

AFTER HALF A CENTURY

It seems to be the destiny of editors of **The Red and White** during their term of office, to write at least one editorial in which they plead for contributions to the magazine. At the time of this writing, the deadline for articles for the winter issue has come and gone and before us we have a handful of material from the four college years, far smaller than would normally be expected from any one of those years alone. So again, as has been done so many times in the past, an editorial will be written in an attempt to explain the position of **Red and White** with the hope that "next time" when we are ask for material for the year's final issue, we will not be left wondering, long after the deadline has passed, if there will be a **Red and White**.

For those of you who are not too well acquainted with the ancient history of St. Dunstan's, we'll enlighten you this much by saying that since 1892 the University has had in one form or another, a magazine published by the student body. In 1909 the magazine became officially known as **Red and White**. And during the intervening fifty years, from then until now, it has been published at least once each year. Fifty years ago the enrollment at St. Dunstan's was 139. Now there are nearly that many registered in the freshman class alone.

The student body, which has increased 300% in size since **Red and White's** first birthday, now seems ready to retire the magazine on its Golden Anniversary. It appears that **Red and White**, after an illustrious career spanning half a century, must fade when it could shine as the brightest light in the scintillating firmament of extra-curricular activities.

Why has interest faded in the **Red and White**? If it's due to the disappearance of a humor section, we've tried to remedy that by resurrecting Nonsense Avenue. If it's because the students think that the staff of the magazine exists solely to write all the articles for it, we'll answer with the question, "Does the executive of the A.A.A. also form the basketball, football and hockey teams?" If it's because the students feel that they are not capable of writing an article good enough for the magazine, we'll say that the magazine is primarily a literary effort and therefore does have certain literary standards, but certainly they are not above the abilities of the majority of the students. If an article is submitted and not published, there is no reason to be discouraged. If it is turned down because it is not up to par, members of the staff will be more than glad to lend a hand in polishing the rough spots. Sometimes articles are not published because there have been others submitted on similar themes. When this happens we try to remember that variety is the spice of life and say to you, there's always a next time. If the students have given up the ghost because they feel they can't

think of a suitable topic to write on we'll gladly suggest one. But that's rarely necessary. Most of us are scattered across Canada and even across the world during the summer months, and if we remember there's always a special appeal in "those far away places", few of us would lack an interesting topic. Then again, how many are acquainted with real "characters". They would in all likelihood be just as interesting to a reader as they are to you.

Nearly every student at St. Dunstan's has definite opinions on many campus activities and from these opinions there usually develop suggestions for improvements. One of the magazine's objectives is, "to present student opinions on matters of current interest." Opinions voiced in **Red and White** will do infinitely more good than those voiced at a "bull-session". Let the whole College hear what you have to say and run the risk of making life at S.D.U. better for all concerned. With "creative" writing, what limits are there other than those of your own imagination? There really doesn't seem to be much of a problem with topics.

Red and White even offers awards to encourage literary effort, a gold ring and Literary "D", either of which is by no means difficult to obtain. Apart from these awards and their accompanying glory, there is one which I think gives far more pleasure, and it will certainly be yours when you have an article published. It's having someone say, "I enjoyed your article."

It is our opinion that **Red and White** deserves the support of the College even more than does the basketball, hockey or football team. The magazine is one of the primary criteria by which those outside of the University judge the University's academic standards, and if for no other reason than this everyone should attempt to make it a success. After all St. Dunstan's is primarily an institute of learning, a fact which many fail to realize when they want to spend more time in the rink than in preparing for classes. Many also think that supporting sports is more important than backing the Students' Union and its allied activities, but thereby hangs another tale and we don't for one minute want to leave the impression that we are out to condemn campus sports.

It is a sincere hope of the entire staff, that this May, when the student body puts out its next issue of the **Red and White**, it will be worthy of the College and a tribute to the Magazine itself, on its Fiftieth Anniversary.

—EDITORIAL

True expression like the unchanging sun,
Clears and improves what e'er it shines upon;
It gilds all objects, but alters none.

—Pope