

RED & WHITE

Published bi-monthly during the University year by the students of St. Dunstan's University, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, and for the payment of postage in cash.

Member of Canadian University Press.

The opinions expressed in this publication are the views of the writers, not necessarily the views of the students, the Students' Council, or of the University.

— editorial —

— NOT A NEWSPAPER —

Of the many and varied criticisms to which the **Red & White** has been recently subjected, the most often reiterated would have to be that it has failed as a newspaper. This criticism is valid, in fact, we would suggest that it is necessarily valid.

As one recent "letter to the editor" eloquently articulated, the "raison d'être" of a newspaper is to provide "a media whereby the readers are informed of the most recent events, present ones, and those to come, in their community as well as abroad."

Let's take an example — let's suppose that Main building burned down today at noon. Everyone on campus that survived would immediately know that the event had occurred and shortly, though perhaps not immediately, everyone on campus would know how and why the fire began and so on. Even those who happened to be off campus at the time would know—they could not possibly miss the story in the local papers (it would be re-published at least 6 times). While Main Building is burning, the **Red & White** is being distributed. The paper will not be out for another two weeks. Now the question is this: Two weeks later, would there be any sense in the **Red & White** writing a story on the fire? No, obviously not. Such would be nothing more than a gross redundancy.

— BUT A FORUM FOR STUDENT OPINION —

The above analysis is simple and obvious — the **Red & White** cannot be a newspaper because it is not in a position to become one. The question that immediately arises is and "if not, then what"; that is, if it is not a newspaper then what is it? The present editorial board has held from the beginning that the paper, under its administration, would attempt to be a **forum for student opinion**. That is to say, it is held that, if the **Red & White** has any purpose, it is as a medium through which the students of this campus could express publicly their views. Now, if the paper has failed in this respect, it is obviously the fault, not of the paper staff, but of the students themselves for failing to take the time to articulate their views.

This, then, is the **Red & White's** policy. The paper, we hold, is a medium, not of physical and social events, but of intellectually argued issues, a reflection, not of the university's physical activities, but of its mental life. And again we invite students to write for their paper.

RED AND WHITE

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Politics We sing all together
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Since I became a student of St. Dunstan's in September I have been watching with great interest how far the Student's Council and/or its subsidiary bodies are prepared to go as far as bringing the student body as a whole up to date with events, burning events, that are taking place in our world society. This precious little I expect from any progressive university around the globe.

Am I to believe that our student leaders are lacking initiative, enterprise and drive? Am I to believe that their interests lie only in organizing bus excursions to football games, dances and becoming repositories of 'book' learning?

How many students are really aware of what is going on in Viet Nam and in Biafra? To come a little closer home; how many are aware of the pros, cons, why and wherefores of having a Causeway Crossing to P.E.I.? Or even the nail-biting Quebec question? The answer is "few" if any.

This being so, can't the Student Council or the powers that be organize (in keeping with what obtains in other universities) dinner time panel discussions or even lectures on evenings on these burning questions? I am sure that competent persons can be found on the island who will be willing and able to lecture to an august student body as that we have at St. Dunstan's. What of our professors, aren't they willing to help? I am sure they are.

And so, Mr. Editor it is my fond hope and anxious expectation to see something done to fill this yawning void.

Yours truly
Cassandra

"S.D.U. IS NOT DEAD,
SICK OR SLOW"

Dear Sir,

From the opening of this academic year I have heard several complaints about "The Red and White" both from the campus as well as from people outside campus. I have seen letters published in the "Red and White" where people are expressing their desire to have your paper no more. It is quite apparent then that since there are complaints there must be reasons for dissatisfaction. I will not try to enumerate here a list of all the things which I see lacking in your newspaper and consequently making it a newspaper of poor quality, but I will just state one of the main things. The "Red and White" does not serve its purpose as a "newspaper". A newspaper should be a media whereby the readers are informed of the most recent events, present ones, and those to come in their community as well as abroad. It should contain such valuable information as to make it a good source of education. In this respect the "Red and White" is not serving its purpose. From the beginning of the academic year many important events have taken place on this campus which have not been covered by your newspaper. Are you so bold to state in the editorial of your issue of November 22nd. "There's not a goddam thing worth writing about?"

Was the Opening of Our New Ladies' Residence - Bernardine Hall, The Fall Convocation and the conferring of Honorary Degrees, the appointment of a new Dean of Women and several other professors, International Food Night, the selection of our football Queen, and a host of other events too numerous to mention

here not worth writing about? Is the coming of the Treasure Van and the purpose it serves on November 25th, 26th and 27th; and the staging of "Murder in the Cathedral" by students from this campus on Dec. 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th not worth writing about?

It is most unfortunate that events which happen on this campus are covered by "The Guardian" and not by our own newspaper, e.g. The Opening of Bernardine Hall, and the Fall Convocation.

Dear Sir, you have grossly insulted St. Dunstan's University, and are you trying to give readers the wrong impression that nothing of importance happens here, and as stated in your editorial "This has to be the Deadest, Sickest, Slowest Campus in Canada." May I end my letter by asking you just one question. Who is dead, sick and slow? The Campus or your News Reporters or your entire staff?

Sincerely yours,
Vilna Louisy.

Dear Sir:

There was a time before the widespread use of automatic heating devices, when one had the dubious privilege of building a fire each morning in his kitchen range or parlour heater. He carefully laid down paper, overlaid it with dry kindling and set wood or coal on top of this. Then he lit a match and, by the mysterious laws which govern kindling temperature, he got a fire started for the day.

Another feature of life in the not-too-distant past was the outdoor plumbing. Here, the Sears-Roebuck catalogue seems to have been a great favourite but I imagine that now and then other types of paper were utilized in the interests of personal daintiness.

Isn't it unfortunate that the old days are gone and with them two possible uses for this year's **Red and White**? I fully realize that a newspaper is supposed to have higher functions than these. For example, it could report news of interest to the readers, provide entertainment, give opportunity for aspiring poets, journalists and others of literary ability, develop interest in future events and projects, and generally express the spirit of the milieu in which it is published. Since it is obvious to anyone of supermordic intelligence that our campus publication does not do any of these to any extent, then we must cast around for other uses to which said publication may be put.

A few tentative suggestions come to mind. Why not use it to plug the leaking windows of our beautiful new ladies' residence? Perhaps it might serve as a covering to keep the coffee shop floor clean. Definitely some of the copies of each issue should be circulated around the Island so that we don't run the risk of its residents thinking we are anything but perverted slobs here. Of course, it can also be used to keep other universities aware of our unlimited capacities for producing trash.

On these grounds, it appears that the **Red and White** serves a very useful purpose so I will close with a word of encouragement—Keep up the good work!

Margaret Hebert
Senior Arts

INSIDE:

SDUFA MEETS

The S.D.U. Faculty Association met on Wed., Nov. 27, 1968. This was the third meeting of the association in recent weeks; objective of the meeting was to finalize the brief that the association will present to the University P.C. During the previous two meetings, a brief submitted by a committee of the association and the executive to the membership was discussed, criticized and evaluated. The final version of the brief incorporating many of the points of previous criticisms, was greeted with the approval of a majority of the members, present and voting, although few faculty members were present.

The most spirited discussion centered on the official status of the students at the new university. A motion to recommend to the UPC that the students have a one-third representation on all governing bodies of the university, especially the faculty senate, was expectedly defeated. The faculty, conscious of its responsibility to guide and direct the students, and to insure that its experience and education become the predominant force in the new university, rejected the above motion as unwise, unwarranted, unwanted and undesirable.

The approval by the association of the recommendations contained within the brief climaxed a period of prolonged effort by many members of the faculty. The recommendations embodies the common wisdom of the faculty on all those aspects of university life which the faculty deems important enough to deserve mention to the UPC. This includes the recognition of the legitimate concerns and interests of the student, and a recommendation for an advisory faculty-student council (not decision making) upon which there ought to be equal representation of faculty and students, thus mark another milestone in the progress of higher education on P.E.I.

CROSSFIRE

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Is Christianity dead?
What do you think?
What do others think?

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SUNDAY AT 8:00

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Crossfire for Thinking People

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