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LETTERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Dear Sir:

On one score, at least, the opening issue of the 1968 Red and White must be accounted an undeniable success: it is being read and discussed. And that, of course, must first be effected before a publication can hope to achieve its other main ends: informing a public, providing a forum for opinions, or (more rarely in recent years) openly promoting a cause. The Red and White, 1968 No. 1 is being read; but, amid the loud and often angry discussion it seems to have aroused, some voices can be heard predicting that it will not continue to be read — at least not while it continues to entertain certain themes, outlooks, or styles that may regard as offensive or downright objectionable. I prefer to take no part in any argument on these themes, etc, other than to cite the commonplace that it should be possible for truly educated persons to insist on the greatest candor and to communicate the fiercest indignation without offending against simple good taste. But, to take a more practical tack, it would seem evident that over-negative approaches, unkind imputation of motives, or anything else that would clearly alienate the very readers that one is trying to reach would readily be abandoned by any serious publication once it recognized that it had become involved in such.

Taste, then, must stand as one of the delicate blossoms that crowns the whole long growth of a civilization or a person, and, conversely, crudity, fort its own sake can hardly have anything to do with the flowering of the human spirit; it would be superfluous to lecture intelligent men on this point and goes to belabour it at another time, though, an interesting conversation might be held on abundant examples where refinement is used to mask corruption whereas roughness is the deliberate assertion of an uncompromising goodness and honesty.

At the moment, if we are to have a complete evaluation of the performance of Issue No. 1 and of its reception, there should be mentioned before closing one or two other points having equally to do with "the flowering of the human spirit". Growth, change and self-evaluation ARE indispensable elements in true education. Indeed, to a large extent — especially in this age of profound transition — they are precisely what education is all about. One must include, finally that crown of human achievement, responsibility. This latter is compounded of a basic attitude of mind whereby one criticizes, or tries before all to get at the truth of things, and a constant habit of will whereby one humbly, perseveringly schools himself to make good decisions that really represent the best use he can make of everything under his control. And described thus, responsibility is surely the main concern of education for the open society which today's youth must prepare themselves to enter.

Both the Red and White and its readers, of course, should be willing to submit to the same scrutiny under the values listed in the paragraph above. There are not usually wanting those who will conduct such a scrutiny of persons in public life, e.g. of editorial staffs. But the public themselves, can often indulge in irresponsible comment and reaction under the illusion that loud enough clamour must in some vague way be

"THE KID" Inquires

QUESTION: WHAT WAS YOUR OPINION OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE RED AND WHITE?

The Kid's Comment:

Contrary to the popular terms of radical negtaivism (and smut), the paper was positive. It questioned conditions — physical and spiritual. However, it lacked over-all excellence.

Maureen Reid: There were some good parts but most of it was really rotten, stunned, and childish.

Joe Mulally: It had a good underlying theme, but unfortunately it was overshadowed by crap. I would like to see more of this individualistic theme. Next time try a write-up of **Reader's Digest**.

Claire Ann Dunphy: The paper in general was sickening. I want to see the paper more like it was last year—news of student activities.

Errol Perry: The R & W isn't appreciated because most of the students missed the real point of the controversial issue.

Judy MacKenzie: There was nothing worthwhile reading. It had no appeal for the general student body. If I want to read such trash, I'll buy myself a sex magazine.

Ivan Chevannes: The front page was the best cover ever. It is too bad that the rest of the paper didn't come close to saying as much.

CAMPUS CANADA

TORONTO — In his opening address to students, University of Toronto president, Claude Bissell, accused students and faculty of not accepting their democratic role in the university—

"the university, he said, is more undemocratic than the state."

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VANCOUVER — Simon Fraser University students donate plaque commemorating student revolution to the administration.

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BRANDON — Brandon University students threaten to boycott classes unless they receive full representation on the university's senate.

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WINNIPEG — The University of Manitoba Student's Union refused last week to send seven student senators to the university's 90 man academic senate.

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CALGARY — The University of Calgary General Faculty Council refused to convene a meeting last Thursday when 35 students refused to leave the meeting chamber in a demand for open meetings.

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CHARLOTTETOWN — Saint Dunstan's University students show great dismay over the "sick minds" of the editors of their campus newspaper.

a sufficient proof of justification. rankly, I was disturbed as I recognized, in the chorus of reaction to Issue No. 1, an alarming amount of frantic, indiscriminating hostility, shallow judgement, and even some real hate. Though some purport to find adequate provocation for all this in the content and presentation of the paper, the whole scene offers little and dubious satisfaction to educators who are supposedly trying to impart equanimity of spirit and critical acumen to youth.

tiel an attack upon women, when the whole point of that article was to provide a devastating expose (for which a wide reading public should be grateful) of the perverted attitude toward the female sex spread widely throughout our society and only focused in a slightly more glaring manner in the magazine, Playboy.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, is to trite to observe that we must all live together — young and old, educated and uneducated, conservative and liberal, ruler and ruled, talented and ungifted, rich and poor, teacher and learner O and that we must help carry one another's burdens. I have every confidence that you and your staff will unfailingly, and yet without compromise, use the very considerable influence of your paper to help us all pursue that supremely human and thoroughly Christian ideal.

Sincerely,
James R. Kelly
Spiritual Director SDU

To suggest some contrary interpretations: I found, Mr. Editor, on the front page a piece of photographic artistry that caught magically, in the stark image of a poor Indian Boy, the beauty and dignity of the human person so often degraded or neglected by our affluent society. I could not avoid the editorial page (even if the stress was generally far too negative) the evidence of a passionate, courageous indignation against errors and injustices that are on the verge of destroying our society. I was amazed to hear that any one could find in the Playboy ar-