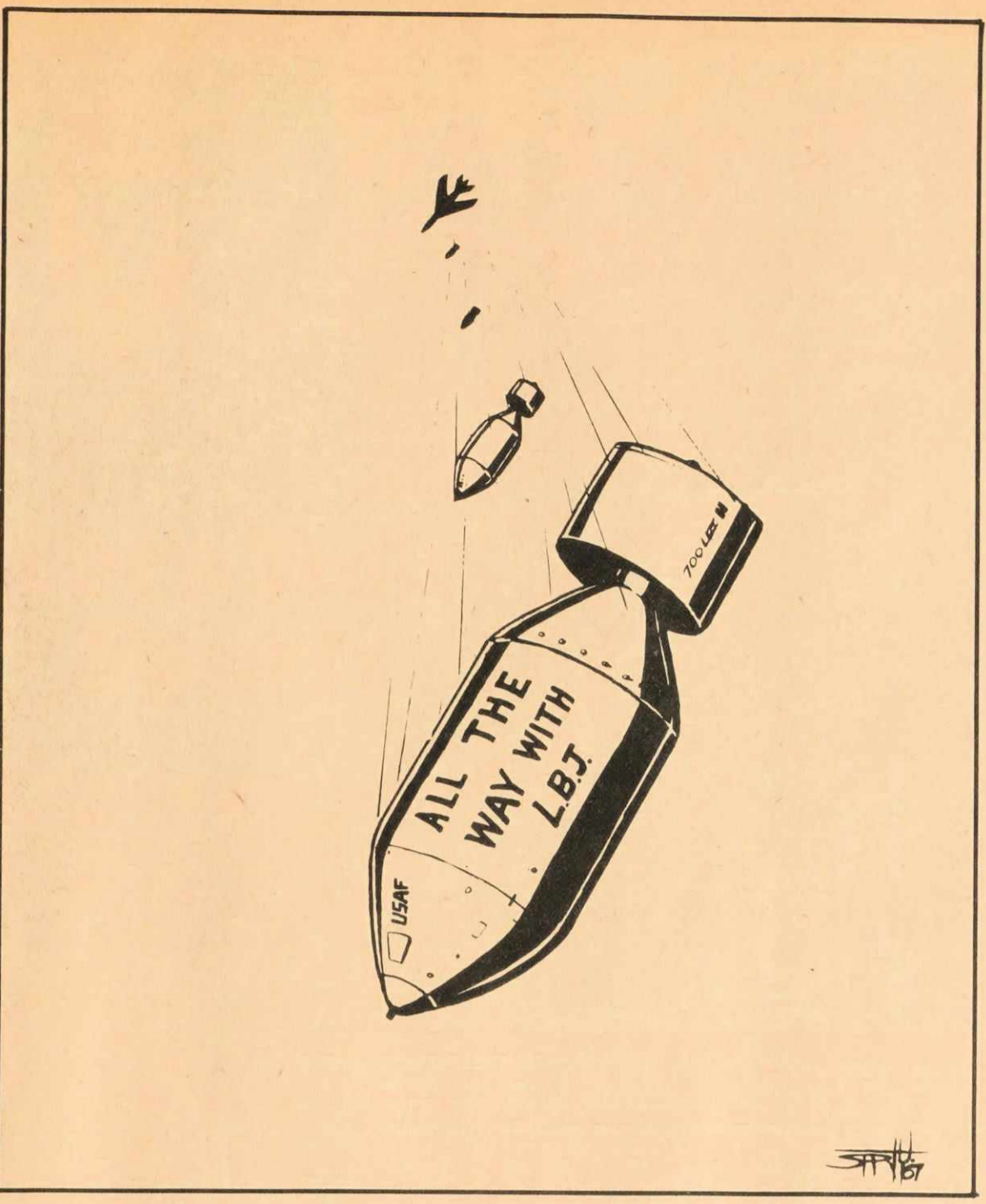
Second, exactly whom is the Gazette written for? Students, or local grandmothers and newscasters. If there is one thing that Halifax does not need, it is still another press which is intimidated by immediate public lack of awareness and the status quo.

The present editorial policy of the Dalhousie Gazette is composed of two major parts.

The lesser is a policy of trying to effectively cover campus events for purposes of information and review.

The most important policy is that of trying to promote as much dialogue as possible on important issues, whether in the context of our university or the world. This can most effectively be done through printed dialogue and cross discussion, as well as through background informational stories.

The present editors of the Gazette are trying to develop it to the point where it is both a house organ and a forum, a stage of development which it has not achieved as of yet.



Crawl, nigger, crawl!

America on Fire!
Anarchy in Force!
The Black Revolution is on!
Congress must act!
What are we to do?

Dear Friend:

This is a Bulletin. I wish I could afford to make a telegram.

The cities are now being burned as I prophesied. The Black savages are in command. The police departments are inadequate. The demagogues in Washington are too timid to act. The insipid Congress has toyed with your safety and mine.

Every major city in America is in danger of being set on fire by these barbarians who have been encouraged by our vote-hungry politicians who for a generation have preached hate against the white man and have glorified the savagery of the Negro.

Even the Negroes who represent themselves as conservative leaders refuse to take a stand against the anarchy that has developed in our burning cities.

It is as though we had been struck by atom bombs and were about to be struck by one hundred more atom bombs.

Demagogues, on the order of Governor Romney of Michigan, who have been petting and encouraging the undeveloped Blacks are now exposing their stupidity as we see a great city consumed by anarchy.

In the earlier stages of the Black anarchy, only the Negro communities were affected; now they are moving out to burn the homes and loot the business enterprises of the white people. We have witnessed paralysis of a great industrial center.

What better trick could the Communists employ in their campaign to paralyze our military defenses and cut off necessary supplies to our men who are dying in South Vietnam?

This is the testing hour for America. The Jews are setting up a World Government in Jerusalem. They are desecrating the Christian shrines. They are preparing to plow under the birthplace and the burial place of our Lord. They are planning to move the United Nations to Jerusalem for the establishment of a world capital.

While this international conspiracy is being developed, the American people are being preoccupied with the early stages of a guerrilla warfare. White men of responsibility in our great cities, when they go to bed tonight, will not know whether or not there

Negroes and better for the white people. No one needs to be banished. We only need to say to the Blacks, "If you want to be ruled only by Blacks, then we will send you to Africa and buy your ticket and give you a bonus." This will still be cheaper than shooting for the moon.

I am writing a Broadside Open Letter to the Congress of the United States dealing with this situation and as soon as it comes off the press I will send a copy to all who answer this letter, using the attached coupon.

PLEASE STAND WITH US. Practically every decent person agrees with what I have said in this letter, but we have a shortage of the kind of people who will stand out openly for these principles. I depend on you for the money and the prayers and the encouragement to carry on and fulfill these undertakings. Please stand with me.

Don't fail to fill out the attached coupon and enclose with it the largest gift as defined by your sacrificial conscience.

We carry on in dealing with the two greatest issues of all time: 1. The preservation of our nation from the threat of international Jewish dictatorship; and 2. The protection of our nation against a well organized Black revolution designed to burn our cities and enslave our people.

Sincerely yours for Christ and America,
Gerald L. K. Smith

COUPON - TEAR OFF HERE

Gerald L. K. Smith, Director
Christian Nationalist Crusade
Post Office Box 27895
Los Angeles, California 90027

In response to your letter entitled AMERICA ON FIRE! ANARCHY IN FORCE!, I enclose my contribution of \$..... It is understood that I am to receive a copy of the sensational Congressional Broadside referred to in the letter.

Name.....
Address.....
City..... State..... Zip Code.....

The Militarists are right!

To the Editor

Let's stop trying to fool ourselves by displaying a little hypocritical concern for the fate of individual civilians involved indirectly in the war in Vietnam. We aren't really concerned and we don't need to be concerned.

The state of civilians in this war is much exaggerated by the press and put completely out of proportion by so called "Intellectuals" who are entirely out touch with the situation.

Individual civilians are not important at all and are not considered as such in the modern concepts of global warfare, nor were they considered as meriting any importance in wars of past history.

All wars involve the deliberate or accidents deaths of civilians and the war in Vietnam is no exception. The Fire-bombing of Dresden, the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima, and the killing of civilians in Korea serve as examples of this during our lifetime when this type of action was not only condoned but actively supported.

There is not one among us who has not looked at some aspect of Far Eastern life and at some time thought or remarked - "Out there life is cheap" or "There are millions of them, they die like flies anyway."

Once a pattern of attack is established by land, sea, or air, of one country or another - for example the bombing raids of the U.S. on North Vietnam - then the onus for responsibility for the safety of civilians in the target areas is removed and placed into the hands of those civilians themselves.

If civilians live beside a target area that gets bombed, or is likely to get bombed, then they should move away to avoid being killed or wounded. Any foolish person not using this common sense, and staying in the area, is simply committing suicide.

A good policy for a country at war would be to say - "All precautions will be taken to safeguard the physical safety and rights of civilians in the zone of war."
BUT if they get killed -- too damn bad!!
-John MacFarlane

Comment

Council and the Declaration

By PETER CRAWFORD

The council has discussed two major programs this year. They are the Declaration of the Canadian Student, and the program for Student representation on the Senate.

The Declaration states in its opening sentence, "Education is a contributive social process, the essence of which is an expanding awareness of man's social and natural environment through dialogue. . . . As well it mentions, ". . . to serve society by helping to achieve equality. . . is. . . an essential condition of human learning." The Canadian Student has the right and duty to improve himself as a social being and to contribute to the development of society. . . .

Let us look at the Declaration first and see if there are any objections one could have to this document. There are a number of possible objections one could make, and they are:

- 1) Education is a right and not a privilege.
- 2) Education consists of merely getting enough credits for a degree and nothing else is important.
- 3) Students are not qualified to speak out on major issues for they lack the qualifications of a mature adult.
- 4) Council cannot accomplish anything anyway, so why waste its time.
- 5) Council needs a definite mandate from the students it represents, and as such is not qualified to speak on these problems.
- 6) Council can only be concerned with definite concrete proposals.
- 7) Council is merely a service agency.

The Student's Council rejected these ideas when presented to them in favour of accepting the principles embodied in the declaration.

President Ashworth said that the role of the students is one of activity. Activity in any field the student decides is their best outlet. He feels the basic assumption one can make is that students are all interested enough in their environment to be willing to help change it.

But is this basic thought correct? At the October 23 Council meeting the council had to adjourn because of a lack of a quorum. As a result of this, President Ashworth made the following comment, "I thought at the beginning of the year that we would have a good Council, for by riding ourselves of a good deal of administrative crap, we will talk on important issues, and yet people get up and leave, I am tired of waiting and counting for a quorum, and I am tired of spending my time on Student Council uselessly and jeopardizing my academics. If the Student's Council is irrelevant to Student Council members, to whom are we relevant? I am not willing to spend the rest of the year like this."

Any outburst like this is not understandable in the light of passing the Declaration of the Canadian Student, or is it? Surely Council wanting to help the Students in any way possible is laudable. Could it be that the fault lies with the individual Council Members who fooled their electorate into voting for them by pretending to be conscientious and even interested in Student Council affairs.

It would be depressing to think that next year's council will be allowed to deceive those who it asks for support. The people who run for public office

should be made to present a definite stand on the issues brought up by this year's Council (even if this must be put in the regulations of the Elections Committee) so that they do not gyp us of our rights.

This is what the council hopes to do this year, but it is quite obvious not all members agree that this is their role. Frank Wilson (Commerce), Frank Malcolm (Engineering), Dave Osherow (Science), Bill Stanish (Member at Large), Kee-Saik and Sandy Cameron (Med) all left early, and some of them even had the gall to arrive late.

These responsible members are representing our interests, but it is difficult to say how it is possible when they do not even bother to stay for the end of the meeting. Could it be that the idea of the Council is correct but the people who sit on it are not the right ones? This does appear to be the only logical conclusion.

To follow the line of reasoning that some members of Council seem to hold on their role; it is ludicrous to suggest that Students have no right to even want to sit on the Senate of the University. I do not think this is too extreme an extension, but I do think this result is ridiculous.

Every student in any system of education has been, at one point in his or her career, dissatisfied with some aspect of his learning. It does not seem unreasonable that this dissatisfaction should be brought before the proper authorities.

After all, this is the whole point of Course Evaluation, to site a positive action which has been done at Dalhousie, and this has been done with Senate approval. I have yet to meet one student leader who does not think Course Evaluation is a good idea. It does not seem that the extension of this idea to representation on the University Senate is so foreign. If Student representation on the University Senate will improve our university, then it should be done.

Unfortunately the University has made no statement on this issue as yet. They were to discuss Student representation last Friday, and it can only be hoped they will make the decision which will be in the best interests of the students.

Letter -

Room 332,
North Pole Bay,
University of King's College.

The Editor,
The Dalhousie Gazette,
Dalhousie University.

Dear Sir,
In the October 19 issue of The Gazette, you have over-stepped the limits of acceptability of editorial comment. You and your staff are guilty of unfaithful reporting. It is one thing to express an editorial opinion in a paper, and another altogether to present this opinion by a distortion of the facts, presenting lies as truth.

As a specific example, observe the article on the Dalhousie Student Forum, Dr. Steiner's speech was not the only one for which the audience showed either approval or disapproval. I recall that Dr. Crooke received a rather good response from an appreciative audience. However, regardless of how hard I try, I can recall no "ovation which drowned the hissing" in regard to Dr. Steiner's speech. Rather, there was polite applause, thanking Dr. Steiner for finally giving up the platform after using well more than twice his allotted eight minutes. If you wish to include an audience reaction in a factual report, than take the care to find out what the general reaction was, not your personal opinion disguised as a general reaction.

As for the bias on the reporting of Kim Cameron's speech, there can be no excuse. He did not know to use a mike, and thus, regardless of his subject matter (which I personally enjoyed) he was not heard by a majority of the audience. Murray McCutcheon, realizing the problem, took special care that he could be heard, and thus won the contest. As editor, you should read the copy that is printed in the paper, since you will ultimately be held responsible. This week you must have read it, since you told me that you personally laid out the first page. Neither were you ignorant of the true facts, because you were there that evening, as a speaker.

This paper is not your instrument, but the instrument of the whole student body, which pays you a salary to edit their paper. Although there should definitely be freedom of editorial comment, the paper should be more than a concoction of half-truths supporting the views of the editorial staff.

As an added judgement of the content of the paper, I might point out that I personally can see no justification for the printing of half a page of bad poetry, regardless of the subject matter, or a large article on the trite comments made on record covers. The article was more trite than the record covers it criticized.

"The defendant was found guilty as charged and was 'drowned in a pool of printer's ink."
Peter Robson.

Epitaph

EPITAPH TO THE VESTAL'S TEMPLE

She died in childbirth, a noble end. For those who knew her, a touch of sadness, a feeling of loss - the death of a feeling, a Spirit, a way of life. Perhaps more like a sacrifice made in humility to make room for something new and better and wider and greater. It is progress and adjustment, and maturity; but it is not Shireff Hall.

No, she is gone. There is a new spirit, an aliveness, a feeling that something is going to happen - that I am me. No echoes in the corridors and banging doors. No housecoat to Sunday breakfast - men instead. And oh, the child is lovely, and sometimes so cold.

She has promise of great beauty. The great wide windows overlooking the Arm - Oh, the view, the bright colours, the teak vanities, the laundry rooms, the typing and sewing rooms, and studies, and the sound-proofing and carpets - a lap of luxury.

But she is still cutting her teeth through clanging and gurgling, and cold rooms, and spotlights, and dust and plaster. The flickle lights, - and the elevator has gone again, - and the RATS, and the shrieks of interrupted privacy - her temper tantrums.

She has a kind of simple elegance. The lounges are bright and colourful - greens and blues and orange and raspberry and purple, all together. And the chairs are nice and swivelly. And we even had a party in the First Floor lounge - with men.

And the Dining Hall is so big that if you went to see an old friend you have to make a date, for fate has up and flown. There are new faces and new people, and new things to think and talk about, and meals are such fun, 'cause Men are such nice things to have around.

Letter

Culmination of irresponsibility

Dear Sir:

Your Oct. 19 issue was a flagrant breach of the responsibility you owe to your readership. Needless to say, this practice did not suddenly exercise itself -- the last issue was but the culmination. I was utterly disappointed, to say the least.

In my subsequent remarks, I will try to avoid reference to the ineptitudes of certain staffers and confine myself to your failings with regard to presentation framework.

Most shocking to me was the blatant plagiarism evidenced in the second editorial. It was taken VERBATIM from the opening and concluding remarks in the feature article of a recent issue of CUS Across Canada. The story, written by Warren Gerard, had been reprinted with the permission of Toronto Globe and Mail authorities. Presented as it was, your editorial on student power attributed the work to no one but yourself. In addition, certain remarks in Gerard's story were directly quoted from CUS President Hugh Armstrong's statements to an interviewer at the London Congress. You used but one quotation mark about halfway through the reproduction of Armstrong's statement, though still not identifying your source. How long do you suppose the Dartmouth Free Press will be party to such an unethical, irresponsible practice by continuing to publish your paper once they realize what is going on?!

Gazette content lacks balance; too much is missing. Where are the CUP releases we never see - they are very much the majority, I know. Why must I journey to your office for the copies of other campus newspapers you may happen to have on file - just to find out what CUP reports contain in abbreviated, factual form? Other universities do exist in Canada,

and other campuses are concerned about issues (other than student power) of which you do not often make us aware.

I realize that not all news or all opinion can be printed, but more consideration should be given to the material you do select. As E.U. Schrader (Head of the Journalism Course at Ryerson Institute of Technology) pointed out in the CUP handbook on newspaper work, "because all things cannot be printed, the editor must choose. HIS CHOICES SOMETIMES REVEAL HIS BUILT-IN PREJUDICES, OR FAULTY PERCEPTION. An over-emphasis on sex, liquor and other subjects which fascinate campus writers can leave a total image of a modern Gomorrah."

The Gazette has failed in its responsibility as regards item content and approach. Certain staffers have shown themselves to be grossly inept in the writing of news features and interview accounts, simply because they have not been able to dissociate fact (often opinion-oriented) from personal opinion!!! Schrader says "there are MORE FREEDOMS THAN THOSE ENJOYED BY THE PRESS. The reader has the freedom to know all the truth, objectively presented, and all opinions, offered in balance. The administration deserves the right to be understood. And the general public deserves a true image of your campus." With the Gazette, this is hardly the case.

Before an editor can even operate, however, he must understand the nature of his publication. It is to be a newspaper, not a magazine. So much of what appears in the Gazette is material for a literary effort - and even at that it may well be questioned. My hope is that you will now undertake to make the Gazette the successful exercise in communication which it is meant to be. Thank you,
Judy Peacocke, Arts 11