

Charter Of The Student Press

EDITOR'S NOTE—This Charter was unanimously adopted by the 22nd annual conference of the Canadian University Press, held in Quebec City December 28-30.

I. Whereas the Canadian student press believes in the following principles:

That freedom of expression, and debate by means of a free and vigorous press is essential to the effectiveness of an educational community in a democratic society.

That while the student press is a function of the student government or of the University administration this should in no way be allowed to impair the freedom of the student press.

That the student press should be free of all forms of external interference.

That it is essential to a free student press that it be responsible for the views and opinions it expresses.

That the basic duties of such a free student press are to present the varied opinions of the students it represents, to present news fairly, and without bias, and to interpret local, national, and international events, and issues of interest, and import to students to the best of its ability.

II. And whereas freedom of the student press has been abridged in the following ways:

Confiscation of issues of student newspapers due to the publication of material which faculty or administrative authorities considered detrimental to the reputation, and the welfare of the institution, or some department of the institution.

Suspension, expulsion, or threats of similar action against student editors, or suspension or threatened suspension of publications because of the publishing or the proposed publishing of matters which faculty, or administrative authorities considered detrimental to the reputation, and the welfare of the institution, or some department of the institution.

Control of the content of a student newspaper through censorship by faculty, administrative authorities, and the student government so that the student newspaper tended to become a public relations organ of the institution or an instrument of the student government.

Financial pressure used to limit or retaliate against editorial policy.

By censorship of articles, and, or editorial comment, by civil, and academic authorities.

By inordinate, and excessive social pressure used to prevent publication of particular issues or opinions.

Therefore the Canadian student press affirms its belief that it should be free from all the abuses listed under article II., and declares the following fundamental rights, duties, and responsibilities necessary for the effective implementation of the principles of article I.:

That the Canadian student press should be free from pressure by student governments, University authorities, or any external agencies.

That within the restrictions of the laws of libel, and within the scope of their responsibilities and duties as outlined in article II., the Canadian student press should be autonomous and

That the Canadian student press should be free to develop so that it can continue to fulfill its role in the academic community.

704

Today a major decision will decide the policy of this University, and its place among fellow Universities across the continent.

The question concerns the purchase of an electronic computer, the IBM 704, equal in size to possibly only a dozen others in Canada and the United States.

It will be the second time that the Board of Governors will consider the proposed purchase of this machine.

The purchase of a computer is a major undertaking; they don't grow on trees, nor does the necessary money. Let us review the benefits of such a purchase.

With simple mathematics of the long division variety we can solve certain simple problems. The next range of problems needs the sliderule and logarithm table. We soon realize, however, the need for a more sophisticated calculator, which need was answered only a few years ago by the birth of the first simple electronic problem analyser.

From this rather naive machine was developed the present day electronic computer, capable of contemplating problems which would otherwise require the lifetimes of scores of scientists.

Among the giants of the computer family ranks the IBM 704. This machine, and its sisters, were responsible for the launchings of the various artificial satellites, for the development of disease curing medicines, and will figure largely in the first trip of man through space.

Our advance in research has moved with such large bounds that only the electronic "brain" can cope with the necessary mathematics, and it is, ironically enough the electronic "brain" which is mostly responsible for this advance. Research in radiation effects, genetics, botany, medicine, and even sociology has come to rely heavily on the services and prowess of the electronic computer.

So the purchase of this giant computer, the 704, will answer a need in research at this University. Already progress in the calculation of the magnetic field inside and outside the earth's crust is being held up because the present computer is inadequate to handle the data.

The immediate result of the acquisition of the 704 will be a larger computer staff. As excellent computer services become available, so there will be an influx of highly skilled scientists into the various departments. Not only the physics and mathematics departments will benefit, but also the engineering and agriculture faculties, and the departments of botany, zoology, geology, genetics, and so forth.

Truly, the 704 would place the University of Alberta in a class by itself in this country.

The question is not only one of prestige, but goes deeper than that. It is true that the

status of our University would rise almost immediately. The Van De Graaff high voltage generator and the 704 would indeed make a formidable pair, drawing the most learned to this campus.

Behind this however lies the purpose of the University. Not a training school, but the place where original thought can flourish, where man can withdraw for a few moments of valuable assessment, and where ideas for the future are born.

Pioneering in intellectual pursuit must never be allowed to falter. It is only through the inquiring mind that we can develop our resources, and venture more deeply into the vast unknowns of our surroundings.

It is for this that we must make every effort to maintain a level of high and fruitful intellectual activity. The 704 is only a tool, but so vast and powerful that its acquisition will open up new frontiers in the arts, sciences, and medicine.

We believe that today's decision must be seriously weighed, and very carefully considered, but with an eye to the future. Today the decision waits. Shall finances hold us back, or do we consider our future important enough to take a bold step?

THE GATEWAY

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FINAL DEADLINE COPY

For Friday Edition 8 pm. Tuesday
For Tuesday Edition 8 pm. Sunday

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Office Telephone — GE 3-1155

Friends

A person can't give much more than his life. Miss Maimie Shaw Simpson, Dean of Women, and Reg Lister, Superintendent of Residences, have done just that.

Miss Simpson has been with the University for 15 years. In that time, she has made residence home for over 1,800 women students, and has been Dutch Aunt to thousands more. From her office and suite, she has given advice on everything from boy-friend trouble to what kind of invitation to send for a banquet.

Since the announcement of her resignation, there has been considerable speculation as to who will take her place. It will be a difficult task to find someone capable of replacing Miss Simpson.

Reg Lister has been a friend and morale-lifter to residence men for nearly 50 years. During that time, he has quelled potential riots, caught "murderers", put the boys to bed, and in general, kept them in line. Perhaps the best way to describe the feeling of residence students to "Reg" is to note that, at the Residence Christmas Banquet this year, after the presentation to him, he was given a standing ovation by everyone present.

It is said by the residence students that Reg Lister is the main factor holding the residences together financially. It is obvious by the capable way in which he has performed this difficult task, that it must have taken a great deal of work. To quote Mrs. Lister, "He never got enough sleep."

Yet, in eulogizing, one must remember that there comes a time when everyone needs a change, and that for Miss Simpson and the Listers, this will not be the end of their active lives. As Miss Simpson puts it, in quoting Anne Morrow Lindbergh, "There are other beaches to explore. There are more shells to find. This is but the beginning."

Hic!

For many students of the University of Alberta, the days between December 22 and January 4 were not holidays in the let's-sit-down-and-rest sense of that phrase. Term papers, required reading, and work in the name of various student organizations kept most students occupied.

But there is one group of those who toil at U of A which deserves special recognition for the manner in which the Christmas break was spent. These are the hard-pressed, over-worked University students who had toiled so ardently gaining knowledge that they could find fortification and rejuvenation only through solitary confinement with a whiskey bottle.

You who returned to your towns and your neighbors, and indicated the great strain of University education by the ten-day-toot in which you had to find relief. Your Alma Mater is proud of you.