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The Maneater is a tiger with fangs bared and claws sharpened ready to analyze the facts and then to pounce

hatever else the school newspaper has been in its 12-year existence, the Maneater has lived up to the creed its first editor, Joe Gold, set down.

Sometimes the claws have been too sharp in criticizing University administration and faculty. Sometimes the Maneater has put aside fact for sensationalism. But most often, it has represented a good example of professional journalism.

How much freedom should a student newspaper be given? As the official student publication of the University, should the Maneater be censored, or free to criticize curriculum, Curators and classmates alike? Should it be allowed to comment on some of the more seedy, and often oversensationalized, aspects of any college campus, like dope and free love?

These were questions raised in the minds of faculty, administration, alumni, and fellow students last year when the University was facing a so-called "brain drain" by the departure of several faculty members (in numbers it approximated normal turnover), seven or eight student arrests for drug use (less than .005 per cent of the student body), picketing political groups, and internal problems in the student senate and Greek system.

Despite the criticism the Maneater received, no censorship measures were taken. On the premise that students need a voice free of stilling restrictions, the University exerts no control other than that provided by a student publications committee.

In essence the committee acts as stock-holders of a large company. If the Maneater goes into the red, the University picks up the tab. The committee elects an editor and business manager each year, but both are pretty well chosen by their peers before they go before the group. The committee approves changes in salaries for the editor, creation of new positions, new equipment (like typewriters), advertising rates and newsstand sale price. But if necessary the committee also exists to take action in cases of libel or if the staff should become truly detrimental to the University.

When complaints are filed, Dale Spencer, faculty advisor and one of the copy editors for the Journalism School's daily *Missourian*,

consults with the editor. In cases of misquoting, the two decide if a retraction or an apology is needed.

"But this year I have done nothing with the paper except discuss routine problems at the beginning of the semester," Spencer said. "There have been no gripes, because Steve Scott has been an extremely responsible editor,"

Steve does look to the faculty advisor for help, however. Last spring, he asked Spencer

to critique each issue.

"I don't think I've been radical," Scott says. Although in some cases criticism has leaned this way when extensive coverage has been given to one side or group. "If we gave them a lot of coverage it was because they were more active on campus than other groups, and at

the time I felt it was newsworthy."

This year the Maneater had several articles and an editorial criticizing the administration's handling of the removal of six Students for Democratic Society members from Memorial Union premises for distributing literature to visiting high school seniors and their parents. They ran a thoughtful editorial asking that the playing of "Dixie" be discontinued at football games and the both Confederate and Black-Power Hags be banned. But on the non-controversial side of the coin, poet laureate Dr. John Neihardt was featured in an aesthetic and moving piece.

The administration does not always agree with the stands the Maneater takes, but "In no shape, way or form do we dictate what they should write about," Dr. Don Webb, chairman of the committee and associate professor

of marketing says.

Whenever the Maneater has a special report on "Why Aren't There More Negro Professors," a feature on "What Really Is a Hippy," or editorials for intervisitation in dormitories, against negative hours before and after vacations, or for key privileges being extended to sophomore girls, the paper represents the views of many students and student leaders.

"The Maneater is the best existing link between faculty and the student body. As such, it is the most effective channel of communication that the University can rely on to understand the student's wishes and needs," Dr. Dick Renner, director of the Honors College and as-



The teaching aspect is one of the greatest reasons for a student newspaper. Sunday afternoons and evenings are spent going over the week's copy, often until two or three in the morning.

sociate professor of English, says. If the Maneater were censored the administration would end up hearing only the praiseworthy. Most faculty members and committee members are in agreement that criticism when it is reasonable and done in good faith is healthy.

Striving to express all views, the *Maneater* accepts guest columnists that do not always reflect its editorial policy, and sometimes publishes as much as a full page of letters.

Most controversial last spring was the issue on the quality of education at the University. A two-part series appeared on why several professors were leaving. The following week a new series explored reasons why

other faculty members were remaining.

Responsible, hard working editors spend at least 40 hours a week— and also attend classes — to get out a paper each Wednesday morning that may run as many as 40 pages, an average 10 pages more than last year.

The evening of Oct. 31 as the presses were getting ready to roll, a melee took place as the Huddle (the former Italian Village) closed its doors forever. By seven the next morning vendors were on the street corners selling the news.

Each week nearly 7000 Maneaters are sold for 15¢ apiece and another 3000 students pick up the paper from friends. In the red for many years, the paper showed an \$11,000 profit in 1966-67 which easily covered a \$5000 debt. The figures look as promising this year. Columbia merchants depend on the *Maneater* to reach the students: an advertising sales staff of 10 blankets the town.

Year after year the Maneater is awarded citations for general excellence. Some of them have been from the Kansas City Star for Best Newspaper and the Associated Collegiate Press

rating for All-American newspaper.

In the past two years there has been greater emphasis on issue-oriented news rather than queen contests and announcements. This fall a new column began called "Ask The 'Eater." Readers are invited to submit questions on all facets of University life — from Senate to sex. The answers are garnered from the appropriate University officials.

Scott says the business and editorial staffs are the best ever. Last year he initiated a program in which applicants demonstrated writing or business ability. Out of 150 applications this fall, only 15 new reporters were taken on.

An editor holds an instrument of tremendous potential. The learning experience gained in those two semesters by the editor and staff is unequalled.

"If you define education as the leading out from oneself, coming to understand one's beliefs, then there is not much better student activity than working on a school newspaper," Dr. Renner says, who speaks from experience as a past executive editor of the Daily Cardinal at the University of Wisconsin. He recalls that an editor is constantly being called upon to sit down and face a blank piece of paper and put out responsible journalism. There is a tremendous amount of judgement required in deciding what to print.

Journalist creeds say a writer should only put down what he holds in his heart to be true. "I've seldom turned out an editorial that didn't reflect my beliefs," says Scott, "What I write about is a synthesis of 21 years of my reactions to life and the beliefs I have formed.

"Our slogan around the office is 'The *Maneater* is not just another campus activity, it's a way of life,' and that's so true."

