

## RED and WHITE

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## Why Johnny doesn't write for Red and White

(Editor's note: The following article was written by a member of our staff. As the views expressed therein accorded with those of many students, the editor considered the article meritorious of the Editorial section.)

A few years ago a book called **Why Johnny Can't Read** caused a mild sensation in the educational world. Since that time, a trend of "Why Johnny Can't" has appeared in various magazines. With this as a starting point, one begins to wonder why Johnny doesn't do a lot of things which are supposedly in his capacity — and especially why he doesn't or won't or can't write for **Red and White**. (**Red and White** only because it is the most proximate and available manifestation of the written word — all students who are currently contributing to **Atlantic Monthly**, etc. . . . being exempted.)

Presuming that everyone has a fair idea of what **Red and White** is — campus oligarchy in which a few students get together the night before publication and try to write a six or an eight page newspaper — I shall plunge immediately into the problem of writing.

In the question of mechanics it will be admitted that most people on campus have a working knowledge of the alphabet. In more complex aspects such as vocabulary, one must regrettably exclude a few; while actually constructing a sentence and combining several to form a paragraph escapes many. Even this should not discourage prospective contributors for such contributions have been printed.

Those having a mastery of the basic mechanics are half way there. But it is rather difficult to construct logical sentences and paragraphs about nothing; it is here, unfortunately, that almost no exception remains to challenge the rule.

The world and state of ideas is an extremely complex one, resulting from such a myriad of circumstances that it is almost impossible to trace their growth and development. Assuming that the majority on campus have no ideas, or most important, none either noteworthy or considered exciting enough to share — for even the most inarticulate could write an essay on a manure pile if he were sufficiently inspired — the following reasons may remove some of the obscurity.

One of the major problems is lack of controversy. Nothing is more stimulating than trying to win a point contrary to someone else's stand, especially about basic beliefs of life such as morality, religion, government, etc. . . . At S.D.U. major problems of general students' concern rarely exceed whether or not to have a hunger strike, or co-ed party. This is in many ways unavoidable. The university is first and foremost an Island school, this being only fair since the people here built it and contribute to its support at great personal sacrifice. But with the geographical and sociological disadvantages of island existence it is only natural that the majority of students coming from P.E.I. have generally the same background and outlook toward life. While this is almost without exception admirable on both counts, it does not encourage controversy.

A second serious problem is religion, wherein St. Dunstan's qualifies with both a capital and a small "c" as Catholic. In its capital sense there is much admirable about Catholicism. At a university where people are "strongly urged" to religious practices, and St. Thomas has all the answers to any of the questions, the "Catholic" has a tendency to become synonymous with the stagnant. Any non-Catholic elements on campus apparently find it safest to refrain from expressing their opinions — perhaps rightly so. One wonders in all respects how deep a belief exists in that which has never been questioned — and what will happen when it inevitably is. At any rate religion and morality contain a world of controversy, which most people must consider out of bounds.

Aside from these, the major remaining controversial topic is government, and there is a limit to how much one can discuss this singular topic. Controversy, however, is not the only stimulant to writing; inspiration plays a major role. Unfortunately where neither exist to any degree, they form a vicious circle in

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## Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily the opinions of the editor and staff. Whether we agree or disagree, they will be published subject to the availability of space. The editor strongly urges all students to make the best use of these columns.

### A RESIGNATION

Dear Sir:

Due to reasons beyond my control, such as the lowest semester examination results that I have ever received at S.D.U. other more important commitments, and certain policies of the editor, I regret that I find it necessary to submit my resignation at this time.

Since, in my opinion, all subscriptions are in for this year and the books are in good order, I feel that the most difficult part of my job as circulation manager is completed. All that remains is to have the new editions distributed. I will be happy to assist my successor.

Yours in Christ,  
Bill Faulkner.

### ANOTHER ONE

Dear Sir:

Hereby, I humbly submit my resignation as News Editor of RED and WHITE, the student publication of St. Dunstan's University. It is not without considerable hesitation and sorrow that I withdraw from an organization which to me has been the source of much enjoyment and profitable experience. RED and WHITE has come a long way in the path of improvement since you ascended to the rank of Editor-in-chief and I have been proud to serve under you as a member of the staff which indeed has strived to make our newspaper the best student publication in the country. The knowledge and understanding which I have attained while serving with the other staff members in endeavouring to present the students of St. Dunstan's University a publication to which they could look up with supreme exaltation will prove invaluable to me in the future. I owe a great deal of this to you, Vibert, and for this I am forever thankful.

However, though swallowed up in a feeling of accomplishment while working for RED and WHITE, I seem to have forgotten the main purpose for my being at St. Dunstan's, the attainment of a "formal" education. Excuses I haven't, but reasons are numerous. As this is my final year at St. Dunstan's, I must make it a good one and as a result I must devote my entire time to my studies. As I have previously mentioned, it grieves me greatly to part with such an honorable group, but it is only with wholehearted effort that I shall be able to raise my academic standing. Unfortunately, this means the ceasing of all extra-curricular activities, the most important being RED and WHITE. This is definitely not the markings of a good student but I have no choice in the matter.

With no further hesitation, I wish yourself and your staff all the continued success in the future. I deeply regret the fact that our students do not realize that in order to have an ambitious and dynamic campus, each and every one of them must pitch in and do their share in the realizing of this goal, rather than leaving the entire task upon the shoulders of a devoted few, who regardless of their devotion and hard work are subject only to criticism from the dormant "elite".

Sincerely yours,  
Kenneth McCaffrey,  
Student.

### AND YET ANOTHER

Dear Sir:

With deepest regret I hereby publicly submit my resignation as Co-ed Editor of RED and WHITE. I must admit that it grieves me to do this but with the ever mounting criticism concerning this student effort by a few members of the faculty I feel it is only fair to vacate my position and thus leave it open to someone "those" faculty members could depend on to write "uplifting" articles that would not be "degrading" to our university.

I have been writing (in my own humble way) for RED and WHITE for the past two and one-half years, the one and one-half years of which I was privileged to work as a staff member. This in itself has been one of the biggest joys I have experienced while at St. Dunstan's.

I gave this matter great thought during the Christmas holidays at which time I decided to stick it out, as the resignations of other staff members was leaving RED and WHITE shorthanded for the coming edition and because I enjoyed working for the paper. Until this time I had been receiving criticism from different members of the faculty but upon returning here following vacation I was again set upon by one member of the faculty who told me that my writing was degrading for a university student as was the caption and sketch heading my column and that for the remainder of the year I should produce some uplifting writing that would be in accordance with my station as a Catholic university woman.

I believe that the faculty moderator of RED and WHITE, who reads all articles before they are published would have approached me on such a matter if my writing had been as degrading as I have been told it is.

I do not feel that I have in any way degraded this university but as a student hopefully anticipating of graduating from this university I recognize it is best to resign and say nothing.

I wish to thank you for permitting me to work as a member of your staff for not every student is given such a chance.

Your ex-coed editor,  
Dorothy M. Morris.

### A disappointment

Dear Editor:

You disappoint me greatly. I thought you were an honorable man, but you have caused me to think otherwise. For the last edition I submitted a Letter to you for publication; and when I left your office, you left me with the opinion that it would be published or I would be notified if any changes were to be made. I knew it was not going to be published, but I waited to hear from you. The edition has long since come out, and as of now I have not heard. For verification of this you may ask the other three persons who were in your room at the time.

I am led to believe that it was in, but was later taken out. By whom, I am not sure. There is a possibility of two people — yourself or the moderator. Perhaps there were other pressures, but who am I to question such decisions as yours and his? Did the truth hurt?

You may use the same old argument that the name of the University must be protected, but the letters to the editor of any publication have no bearing on the opinion of the paper's publishers. I believe the note before the letters, "The opinion expressed herein. . . etc., explain this point clearly.

In the religious bulletin, Father MacDonald stated that people should be able to express themselves freely. This has always been my opinion, too, but as I can readily see — not yours.

Again, Mr. Editor, I thought you were an honorable man.

JOHN B. MacDONALD

(Editor's Note: I still think you're an honorable man.)

## Treasure Van goes over \$ 100,000 for first time

**TORONTO** — An all-time record for sales has been set by the World University Service of Canada Treasure Van. More than one hundred thousand dollars was collected in this year's sale of foreign and domestic handicrafts.

The total sale, according to provisional figures, grossed \$107,344. This was an increase of 32 per cent over the 1961 total of \$80,359, and was about twice the volume of sales reached in any year prior to 1960.

Douglas Mayer, WUSC General Secretary, attributed the marked increase to "imaginative and enterprising work of the many local committees." He said that, on several campuses, the sale exceeded \$1,000 per day.

One campus — the University of Alberta at Edmonton — sold more than \$12,000 worth of goods this year", pointed out WUSC Assistant Secretary Judy Lee. "This is better than 10 per cent of the entire sale."

The Edmonton sale was the only one to go over \$10,000. The next best sales were registered at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba where more than \$7,000 worth of goods passed over the counters. Twenty-seven of the campuses visited battered their sales records of 1961, with some of the sales doubling past marks.

Memorial University in Newfoundland jumped from \$857 last year to \$3,054 this year. Queen's University showed an increase of over \$2,000 this year, but if failed to beat its original record of \$8,902 set in 1952.