

## IRRITATING VISITORS

Several times since the beginning of the year, we have entertained visitors in our sanctum. All were concerned with one thing: keeping something out of the paper.

We are all in favor of friendship. We think that loyalty is great. But is it a favor to anyone to keep news out of the paper? We are inclined to think that every person or action is entitled to fair, impartial coverage if he or his action is newsworthy.

We attempt to give this fair and impartial coverage. We hope that the public realizes this, but sometimes we doubt it.

When reporters and editors are investigating a lead, and are met with the attitude that "nothing has happened" when obviously something has, we become suspicious.

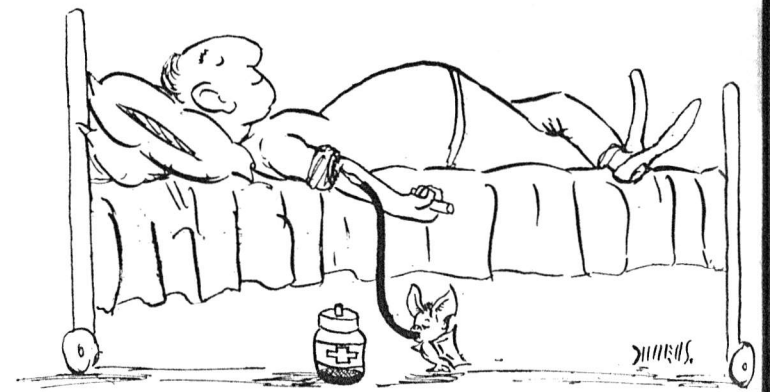
The whole situation becomes ludicrous when the only person who is willing to discuss the matter is the individual involved in the incident.

We admire the loyalty shown by friends, but we question its value. University students may not be the most mature creatures in the world, but we think that our readers should be allowed to consider facts on their own merit.

The value of an accurate, complete news story as compared to the grapevine should be obvious. If the true facts are presented, and the reader left to make up his own mind, the result is much more likely to be fair to the individuals concerned than are the gossip, innuendo, and half-truths of the grapevine.

We have a duty to report news, fairly and completely. This is a double-edged sword, however, because we have an obligation to individuals as well as to our readers.

We recognize this obligation to individuals, and we are inclined to become a trifle irritated when others attempt to assume our responsibility. Doubly so when we are not satisfied that these efforts are in the best interests of the person concerned.



DON'T BE A CLOT . . . . . BLEED!

## FORUM

### Academic Freedom Prevents Subversion

I believe there are two threats to academic freedom, one of which I will deal with, namely the internal threats within a university. I will not consider the external threats which have been battled by others in this column.

These threats can be grouped under three headings:

#### PRECONCEIVED IDEAS

a. The adherence to preconceived ideas. The search for truth, which is the essence of academic freedom, demands that the search be genuine. The search cannot be genuine if a man's mind is made up before hand. Therefore a great enemy of academic freedom is the closed mind which is so prevalent today.

**A teacher who has given his intellect into the case of some dogma does not think for himself but answers out of someone else's thoughts. He is not a true searcher for truth. Only those who are ready to test all things while cleaved to the truth really participate fully in the life of the free mind.**

The university is, indeed, a free market of ideas in which all may offer their wares. In the world of science the new insights must struggle against the shackles of tradition because some men hold the "club" of a preconceived idea.

The same holds in political and social science, where established doctrines demand that innovation be silenced. Alleged innovations who are themselves unready to weigh the evidence of fact and who have their ready made answers born of tradition and conceived in arrogance, use the mind to fight open truth.

One must remember that he who knows but a single road to truth, and who demands that all others follow that road, is a man of narrow mind and unworthy of honor in the academic community.

#### IRRESPONSIBLE FREEDOM

b. The second threat is the irresponsible use of freedom. Freedom is not license, the mere absence of restraint. Freedom, to be secure, must be rooted in responsibility. Whenever freedom is used irresponsibly it is weakened, and the continued irresponsible use of freedom can lead to its destruction.

**This indeed is one of the principle insights of subversives. Whether from the Far Right or from the Far Left, these subversives know full well they can rely on democracy to defend them so long as they wear the cloak of freedom. Hence they wrap themselves in the assumed**

**garment and loudly protest their rights as members of the academic community to think, speak and act as they wish, without hindrance.**

Stout believers in democracy and idealistic believers in academic freedom rally to the support of the underdog position. Clever people know how to obtain an underdog position and then call for help in the name of academic freedom.

But the most effective way in which freedom should be defended is by freedom itself, by using these same freedoms to expose subversives for what they are; the enemies of freedom.

#### APATHY; INDIFFERENCE

c. The last threat is that of apathy, indifference, resignation. Perhaps apathy is the fundamental threat to academic freedom, for fear can be overcome with courage, while apathy is a slippery eel or a blob of soft butter. It cannot be grasped and shaken into action. It does not respond to challenge. It is indifferent to human welfare and unmoved by threats to freedoms.

**Occasionally it can be shocked into action, as in the cases of some off-campus force or alien ideology. Proponents of the Far Right and Far Left appear on campus to retire in confusion under rapier thrusts of student questioners or the gusty laughter of student audiences. Hence to answer these challenges is the best weapon available to freedom.**

Academic freedom is secure only when it is practiced fully. Those believing must not be intimidated by those who exploit it for subversive purposes or those who suppress academic freedom. Standing stoutly in defense of freedom, believers will practice it, using the methods of free discussion, to expose, defeat and rout recurring efforts of the enemies of academic freedom.

Only then will the university merit an autonomous status, and only then will autonomy be the instrument of freedom.

by BOB CHURCH  
Grad Studies

WHY IS R.R.?  
WHERE IS R.R.?  
WHAT IS R.R.?  
WHEN IS R.R.?

## FUMBLING EXECUTIVE

Once again the powers that be have fumbled the ball.

In a virtual avalanche of executive indecision and intercollegiate red-tape, the possibility of a national football final between the Golden Bears and McGill Redmen has been snowed under.

While the efforts of the CIAU executive committee are to be commended, it is a case of too little, too late. Where was the committee in April when the necessary planning should have been done, and was scheduled to be done?

Why have such national events been subject to the whims of individual universities? Is it not time Canadian collegiate officials be-

gan to make some headway in achieving what most observers feel is a desirable goal?

Congratulations are to be extended to the Golden Bears, who after a successful season, lost the chance to represent Alberta in a national championship; not on the football field, but in the committee rooms.

However, the CIAU committee is not entirely to blame. The austerity program with its cutbacks in financial assistance to intercollegiate athletics, played a major role in East-West playoff negotiations.

Maybe it is time that the possibilities of a private sponsor, similar to the Shriners sponsorship of the Little Grey Cup, were thoroughly investigated.

## TRIFLING COUNCIL

Council can consider itself lucky that curious people rarely wander in to view council meetings. While Council at past meetings has maintained a rather high caliber of debate and meeting procedure, last Tuesday's exhibition makes one stop and wonder.

Council debated many petty points at great length, and passed important things with a minimum of consideration.

In addition, the meeting was characterized by general irregularities in meeting procedure and conduct questionable of supposedly mature individuals.

Council found at one point that it had passed a motion that had not been seconded. Also,

during the course of the evening, several councillors wandered off as they recalled that they had other business to attend to elsewhere.

At 10:45 Council had to count noses to determine whether it had a quorum—the minimum number of members required to legally conduct business.

Finally, the meeting was interspersed with high-schoolish giggling on a couple of occasions.

Councillors should take their responsibilities more seriously. To date they have done so. While one breach can possibly be excused, we hope that we will not have to comment on similar situations in future.

## TRAVELLING POETS

Audiences for poetry? In Edmonton?

Since U of A's English Department, in conjunction with the Canada Council and Edmonton's Focus Gallery decided to institute a series of poetry readings here, audio-visual has added several new dimensions to our appreciation of Canadian poetry.

Irving Layton's appearance over a month ago got the series off to a "roaring" start. Last Friday Ottawa poet-professor George Johnstone, whose work has been published in **The Cruising Auk**, gave the second reading of the series. Two more poets will visit the

campus next term.

What are the new dimensions doing for us, for the poet, for poetry?

In addition to providing enjoyable evenings for poetry-lovers, they are acquainting us with Canadian writers—a breed of men all too often left hidden at home. Many of us are being impressed by the worthiness of Canadian literature. Some are being impressed by its existence.

For these reasons and omre, poetry readings—the latest in Edmonton entertainment—come as a welcome addition to our cultural life.