

A Letter To The Editor

Continued from last week

In order to illustrate my point I offer the following example: if the Gazette unwittingly prints a column that is "not on the beam", either about or concerning a graduate student who has just entered this "cool cruel world," its influence may be detrimental to the success of that graduate, and the Gazette will have failed in its responsibility; not only a responsibility to the person existing concerned, but its responsibility to his employers, the responsibility to the students, to the public at large, and to the name of Dalhousie.

Here again I would impress upon the reader that my attack is not directed against the POLICY of the Gazette, but at the lack of discretion and good judgment in the METHODS of presentation of its policy.

If more thought were put into factual reporting and less into subtle and sarcastic judgments and insinuations a fundamental purpose would be achieved. The philosophy of meeting the ridiculous (judgment of the editors after all) with ridiculous is a nice philosophy. It drives home a point with emphasis and is a useful one when used with DISCRETION. But without previous presentation of facts, it is a style of writing which is slanted.

The Gazette is the only publication on the campus and therefore in the unique position of being able to write as it wishes (in so far that it remains decent) without rebuttal from other publications. As Mr. "W.A." points out a university press cannot be compared to a professional publication, and therefore

by its very nature SHOULD not be slanted in its outlook and should be democratic in the real sense of the word. It has the right to print editorials and comments of judgment AFTER it has presented its readers with the facts. (This has nothing to do with the blubber spouted by Mr. "W.A." concerning democracy).

We speak of the freedom of the press, a freedom to write and present articles as they appear to its editors. No one wishes to deny the Gazette this policy; not the students, nor the Students' Council, nor the faculty, nor the public. Editing slanted points of view, however, without first presenting the facts, is not exercising the freedom of the press, but rather EXPLOITING this freedom and franchise granted to its editors. In newspaper circles this sort of thing is termed as "yellow journalism". Mr. O'Neill's column is too suggestive of this sort of term; once more a FEW of the previous Gazette issues have bordered on this type of journalism.

Because the Gazette is the ONLY publication on the campus its responsibility lies first in the presentation of the facts, followed by editorials either for or against the issues at hand.

In closing I would like to say this concerning the attitude of the Student Council: I believe that their intentions were good, but that their dictatorial methods were wrong and ill used. We have Mr. McKinney's apology and I am prepared to accept it.

Let us hope that in the future, further ridiculous hot-headed ses-

Seismograph Only One In Maritimes

A severe earthquake rocks a small island off Japan, a tiny village in South America is leveled by earth tremors, and before even the news services are aware of it, the disturbance is recorded at Dalhousie. This is made possible by that instrument of modern science, the seismograph.

Dal's recorder is the only such instrument in the Maritimes. It has been carefully installed in a well insulated room with its base on bed rock which lies very close to the surface in Halifax.

There are two pendula on the instrument, one reacting in an East-West plane and the other North-South. Each pendulum bears a small mirror which reflects a beam of light from a central position to a slowly revolving cylinder of sensitized paper below. When a tremor occurs, the vibrations are plotted from the paper and can be traced out in lines around the earth's surface.

Keith Hoyt is Dal's seismologist and he reports that two severe quakes have been recorded within recent months. One of these occurred just before Christmas at 5 a.m. on December 23 during the eruption of Mauna Loa, a Hawaiian volcano. The other vibrations recorded were earth tremors caused during the morning of December 30.

sions will not develop, but instead BOTH the Council and the Gazette might give each other a little ground when possible, and avoid the absurd.

JACK McKENNA

Letters To The Editor

The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette,

I still think that Tchaikowsky and Tolstoy were relatively able men in their fields, although the Halifax Chronicle-Herald will probably jump up and demand my arrest as a dangerous Communist for these opinions. The enclosed editorial, the worst example, not of muddled thinking but of total lack of thought, that I have ever come across, appeared in the "editorial" column of that paper a few days ago. Apart from the fact that they need a good English student to rewrite their editorials, nothing much can be said about the thing. I suppose they think Shakespeare represents the radical elements of the British Labour Party.

Yours truly,

A. MOREIRA.

Germany Squares The Account

Purchased for the equivalent of \$60 at an auction by an unidentified buyer, "a lock of 40 grey hairs," said to have come from the head of the German composer Beethoven, is to be given "to Winnipeg-born star Deanna Durbin for her collection of musical curios".

Perhaps the hairs were shorn from the head of Beethoven in his native Bonn on the Rhine. (They could have been picked up in any barber-shop in Harlem, Holland, or Winnipeg itself.) Who knows? And who cares?

What does matter is the strange "sense of values" that seems unable to distinguish between a world ruined by Ger-

mans and lock of some German's hair.

Germans, in two world wars, destroyed more of the world's cultural and material things than all the Germans in the world could restore in Hitler's "thousand years". But the world does get the "recompense" of forty hairs labelled "Beethoven". And, perhaps, in some minds that squares the account. But, for our own part, we will go on believing that Canadians in general, and the people of Winnipeg in particular, will attach more importance to the plight of one good Canadian lad maimed in German-made war or the Canadian home in which children have been left fatherless through the brutal ambitions of the "Master-Race".

The Editor,
Dalhousie Gazette,

I was surprised to read in your last issue that Mr. McCurdy had finally taken his stand on the Gazette controversy after a full seven-day "hibernation period". His letter was ill-timed to say the least and appeared to be an agitation to re-open an old wound. If Mr. McCurdy wished to take a stand in relation to the Gazette and particularly to "some members" of the Council, the proper place for him to have taken it was at the Council Meeting on January 14, 1949, which lasted four hours and at which full opportunity was given members of the body to express their views. I would have ignored his letter for the above reasons if it had not been for the personal references to me contained therein.

I should like to remind Mr. McCurdy that the essence of Democratic Government is that the members of that government should only hold office as long as they enjoy the confidence of the majority of the people. When that confidence is no longer enjoyed it is their duty to resign their mandate and seek re-election.

At the Council Meeting on January 14, 1949, during my speech, I said that I would "consider" submitting my resignation if I felt I no longer enjoyed the students' confidence. My feeling as to that confidence was not based on the portion of the student body present that night, (although it was a fairly good cross-sectional representation) but on many others I interviewed before the meeting. I feel that due to the manner in which the Council disposed of the Gazette Controversy, it still enjoyed the confidence of the Dalhousie Student body. My stand is an independent one without favoritism to any and without coercion from any source after learning both sides from Mr. McKinney and Mr. Moreira. That has been my stand and that shall be my stand. If Mr. McCurdy thinks I was swayed by the partisan feeling of the meeting, (and he only referred to Mr. Wilson and myself) how does he explain the result of the vote 10-2? I did not think I was capable of swaying nine other Council members to accept a portion of my views.

I was interested to learn from Mr. McCurdy's letter that I shall be a presidential candidate in the next election. I was not aware of it, but perhaps he knows my intentions better than I do. Perhaps he "conjured a vision" during the seven-day interview and saw me on the "hustings" running for all I was worth. He should never have allowed his imagination and unfounded rumours to prevail. To set Mr. McCurdy's mind at ease I should like to state that I had and since have no intention of running as a candidate for the Presidency of the Council of Students.

I quite agree with Mr. McCurdy that the platforms of the various candidates be carefully examined, but suggest to him that he not "tarry" in so doing else the Presidential election will have come and gone.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for space,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

EARL W. URQUHART.

"Gatenik" Published at University of Alberta

GATENIK. (CUP)—The officers of the "Gateway", paper of the University of Alberta were apparently overflowing with refugees from all the foreign countries imaginable on Friday, January 7. That memorable day the Gatenik was published in full flowery form.

On the front page, in all their glory, the President of the Hlobbovian Republic, Shootin' Rasputin Bowlenovitch, and the Treasurer, Shmoe Roenic were emblazoned. Other features on the page were, "Swatter Dence For Pazzunts," an article on the "Axchanging of Shtudents for Bagles". A special to the "Gatenik" was the story "Hlobbovia vs. Halberta in Cold War—Hot Duck!".

In the twisted King's English, the rest of the paper rambles on through a 'Dorothy Shmix Column' which was much ado about nothing. The "Sshportz Paage" was written in the same vein with write-ups on the coming "Beskit-

ball game of the sizzon at the Jamnasium" and the transfer of "Clairvoyant Mohair to the Montreal Black and Blue Hocks".

The "Racipes" in the paper were also works worthy of notice.

PUNJAB GHUK

- 3 cups White Pine Sawdust
- 2 cups fish glue
- ½ cup AirWick
- 1 eggshell (protein)
- 1 bicycle pump (volume)
- To be mixed by hairy apes (untouched by human hands.)
- Add a dash of Absorbine Jr. and fry over a Ronson flame.

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- 5 bottles of Rum

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