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EDITORIALS:

REACTION TO THE REACTION

So we have finally provoked a reaction from our readers! But it took last week's Gazette to do it.

We were not altogether surprised when we found ourselves deluged with letters - all five of them. It is, however, an unfortunate comment on the students of this University that the only time they stir themselves to write letters to the editor is when the Gazette plugs sex, sin, etc.

There were several events of major importance last term that were worthy of comment: the Cuban crisis and the Common Market to name but two. Were Dalhousie students interested enough to make their views known concerning these events, which, we venture to suggest, have and will have a considerable effect on the world in the future? Judging by the number of letters we received from people who had something to say and were willing to say it, we would hazard a guess that Dalhousie students just did not think about the happenings in Cuba and in Europe, or at least gave them little thought beyond the initial panic in the case of Cuba. We did not get one letter on either topic.

The Cuban crisis did not go unnoticed: we know of several Dalhousie girls who were approached by their swains at the height of the crisis with the suggestion that they should elope and enjoy some of the "benefits" of matrimony before the bomb dropped. This admittedly was not a phenomenon confined exclusively to the Dalhousie campus, but it does perhaps suggest the libidinous orientation of many students' minds.

It is true that most people do not write letters to the editor unless they find something they dislike in the paper. We feel that this is an attitude unworthy of university students. We welcome letters and are only too glad to print the opinions of students, however radical or reactionary they may be.

We would like to point out finally that only one of the letters in the 'Letters' column on this page has the author's signature attached to it. It is not our policy to print letters when the editor at least does not know who has written them. Some people wish to remain anonymous and have their letters printed with a pseudonym attached. This is acceptable. However, any letters that do not have the writer's name attached, even if not for publication, will not be accepted in future. The names of all members of the Gazette staff are to be found at the top of this page. Submitted articles of opinion have by-lines. If you do not have the courage of your convictions to stand by what you have written in the form of a letter, do not bother to waste your time and ours by submitting it.

The Barris Beat:

DEMOCRACY IN CANADA?

Is democracy dead?

Gus Hall, one of the leading spokesmen for communism in the United States was scheduled to address a meeting of the McGill University Socialist Society in Montreal last week. He was refused admittance to Canada by the Canadian Department of Immigration. The Department's district superintendent was quoted in a Canadian Press release as saying: "Hall couldn't lawfully be admitted because he is a known Communist and he was coming here in that capacity".

This is a very flimsy excuse for keeping the man out of the country. The Communist party is a legal political party in Canada. Other political spokesmen are permitted to enter Canada and address audiences. Why should a Communist be denied this right?

We do not agree with the Communist ideology. 'Democracy' on the other hand is not perfect. Communism is one of the dominant political philosophies in the world today. To try and "protect" the students of McGill University from coming into contact with a Communist is absurd. If the principles of democracy are in such a shaky position that the youth of the Western World must be denied contact with other political philosophies, God help Canada and God help the West; it appears we cannot help ourselves.

REACTIONS FROM READERS OF LAST WEEK'S GAZETTE

EVERYONE READS THE GAZETTE

Everyone reads the Dalhousie Gazette! Having made such an all encompassing statement two weeks ago, you have apparently set out in your last issue to completely change the situation. Do you gentlemen actually think that you could again obtain a picture of such a distinguished and intelligent man as L.B. Pearson, reading a copy of last week's Gazette which brandishes such idiotic and tasteless pictures and headlines on the front page and contains nothing of interest to anyone inside? The type of person who might be found reading with interest such drivel is currently seated in one of the Grade 5 classrooms of this city. This person might even find the front page uproariously funny. However, I don't, especially when I consider that this paper is sent to other universities across Canada and is presented to the public as the "Official Publication of the Students of Dalhousie".

If you are so lacking in imagination and literary merit to have to resort to filling the pages of The Gazette with such articles, I suggest that you remain "bound and gagged", for you are definitely "not responsible" for your actions, and the rest of the students of Dalhousie certainly should not be.

On the other hand, if you plan to continue to produce a weekly issue of The Gazette, why not take an example from last year's staff and begin to produce articles of general interest, embodying literary articles, and giving attention to public affairs and all events on campus. If you are not capable of maintaining the high quality of last year's Gazette, I suggest that you resign.

I'll be waiting for some kind of improvement.

Sincerely,

Formerly Interested Reader

THE SHEAF AND THE GAZETTE

Sir:

The Sheaf has committed repeated and irresponsible breaches of good taste (such as the editorial repeated in the January 9 edition of the Gazette). After being thoroughly disgusted by the front page of this particular edition, I ask if it would not be better to start in the Gazette office in Dal and start raising our ideas out of the gutter. Anybody who in all sincerity could call this past cover page "cute" or "smart" or as contributing to the "controversial nature of the publication" has fallen pretty far in his idea of amusement.

If that page reflected on "the students it represents" then I am ashamed to consider myself such. Must we be considered as nothing but a group of young adults interested in nothing but sex because of the distorted minds of a few? I am thoroughly ashamed to show this newspaper to my fellow collegiates in other colleges and when this happens things have gone too far. If a few must convey their "rebellious democratic" displays (or rather junk) why should they use our publication?

Dal and its students have too much to be justly proud of to fall

to such a disgusting level of crudity.

Sincerely,

THOROUGHLY PEEVED

INCREDIBLY REPULSIVE

Sir:

Your Jan. 16 issue of the Gazette was incredibly repulsive. It is very difficult to believe this paper was written by supposedly interested university students.

I understand this was one of your annual "gag" issues. Now, I have never been reprimanded for lack of a sense of humour, but I must say I have read this issue thoroughly without having laughed at all, save an occasional smile, directed not at the material, but at the manner in which it was presented.

Fortunately, Miss Peggy Mahon provided some deviation from your obvious line of sick humor (if it even be that). Unfortunately, the shining beauty of Miss Mahon was not at all enhanced by the dingy columns of waste in which her picture has been buried. I only hope the photographer concerned here was from Dal, for to him should go much credit.

Like most other unlearned freshmen on this campus, I know not the exact amount of money provided for the Gazette's publishing by the Council. However, I certainly think it must be sufficient to present the members of the student community with entertainment of a somewhat higher degree than that appearing in said issue. I give you the benefit of doubt here, in assuming the quality of any paper depends to a very great degree on the amount of money available for its publishing. If it does, create a small paper. Don't try filling space with waste, for it just won't work. I am not suggesting, by neglect, that we should allow entertainment of any kind to surpass the greater interest, that of informing the students, and perhaps alleviating, to some extent, our state of sad unlearnedness.

Sincerely,

KARMEN

(Ed's note: The photograph of Miss Mahon was taken by Gazette photo editor, Brian Purdy.)

"THE RABBLE"

Sir:

It may be that: "the rabble condemn what they do understand". This member of the "rabble" understands that the "Gazette" is degrading itself, and the university, before the student body and the public in publishing this week's issue. And this member of the "rabble" condemns the "Gazette" for it.

I think it would be a good idea if the Gazette were sold to the students instead of a dole being granted to this sheet every year. Perhaps if it had to "make its own way in the world" such disgusting issues would not be published.

Sincerely,

WALLACE METCALF

THE DEPTHS

Sir:

"The Gazette" has sunk to the depths of the journalistic world.

Sincerely,

DISGUSTED

The Gazette is sorry to announce the retirement due to pressures of studies of three of its stalwart staffers: Miss Mickey McEwen, managing editor; Miss Sheila Russell, news editor; and Miss Peggy Mahon, assistant features editor. We are sorry to lose their helping hands but wish them all success and hope they will retain their interest in the paper. Mr. Frank Cappell has taken over as news editor, and Mr. Gus Visman has succeeded to the post of assistant news editor.

