

McGill Daily, February, 1933.

Sale Of New Magazines On Campus Prohibited

Black Sheep, Alarm Clock, Must Be Sold Outside College

SALE OF the "Black Sheep" and the "Alarm Clock" in the Buildings on the Campus has been forbidden by the University authorities.

Although no exception was taken to the articles in the papers, it was felt that, since they were not University publications—but the work of individuals who happened to be attending college—an effort must be made to make clear to the public that the magazines were neither sanctioned by nor under the control of the University authorities.

To Continue Publication

The editors of the "Black Sheep" stated today that subscribers will continue to receive their magazines every month, and that issues would be on sale at downtown bookstores and stationery shops.

"The Alarm Clock" which was scheduled to come out within a few weeks, will, according to the editors, be published as arranged.

Among the reasons given for the barring of the magazines on the Campus, was the fact that, since the University, as such, can have no views on political, religious and other questions—no matter what may be the personal opinions of the authorities—it cannot afford to have the public think that it sanctions or encourages the publication of either of the two magazines. This, it was felt, could be done only by putting them on the same scale as any other outside magazine, that is, by forbidding their sale on the Campus.

Combing The Wool Of The Black Sheep (E. P. R.)

THE ballyhoo which preceded the appearance of The Black Sheep on the Campus was neither mild nor entirely unskillful. As a matter of fact it was not really modest either. Perhaps it was inevitable that The Black Sheep's public should have this ballyhoo in mind in estimating the magazine as it was at last presented. The first glance and even the second, both of which concern mainly the lay-out and get-up of the sheet, are by no means disappointing. The lower case is no longer an entire novelty, but it is sufficiently out of the ordinary to enable us to commend the editors for plumping for it so thoroughly.

As for the third glance, that is to say the real look—well, the magazine was supposed to be nothing if not clever and subtle and cynical and absurd and perhaps entertaining, at every turn. It is all of these things, but not all at once in every part, or even in any one part. Take an article like "thus shalt thou do" by Mr. Editor Barclay. It makes very fair reading, and contains the germ of more than one idea as to what might with benefit be done to the McGill Daily. In fact it possesses the well-known Barclay touch in several places. But The Black Sheep, even though we were early permitted to know that Barclay was one of the kingpins, was supposed to surpass even the best Barclayan efforts of the past. As we said before, it actually measures up to this standard from time to time.

The only other article which openly bears the Barclay stamp has no collegiate theme, but its handling of Montreal English-language newspapers is really much more in keeping with what we are pleased to call The Black Sheep spirit. We suspect the hand of W.A.B. from time to time in other parts of this magazine, the least of whose faults is certainly not its proneness to anonymity.

If one is careful to remind oneself that cynicism and irony are in the offing, several other pieces in this issue are worthy of note. Thus, consider the exposition of the "mcgill movement", which has an incongruous slapstick ending hardly in keeping with the weight of the body of the story. If, as seems not improbably, it is necessary to take oneself very seriously in adhering to the Oxford Group, this apparent parody may constitute unpardonable blasphemy.

Three "poison portraits" are adequately semi-accurate to catch the eye of those who know their prominent and not-so-prominent Campus personalities. Four selections of verse are generally worth while. The library epic, "seduction in the stacks," makes use of a neat if slightly shop-worn figure in what might otherwise have been the same old dig at Canadian literature.

The Black Sheep is of the same size and dimensions as that other new paper, The Alarm Clock. Comparisons are inevitable. And where the chief contrast should be in the tone of the subject matter, it is rather in the technicalities of lay-out and general attraction. With its requirements for much shorter contributions the new paper was able to present each page in a more popular form than did the Labour Club organ; but this is not necessarily a criticism of the latter.