

Letters To The Editor

FOR THE SAKE OF CLARIFICATION

Dear Mr. Editor,-

The editorial in the last edition of Red and White hits directly at and questions the capability of the Student Council of which you, as editor of the College newspaper are a member. Now as president of the Student Council I am not so naive to think that the Council is without faults, that it perhaps at times neglected opportunities for bettering student conditions. For these culpabilities I express apology and at the same time hopes for a more alert and devoted Student Council in '63.

There are a few matters with respect to your editorial that I should like to clear up, not to bain revenge, but simply to clarify for clarification sake. You compared the budget of 1960-61 with that of 61-62 and came up with some startling figures. On the surface they look startling but if one were to dig down a little, he would find that proportionally the difference between the amount of money in 60-61 is not so terribly startling after all. Considering the matter in terms of fractions we find that in 60-61 AAA received $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total budget, while in 61-62 it received $\frac{5}{7}$, the difference amounting to $\frac{1}{28}$. You were perhaps forgetting to see the increase in terms of proportion and consequently created an exaggerated situation.

With reference to your quote from my remarks in February's issue of Red and White I should again wish to clarify, at the meeting at which the AAA budget was passed at the Council decided that there was really not a great deal that could be done about the budget since it had been thoroughly screened beforehand. The truth is that if we are going to maintain varsity teams in football, basketball and hockey, then we have to pay for it one way or another. I repeat that it is unreasonable that the Student Council is forced to provide all of this proportionally drastic budget. I still maintain that "we need a program whereby we might have a more logical distribution along the athletic line." Now I did not proceed to introduce a solution to the problem, but the idea that I entertained was precisely the idea that you carried in your editorial titled "Why Not?" If we want first teams at this small

university, then the only solution is that they be financed, in part at least, by the university itself, leaving the Student Council free to devote more money towards promotion of extramural activities. Until such time as we adopt this policy we shall have to go on providing a drastic budget for AAA - - - Perhaps we could banish first teams!! (This is an alternative.)

Your truly,
Dan O'Hanley,
President,
Student Council.

Sez Who?

Alexander Pope, regarded by many as the greatest poet of the eighteenth century, might easily have been regarded as the greatest of all time, had it not been for one glaring mistake, one slip, which has relegated him to obscurity, in the annals of the Muses. In his, Duncaid, his greatest work, he left unmentioned, a name which should have been foremost in that effort. He left, unheralded, unpraised, that day-student from St. Dunstons, a person who has been the driving force behind . . . well, he has been the one person, who, more than any other has . . . well, in sports, he has . . . I'll bet he is one of the top members of his class (whatever class he does belong to) and anyhow, everyone knows him (I think) . . . John B. MacDonald.

Now, JBM as we affectionately call him, last week wrote a little letter to the Red and White, advocating among other measures, the disposal of ME in a coffin, and the relegation of same, to a distant planet. He has even intimidated that he would be more than willing to act as mortician. Personally I feel if his physical prowess is as weak and sterile as his writing and his suggested reforms, he had better rest up for a while, before trying to accomplish this feat. Mr. MacDonald has advocated the institution of a Gossip Column in the University Newspaper. This dates the student, he is a Freshman. Judging by his poetical preferences ('a tooter tooted a flute'), he must be in English A, wears glasses, and have a build somewhat like the "Before" part of those ads one sees in certain magazines. Incidentally I have yet to see him, but that's just my guess.

Now I don't like me, I think I'm awful. My writing, being a reflection of me, must also be awful. But, couldn't we waste less space in this paper if you would just come and tell me you don't like me, or my reflection. Then we could discuss the Mortician problem, I might even assist with the arrangements.

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Free Press ??

Indignation raised by various council members over the editorial last entitled "Where the Money Goes" brings to light the question of what exactly is the relationship between the Council and the Editor. Is the Editor and therefore the paper under the control of the Council for its editorial policy?

To answer this we would tend to be guided by two principles. First, that student editors are responsible to their fellow students; and secondly, the democratic principle of "the free press."

The C.U.P. (Canadian University Press) Conference held in Toronto during the Christmas break dealt with this particular relationship, and the remarks of the following journalists were taken from their speeches to the conference.

Stanley Westall, editorial writer for the Toronto Globe and Mail, quoted Bill Boss, Public Relations Director for the University of Ottawa, in saying that: "Your (the editor's) responsibility is to project as fairly as you can the policy of your publisher." Hence we deem it our responsibility to project the views of the students.

The principle of the free press essentially means that the press should be completely free from government control. This allows the press to be, on behalf of the public, the loyal opposition to the government.

Pierre Berton, columnist for the Toronto Daily Star had a few comments to make in this regard: "I don't think a student council should have any control whatsoever over the campus newspaper. . . The most intolerant persons are those who should be less tolerant — university students. Especially those with a little bit of power from holding student offices. . . You always have to resist authority when you are in the press. . . . On a university campus the newspaper is the only loyal opposition. . . . The publisher should leave the editor-in-chief damn well alone. . . The publisher can hire or fire the editor but apart from that he should leave him alone."

In some cases these two principles and their proponents may seem to be incompatible, but we would hold that as long as the paper holds in mind that it is the voice of the students and the "loyal opposition" at the same time, it will fulfill its responsibility to the students.

Hence our editorial policy will embody both principles. We will draw the fine line between fact and opinion but never shy away from our purpose.

But, to imply criticism of Ray Hansen and his use of the word 'expound' (It means "to set forth") reflects Mr. Hansen's intellectual qualities and I'm afraid . . . reflects yours also. Also, I like to hear what the 'average' guy and girl has to say on something current, like the twist. For example, if you check the Saskatchewan (U.S.A.) paper, you will discover they devote even more space than we to it.

The purpose of a newspaper is news, primarily, and when published as infrequently as ours, gossip is no longer gossip, it is history. Besides, it isn't gossip that Harry Callaghan goes with Cheryl Connors, or that Muriel St. John has waste-paper problems, but we believe they are personal and should really remain so. If they have opinions, which the Editor

thinks will interest even a portion of the student body, will they be asked for it, just as Marcia Arsenault, etc. were asked last day. Bill Dolan was appointed editor of the Red and White by the Rector. Evidently Monsignor Sullivan felt Bill was qualified and would do a good job. In my opinion and many others, he has. Should you ever aspire to the Editor of a 'gossip' column, (heavens forbid), may you do as well.

Speaking for myself,

C. K.

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WHAT, ME WORRY!

Editor,
Red and White.
Dear Sir:-

I am skeptical that, as Mr. Moser suggests, the Canadian Confederation is in danger. The basis of Mr. Moser's argument is that the "fantastic" 6,000 followers of "Separatism" will bring about a cleavage. Let us consider this fact. Obviously, this small number of persons sprinkled throughout the province can't destroy Confederation. The smallness of their numbers is a sorry spectacle of their success in a province in which the population is numbered in the millions.

Mr. Moser next points out that this is not a novel idea — this idea of "Separatism". Can it be that the idea is already old? That it will always be an idea that has to be measured as embers that have to be fanned? The very history of the idea suggests its empty meaning for the majority of French Canadians.

Along with Mr. Moser, one can well ask: "Why, then, show

any particular concern over now?"

Mr. Moser continues to tell us that this minority movement in Quebec is divided into various factions. How can he expect the movement to succeed when it is internally divided?

I strongly suspect that it is composed of a fringe element of radicals. Radicals have a place in society. These French radicals will serve the function of forcing a healthy re-assessment of the underlying relationship that forms the racial basis of the Canadian Confederation.

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