

Brunswickan



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A NEEDLESS PHOENIX

Severe disciplinary action on the part of university and student officials against two student journalists has focused national attention on the campus of Acadia University.

Key figures in the dispute, Donald Angus, the deposed editor of *The Athenaeum* and Robert Flander, the ostracized author of a controversial article, have been made martyrs in the eyes of many Canadians.

Acadia is a Baptist-sponsored college depending upon the church for much of its financial support. Adverse publicity does not enhance the reputation of any university, but an institution like Acadia is especially vulnerable.

Fear of offending several hundred readers has led to national notoriety. Why, then, did university officials and a student committee act so hastily in condemning an honest expression of thought? Some rebuke might have been appropriate, but the symbolic burning at the stake of otherwise insignificant student journalists is pure folly.

The punishment imposed has obviously done much to damage the university's reputation, because many people feel that the student newspapermen have been the victims of a gross injustice. Because of this indiscretion, university officials must now make great efforts to repair their public relations. A moment's thought could have saved them all this trouble.

R. McB. and D. R.

A Review By BRUCE McKEEN

U.N.B. Writers Encouragingly Creative

"If we are the guests of existence, as I think we are, then we should try to be well mannered guests. If possible we should contribute something to the house party. I want to be able to say 'the world is one great thought, and I am thinking it.' But I want to share my joy."

"You see, I am not beat."

Intervales, the long-awaited literary production of the Arts Society, appeared at last on Wednesday. Many people had expected the magazine to be defeatist in tone, and certainly they were not entirely disappointed.

The futility of hoping to see reason in what one does these days, of trying to connect activating principles with their meaningless results, is pushed home with a prodding insistence. Greyness is the prevailing impression one gets from the whole collection, a greyness that shades the thought of a generation without an apparent cause.

In prose and in poetry this enforced difference is brought home: Stephen Fay, in *Encyclical*, says: "I blame my own environment for the difficulty I have in appreciating any ideals, even on a subjective basis"; Dick Alexander in *Fog*, speaks of "the barren tree" that is society in an increasingly technological, valueless age.

Accepts Futility

I had anticipated statements like these, and had already decided that

* *Intervales*, a literary magazine edited by Ron Manzer and Carl Wallace, and published by the Arts Society of the University of New Brunswick. 55 pages. Price: \$1.

conformity in accepting futility effete revelling in resignation, would practically summarize the content of the collection. Reading *A Part Men T*, I was sure I had been right: the poem is impressive, its message only too clear, but the self-conscious criticism inherent in it smacks of a pose to be relished with macabre delight.

But as I read more, I found myself slowly moved to admiration and even, ironically, optimism. And that is why I chose to preface this review with a quotation from Fay's *Encyclical*. Recognition of the

admit. The truly hopeless, after all, have nothing to look ahead to, and so therefore do not take the trouble to create. And *Intervales* shows to an encouraging degree the amount of creativity at work on this campus right now.

Have Strength

Of the several contributors, I single out three or four whose work has a strength and clarity that are exceptional. One of these is Janet McNair *Hormone Pills* is a well sustained and diverting piece of stream-of-consciousness writing

A Modern Wonders

(about modern wonders)

I wonder now
Each time I see
A full-bodied girl,
If that is sex
Shoving at her sweater,
Or latex
Shaping her better

John Stockdale: *Intervales* p. 10

meaninglessness of life followed by a condemnation of resigning to it, and then by a determination to do something positive, is definitely not surrender. The terms Fay uses may be shrugged off as plitudinous and passe — 'humanitarianism', for example — but they express the same ideals which provided causes for other generations to fight for, generations apparently looked upon in retrospect as more happy than our own. Youth needs them, and, I think, perhaps has them more today than we generally

that would do credit to any emulator of Joyce's technique. Joan Miller is, I find, a wholly credible and even complete creation; the interweaving of her thoughts — vital and trivial both — is skillfully done, and moves with real ease and naturalness. Another writer whose versatility is impressive is John Stockdale. I enjoyed his poetry more than his short story, and in particular, both for form and idea I liked *Decayed Gentility*. Stockdale has a true feeling for mood, an eye for harmonious color,

an ear for alliterative words that pinpoint exactly the impression he wishes to create:

"Watching wistfully
Slowly swirling
Yellow years."

And this is a poet who can turn Ogden Nash-ish on occasion to write *A Modern Wonders*! Finally, ranking almost with these are Ronald Manzer (Walter) and John Ripley (On Honey Dew Hath Fed), whose short stories bear the peculiar resemblance to each other of progressing — somehow leisurely, despite their length — towards conclusions which one foresees and accepts and uses to color the rest of the story, long before they actually occur. This is to me an improvement upon the 'shock conclusion' on which the strength of the whole is founded. In Walter, particularly, I found that the foreknowledge of David's guilt added much to the pleasure of watching him silently condemn the father of his late friend.

Other contributors should be mentioned, especially Carl Wallace, but cannot be here. But I think that reading the work of all of them, you will find another meaning in a line from John Williams' *The Bracelet*: "In fact for the first time in a long while, he found himself looking at the people passing by him... trying to catch their eyes with his in that brief instant of meeting and passing." These young writers are well worth looking at; they are decidedly not to be labelled 'beat'.

Glaucoma is a disease of the eyes that frequently causes blindness.

Athenaeum To Continue Publication With Philip Roberts As New Editor

From DONNA LANGLEY

WOLFVILLE—The *Athenaeum*, student newspaper at Acadia University, is to resume publication under a new editor.

Staff members recently elected Philip Roberts, senior arts student and Nova Scotia's Rhodes Scholar for 1959, as their new editor-in-chief.

Mr. Roberts succeeds Don Angus, who was suspended from his post last week by the Student Judicial Committee.

The SJC took action against Mr. Angus following *The Athenaeum's* publication of an article branded as "foul blasphemy" by Acadia's president, Watson Kirkconnell. The committee found the former editor guilty of betraying the trust of the students and using the newspaper to serve his own ends. At the same time, the committee placed 14 demerit marks against his name, one short of the number required for automatic expulsion.

Would Resign

After the SJC's decision was made public, 20 members of *The Athenaeum's* staff said they would resign their positions, and declared that the paper would not be published unless Mr. Angus were reinstated as editor.

Last week at a meeting of the Students' Representative Council, a petition, signed by 80 students, and presented to President Ian Forrest, demanded that the former editor's case be reconsidered.

The student president replied that the case would not be discussed further unless Mr. Angus wished to make his appeal directly to the university's administration.

At one point, it was suggested that the Judicial Committee resign because "it had lost the confidence of the student body." Ray Tonge, the chairman, said the committee would tender its resignation, suggesting that the charges against Mr. Angus be revoked. But when President Kirkconnell announced that the SJC's decision had been accepted by the administration, the committee did not resign because the charges could not be revoked.

Then the staff members of *The Athenaeum* withdrew their decision

to suspend publication, because Mr. Angus had since left the campus due to what are described as purely academic reasons, and there was "no possibility" of his returning to Acadia this term.

Not Pleased

The new editor, Mr. Roberts, said that although he was accepting the job, he was not pleased with the SJC's action. He said he felt the committee was not justified in convicting Mr. Angus on the evidence presented.

The *Athenaeum* plans to conduct

a campaign "to clear Mr. Angus' name by appeal to the administration."

Earlier, Robert Flander, author of the allegedly blasphemous article, had been barred from the campus for the rest of the year as a result of the article and what was described as a long record of misbehavior.

However, President Kirkconnell has announced that arrangements have been made to permit Mr. Flander to complete his courses by correspondence.

Censorship Said Justifiable When 'Bad Taste' Prevalent

By RON McBRINE and DON REDSTONE

Prof. Lovell C. Clarke of UNB's history department claims that students' "bad taste" could justify censorship of undergraduate publications.

He was replying to a Brunswickan survey of UNB opinion on the recent sacking of two student journalists at Acadia University.

However, if a university gives complete editorial control to the students, as it does at UNB, the university should be big enough to accept the consequences of any indiscretions, he said.

Too Abrupt

Prof. Clarke criticized the "abrupt" action of President Watson Kirkconnell of Acadia for suspending Robert Flander for his Jan. 30 article, "Paradoxically Speaking" in *The Athenaeum*. He suggested that milder action would have been more appropriate.

"Although the article was in bad taste and should not appear in any student newspaper, the author may not have been blasphemous or irreverent. The two characters in the story exhibit an extreme spiritual poverty, but this is not necessarily shared by the author."

"Still if the article appeared in *The Brunswickan*, I would expect the university authorities to impose tight faculty supervision on the paper," he said.

Prof. W. E. Hale of the geology department said that while the article would obviously offend "a

Within Rights

He said that Acadia's authorities were within their rights in asking Mr. Flander to leave the school, though he felt that the student should not have been dismissed for this incident alone. (President Kirkconnell claims that his action against Flander was also based on the student's long record of "misbehaviour.")

Prof. Fred Cogswell of the English department called the article "bad art", though a poem which concluded the piece definitely showed "a serious intention to be idealistic in a modern world corrupted by false values."

"The intention was good, but the execution clumsy. The author chose bad symbols, and though the article was not blasphemous, the editor should be suspended for bad literary taste."

Prof. Cogswell agreed with Prof. Clarke that the motives of the speakers in the narrative were not necessarily those of the author.

He said the discipline taken against author Flander and Don Angus, the paper's editor, was "too severe." In addition, it turned out to be poor policy, in that Acadia is a church-sponsored institution in financial difficulty and is probably suffering from current adverse publicity.

Quebec has the largest fresh-water area of any Canadian province, 71,000 square miles among its total of 523,860.



EXPORT "A"

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