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Editor's Comments

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Sir -

I can't believe it! As a recent graduate of geography and member of GTU I received my first copy of GTU's Geographical Bulletin today. I really can't believe it! It's so stupid - there's nothing in it but 4 "scholarly" articles. What the hell are the AAG annals for, then?

Is there any concrete purpose to this gag bulletin? Why is it that anything that has to do with geography has to have stupid articles in them? No wonder geography is so dull!

Editor's Comments

James W. Gallagher

This office does not receive much mail even though there has always been an open invitation to our readers to comment on the quality of the effort. In general, the comment which does come is favorable. However, the letter on the opposite page arrived recently. All I know is that it was mailed in Silver Springs, Maryland on Dec. 20, 1977 and after reading it I wished the writer a "Merry Christmas."

Now, wasn't that gracious? At least it is time to make a few things clear again. Some time ago the Executive Board of Gamma Theta Upsilon agreed that the best evidence of professionalism was the publication of a scholarly journal. They selected the title and the editor.

They also knew that GTU was distinctive that its journal should also, then, be distinctive. The unique characteristic of *The Geographical Bulletin* is that the first priority for publication is to students; the lowest priority is to full professors. Happily, we have been able to launch many students on their publication careers.

Like it or not, it seems that publication of research is still a most important evaluative tool for advancement of professional people.

Our problems are: 1) we do not get enough papers from students; 2) the quality of papers is extremely uneven; 3) not enough students are helped by their faculties in preparation of papers.

Now let us return to our letter writer. If that had been turned in as a paper, I would make ten comments. How many can you make? There are two I choose to

make here. First, why should the AAG have the corner of stupid articles (which seems to be implied in several comments)? In fact why should only the *Annals* be cited? There are many fine journals published by geographers. One always wonders how many of these are read and by how many.

It is assumed that professional people read their professional literature. It is also assumed that there is too much to read and priorities are established by all of

us. Nevertheless GTU must provide one of the choices in the field.

Second, I severely dislike unsigned criticism and get particularly upset when there is only one negative comment and no positive word which allows for improvement of the product.

The Geographical Bulletin has not changed its focus. It will continue to serve students. The quality depends on the number of students who submit papers and the professionalism they and their faculties bring to their tasks.