

M E M O R A N D U M

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TO: Dr. H. N. Gardezi, Anna Barsanti, Nancy Nenczyn,  
Algoma University College.

RE: THE NORTHERN LIGHT

You must have realized, following our recent discussions, that the Administration of Algoma University College takes very seriously the incidences of what, according to my advice, are fairly clear cut cases of libelous statements printed in the September 16, 1974, issue of the Northern Light. The Administration also takes very seriously the other, perhaps less than clearly libelous allegations, distortions and misrepresentations that occur throughout certain sections of that edition.

The Administration cannot continue to tolerate a situation whereby faculty members and others are subjected bi-weekly to this harassment and infringement of basic rights.

I know that you, both the editorial staff and the self-appointed faculty advisor, disclaimed any responsibility for the content of your contribution. However, the fact is that you are jointly responsible because you provide the vehicle for the publication of this content. Any responsible editor, and any advisor who is concerned to protect the interests of the editors as well as the contributors, to say nothing of the persons who are the object of the proposed content, retains the right to refuse to publish, or to edit, content that is potentially libelous. Nor does the disclaimer that you are new at the business and you do not know, or do not have access to the facts, diminish your responsibility since you nonetheless did publish.

In this regard, in my opinion, the "advisor" who ought to know better, bears the greatest responsibility. Nor is it a defence to claim that the advisor cannot act as a censor. Refusing to publish, or editing out libelous content is not censorship, but simply responsible editing and publishing practice.

Since, as indicated, you must jointly bear the responsibility for what you have published, and since I am interested, for the institution's sake as well as for yours, in preventing a legal suit arising out of this edition, you will be required to do the following:-

- (1) You must acquire from Mr. Patrick Buckley a retraction and apology on all of the specific items detailed on the enclosed Appendix "A".
- (2) You will ensure that within two weeks of the date of this memorandum there will be another edition of the Northern Light which will publish that retraction and apology.
- (3) That same edition must publish the entire text of the enclosed Appendix "B". (This deals with an issue outstanding from last year. Mr. Ken Davies, who, at that time, was aware that legal action was pending, agreed explicitly to the wording of this retraction and undertook to obtain the signatures of the other members of the editorial staff and ensure that it be printed in the first edition of the Northern Light this fall. Mr. Davies agreed to all of this, and signed a corrected draft of this letter in my office, in my presence, a copy of which I have on file. Mr. Davies obviously not only reneged on his promises, but instead presumed to write a further distorted "Guest Editorial.")
- (4) Any subsequent (i.e., after the one referred to in (2) and (3) above), issue of the Northern Light, in order for it (i) to claim on its mast head to be the "Algoma University College Student Newspaper", and (ii) to have the use of any college facilities (including any space, typewriter, mailbox) must comply with the conditions I set out last year in a letter to the editorial staff. (See enclosed Appendix "C".)

SPECIFICALLY THE NORTHERN LIGHT:

- SPECIFICALLY THE NORTHERN LIGHT:
- a. will have to come under a representative elected Board of students, to whom the staff will be responsible and who will be responsible for the editorial and other policies of the paper. This may or may not have some relation to the Student Council.
  - b. if it wishes to have a "Faculty Advisor", it will obtain that advisor by an electoral process either by students or faculty or both.

Moreover, the Northern Light must deal with its financial problems and debts in some realistic way. (On this see Appendix "D".)

I trust that my action, and the concerns expressed, in this regard will not again be distorted as an attempt to interfere with and repress legitimate student opinion. As I stated in my letter of March 6, 1974, "Freedom of speech and freedom of the press do not extend to ad hominen attacks", and I might add, to libelous allegations. Moreover, "you may express whatever opinions or positions you like as long as in the expression of them you are within the bounds of propriety and the law."

If any individuals wish to run an underground paper, which The Northern Light has essentially been, that is their concern but it will not be "The Algoma University College student newspaper" and it will not be run from, or have open distribution on this campus.

FRANCIS R. GUTH, ACTING PRINCIPAL,  
Algoma University College,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Tuesday, October 8, 1974.

Copies: Dr. R. J. Bazillion,  
Department of History,  
Algoma University College.  
J. McBain Cameron, Chairman,  
Board of Governors,  
Algoma University College.  
Mr. Patrick Buckley,  
25 Victoria Avenue,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.



## APPENDIX "A"

### A List of Specific Allegations that must be retracted by Mr. Patrick Buckley:

- (1) that Richard Bazillion "was fired from Sir George Williams University."
- (2) that Richard Bazillion "is incompetent and can't relate to students."  
(The Administration cannot allow the publishing of such judgments with impunity about a faculty member who has been awarded tenure through due process. The awarding of tenure by an institution implies at least that the institution judges the faculty member to be competent.)
- (3) that "Alex Harry still charged a legal fee of 500 dollars for having sent this one letter threatening to sue Mr. Davies."  
(This is a gross distortion of the actual fee and an injustice to Mr. Harry.)
- (4) that the Faculty Association "paid Richard Bazillion's legal fee of 500 dollars to Alex Harry."
- (5) that the Faculty Association's paying of any of its members legal fees would constitute a misuse of "taxpayers" money.  
(The following statements must also be withdrawn because they are completely inaccurate and reflect negatively on the integrity of the Faculty Association members, the Tenure Committees' members, the Administration, the Board of Governors, who approved the policy and the awards of tenure, and on all faculty members who have received tenure.)
- (6) that "the Tenure Committee...has been conducting a clandestine operation for the last six months with the purpose of (a) to eliminate what they consider to be radical elements of the school faculty and (b) to erode student parity..."



- (7) that "The main method by which the Tenure Committee is eliminating all opposition in their midst is by their scheme of nullifying the Academic Council in all important decisions and also by isolating their opposition and taking them on one at a time."
- (8) that "the Tenure Committee, headed by such stalwarts as Richard Bazillion, Andrew Hepburn, and Anton deMan, to name a few, have been vigorously attempting to gain a controlling power in school decisions and politics. They rammed their tenure policy through the Tenure Committee, the Faculty Association, and then during the summer when none of the student members of Academic Council were around, got their tenure policy ratified by the Academic Council."
- (9) that "Once getting their policy ratified, this Tenure Committee started a systematic harassment of certain so-called radical faculty through lies and innuendo, (for example threatening certain profs that letters written by students calling them bad teachers were filed in the office. These people who made these threats are the same people who are against class evaluations.) This finally resulted in the resignation of one member of faculty when she couldn't take it anymore after they persisted to drag out her tenure case."
- (10) the implication that "...the professors who genuinely believe in student parity (will be) fired or dismissed through this tenure policy."

## APPENDIX "B"

### RETRACTION AND APOLOGY

In the February 15th 1974, edition of The Northern Light, the editors published a report of a Faculty Association meeting held on February 12th.

The meeting was called to consider a draught proposal for terms of an Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee. A proposal was sought by the acting Principal from the Association. As a result, the Association appointed Dr. Bazillion Chairman of a committee to prepare a draught for the consideration of the Association. The meeting was called to consider the draught prepared and this fact was well known to the members of the Association.

Five students became aware of the meeting and appeared. The members of the Association agreed that the students might be present although it was a Faculty Association meeting.

It was known to us that the Principal had asked for suggestions from the Association for his consideration before a proposal would be submitted to the Board. We knew, also, that a copy would be sent to the Academic Council.

We hereby apologize to Dr. Bazillion for unfair reporting of the said meeting and state, in particular:

- (1) There was no warrant to speak of S.S. tactics;
- (2) It is unjust and untrue to refer to the behaviour of the Chairman as disgusting;
- (3) Using the term "Student as Nigger" is unwarranted and inflammatory;
- (4) Nothing occurred at the meeting justifying our saying of the Faculty Association "they are out to destroy the inner government of the school";
- (5) The very few members of the Faculty who wished to raise the earlier draught which was not on the agenda for consideration, appealed the ruling of the Chairman that it could not be considered at that meeting since no notice had been given. The Association upheld the ruling of the Chairman by vote;

- (6) We were incorrect in stating that the Chair refused to recognize the Academic Council as an organization;
- (7) We were incorrect in stating "Throughout the meeting, Chairman Bazillion reaffirmed his prejudice against students and his fear of them. He denied the viable existence of Academic Council. He used the chair as a source of power, making several improper rulings. These rulings were made because the chair deemed it necessary to protect its own interests" and we concede that on the only occasions when any ruling of the chair was challenged, the Chairman was upheld by a majority vote in a totally correct and democratic manner.
- (8) To have stated "Chairman Bazillion took time at intervals in the meeting to expound upon theories of German philosophy and history. Another man once did this and millions were persecuted" is not only inaccurate but insidious. In fact, Dr. Bazillion made references to the German educational system relating to the freedom of students to move from one university to another and be accepted as of right.
- (9) Finally, talk of Hitler waging war and "beware of the blitzkrieg" was unwarranted.

(signed) "R.J. Bazillion"

(signed) "K. Davies"

The above text was agreed to and signed by Mr. Ken Davies in the presence of the Acting Principal. Mr. Davies further undertook to obtain the signatures of the other members of the editorial staff, and to have this text published in the first edition of the Northern Light in the fall of 1974.



APPENDIX "C"

Wednesday, March 6, 1974.

The Editorial Staff,  
The Northern Light,  
Algoma University College,  
SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO.

Dear Editorial Staff:

A number of things about the Northern Light are causing me some concern. Let me list them not necessarily in order of priority.

Your February 15, 1974, issue, in especially its cover article, went beyond all bounds of propriety and, in the view of at least one legal opinion I received, probably constitutes grounds for legal suite. Apart from that consideration, the College cannot again allow an atmosphere to be created wherein individuals are subject to anonymous personal vilification because of positions they take publicly on issues. One of the traditional meanings of academic freedom was precisely to allow individuals to disagree on issues and be guaranteed an immunity from personal attack because of it. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press do not extend to "ad hominem" attacks. If there are recurrences of this, the Administration will have to reconsider its policy of providing space and facilities, not to the student newspaper as such, but to this particular editorial staff. This could not be interpreted in any way as suppression of opinions or dissent. You may express whatever opinions or positions you like as long as in the expression of them you are within the bounds of propriety and the law.

Another concern I have is your very status. You publish under the subheading "Algoma University College Student Newspaper". By whose authority do you claim to represent the students? To whom, besides yourselves, are you responsible? It seems to me that it is time at this College for an elected representative Board of students to whom the student newspaper staff is responsible.

The Editorial Staff,  
The Northern Light.

March 6, 1974.

In subsequent years I will recommend that this be a condition both of the newspaper claiming to be the official student newspaper of Algoma University College, and of the College's providing it facilities.

I also wonder how you decide on your faculty advisor and what are his or her responsibilities? It seems to me that if you are really concerned with democratization then the faculty advisor should be elected by someone, either students or faculty or both.

Another concern is to what extent is it really a student newspaper. It seems to me that much of the material is either faculty written or faculty inspired. In this connection I wonder why you print memoranda that I send out. Surely that is not the role of the student newspaper.

I wonder how you justify to yourselves the running of the advertisement for "Termpapers"? Surely the buying and selling of termpapers is a perversion of the teaching and learning process that you claim to be concerned with safeguarding.

I trust that you will take these comments in the light in which they are submitted - a concern for a continued harmonious atmosphere at the College and the reflection of this to the community, and a concern for improving all facets of the College, including the student newspaper.

Sincerely yours,

FRG:E

FRANCIS R. GUTH, ACTING PRINCIPAL  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Algoma University College



## THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

WELLINGTON & LAKE BRANCH  
1496 WELLINGTON ST. EAST, SAULT STE. MARIE, ONT. P6A 2R1

Telephone 254-6495

The Editor  
Algoma College Northern Light  
Algoma College University  
1540 Queen St. East  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Dear Sir:

Re: Demand Loan - \$666.11

With reference to our previous correspondence regarding the above captioned loan, we wish to reconfirm that the outstanding balance owing is \$666.11 with interest owing to July 15, 1974 of \$39.82.

We also wish to advise that there is at this time an overdraft in the Algoma College Northern Light Current Account of \$38.80.

We would appreciate a visit by you at your earliest convenience, so that we may discuss these loans with you.

Yours truly,

R.L. Bloye (Mrs.)  
Ass't Accountant.

cc: The Principal



MEMORANDUM

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TO: All Faculty,  
President, Students' Council,  
Support Staff,  
Algoma College.

FROM: Dr. Ian W. Brown,  
Acting Principal,  
Algoma College.

DATE: Thursday, January 18, 1973.

RE: Unsigned articles in the last  
issue of The Northern Light

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- (1) Six sealed bids were received for the Algoma College construction project. The contract, in consultation with our architects, was awarded to one of the two low bidders.
- (2) Mr. Samson is not a member of the Board of Governors; has taken up permanent residence in another country, and had sold out all interest in the company bearing his name prior to any College decision to proceed with construction. When Mr. Samson was on the Board his company refused to bid on previous renovations because of any possible conflict of interest. Mr. Samson has always enjoyed an enviable reputation for his integrity.
- (3) Our policy in regard to student fees, and grant cheques was worked out in full co-operation with the Students' Council. To the best of my knowledge we, at this time, have only one outstanding student complaint to settle. Please see the Minister's statement on College Notice Board.

Re: Unsigned articles in the last issue of  
The Northern Light

- (4) Algoma College has no funds invested in Great Lakes Power. Funds invested are in Canada Savings Bonds and Royal Trust Company. The Board does not at this time wish to invest in equities.
- (5) The Government of Ontario, representing the taxpayer, has full information as to the assessed value of the Shingwauk Site and Shingwauk Hall, as to the square footage within the Hall, as to the conditions of lease and the annual lease cost. The annual lease cost by the Anglican Church is regarded as being entirely generous to the College.
- (6) The College auditors are ultimately responsible to the Government of Ontario. It is a point of fact that the agencies of government responsible for universities and colleges have highly approved of college financial management and planning under limited funding over a period of five years, and that this approval accounts for much of the support that we presently have in government circles.
- (7) I can do no more at this time than express my utmost shock at the despicable treatment of an employee of this College, who is retiring in the spring, and who has ably assisted me throughout the year in the performance of a wide variety of functions.



TO

Mrs. C. Tallon

FROM

Francis Luth

SUBJECT

Northern Light Account

DATE

April 2, 1974

- ☐ For Your Information    ☐ Please O.K. and Return    ☐ Please Discuss With Me    ☐ Per Your Request    ☐ For Your Signature  
☒ Please Process    ☐ Return With More Details    ☐ Investigate and Report    ☐ Please Answer    ☐ For Your File

The Northern Light owes the College a total of \$300.00 on a joint-purchase agreement on the typewriter they are using. An agreement was concluded last summer whereby the Northern Light would begin to pay \$25.00 per month starting in Jan., 1974, to pay for half the cost of the typewriter. Upon the complete payment of the \$300.00 the typewriter would then belong to the student newspaper.

To date no payments have been made by the Northern Light.

In view of the above, I cannot authorize paying the Northern Light for ads it has run for departments of the College. However, I will allow the amounts to be credited toward paying off the outstanding debt of \$300.00 to the College.

DATE OF REPLY

SIGNATURE

RETAIN THIS COPY UNTIL REPLY RECEIVED. THEN DESTROY

FORM 90-21

ALGOMA COLLEGE

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

REMOVE THIS SHEET AND FORWARD BALANCE OF SET (INTACT)



Mr. Guth: For your info

TO

Mr. Ken Davies  
Mr. Don Roy

FROM

H. Gardezi  
Secretary, Dept. of Sociology

SUBJECT

Northern Light Account

DATE

April 4, 1974

- |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Information      | <input type="checkbox"/> Please O.K. and Return   | <input type="checkbox"/> Please Discuss With Me | <input type="checkbox"/> Per Your Request | <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Signature |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please Process | <input type="checkbox"/> Return With More Details | <input type="checkbox"/> Investigate and Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Please Answer    | <input type="checkbox"/> For Your File      |

Via a Memo addressed to Mrs. C. Tallon (presumably of the accounting department) the Acting Principal Mr. Francis Guth has informed me that he "cannot authorize paying the Northern Light for ads. it has run for departments of the College," because the Newspaper owes the College a certain amount of money. He, however, agrees to "allow the amount to be credited toward paying off the outstanding debt by the Paper."

I would, therefore, suggest that you ask the Accounting Dept. to provide you with a receipt of the amount credited in your favour. In case you fail to receive a response please let me know so that I can take up the matter of payment again. We thank you for your good faith in our dept by running our ads.

DATE OF REPLY

SIGNATURE

H. Gardezi

RETAIN THIS COPY UNTIL REPLY RECEIVED, THEN DESTROY

FORM 90-21

ALGOMA COLLEGE

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

REMOVE THIS SHEET AND FORWARD BALANCE OF SET (INTACT)