

Supplement Scandal

by Aldera Chisholm, Managing Editor

On Friday, March 1 I received a phone call from Wayne Collins of CBC Radio. Mr. Collins was enquiring about the Feb 13 issue of the Panther Prints. That is right folks, he was asking about the sexuality supplement. Apparently, a parent called the CBC to complain about the supplement. After speaking with Mr. Collins, I thought I should write this little piece to clarify some points.

We have been told that many people have called the student union, the administration, and even the Catholic Women's League to complain about our paper. Logically, if one has a problem, one should complain directly to the source -- in this case, the student newspaper. However, our office has received only a handful of complaints, which are all from parents and professors. Not one single student had made a complaint to this office as of press time this week. By the time individuals have reached university, they should be capable of deciding what material is suitable for them. While our paper is available to the general public, our target audience is the students of this community. It is to those students we are responsible.

We at the *Panther Prints* stand firm behind what was printed in the February 13 issue. The sexuality supplement contained information which we felt to be educational, informative, and interesting to students. One supposedly controversial aspect of the supplement was the Corruption Quiz on the back page.

This quiz was simply meant as an entertaining piece -- a contrast to some of the serious issues contained within the supplement. One complaint was from a parent who stated that she would not allow her child to attend UPEI because of the material we printed. People with this view should skim other student publications across the country; they would quickly find that our supplement was mild in comparison.

Yes, our supplement may have offended some people. To be honest, I would rather offend the campus than have the paper be blandly read and thrown at the bottom of a birdcage. One of the goals of any student publication is to stimulate discussion. At least people are finally discussing the Panther Prints, and what material we should be printing. So, what should readers be doing? Number one: call us to complain and offer some constructive criticism. Tell us what you did not like and why. We can then decide on publication policies. Number two: tell us what you do want to see in the paper. Better yet, write something for us. Only with this kind of input can we become the paper you want to read. Any member of the university community can submit to the paper.

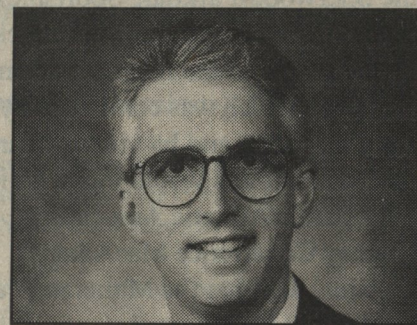
Finally, when you have something to say about the student newspaper please call us, not the administration or the student union. Neither of those bodies has jurisdiction over the content of the paper, and it is only through constructive criticism to the source that improvements can be made.

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Submissions will be accepted until 4pm, Thursdays. We will love you forever if you submit on disk in WP 51 format. For legal reasons all submissions must include the name and phone number of the person submitting the article.

The editors reserve the right to reject or edit any material. The opinions expressed within the Panther Prints do not necessarily represent those of the editors, staff, Student Union.

Any resemblance to persons or institutions - living or dead - is probably intentional, but don't bet on it.

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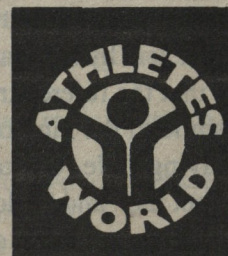
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