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B = C:E

The title of this editorial may appear rather odd at first but in this simple equation lies one of the most poignant truths that mankind has never learned.

The equation is formulated in a new book by William Vogt called "Road To Survival". Mr Vogt appears to be a very perceptive man. He is familiar with most of the ideas of the age, including those ideas concerning causes for the rise and fall of civilizations. His book is not another work on the same theme but it is quite likely that it is a large part of that theme. Mr. Vogt is concerned with the future of man from an ecological viewpoint.

The "B" in the equation, using Vogt's terminology, means biotic potential. The "C" refers to carrying capacity while the "E" refers to environment and more particularly to environmental dislocations or disturbances. All these terms, of course, pertain to man and his relation to the earth, or, in other words, ecology. On the whole, the book could be branded as preaching ecological determinism and it is this tendency which could be subjected to the most effective criticism. The most important aspects of the book, however, deal with more immediate problems so that the criticism can be dismissed for the time being in the face of tragic facts.

The earth in general and agricultural land in particular have certain limitations with regard to productivity that man has failed to recognize. As a result, man has taken two steps backward for every one he thought he was taking forward. This has been especially true in the last century; a century in which "progress" has been taken for granted. The building of the railroads through the west is a case in point. With the railroads came "progress" but also the plow. Millions of acres of grassland were plowed under. The wind and rain were now able to do their skilled task of erosion. The end effect was the creation of the Dust bowl. This type of agricultural practice has been carried on all over the United States so that in a comparatively few decades the amount of top-soil in that country has been reduced by one third. This means that the standard of living must be lowered just at a time of increasing population.

Vogt's equation lends itself to a practical situation in this example. Man, not understanding the relationship between the soil and himself, has upset the fundamental equation of natura law. He changed his environment (the plowing) so much that its carrying capacity over a com-

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Student's Forum

This space is provided for any student wishing to express his views on any subject. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent Brunswickan policy. Any opposing views will be printed in this space and not as letters to the Editor.

WORDS ABOUT WOODS

In view of the fact that UNB is famous for its Forestry school and since the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers has just completed its annual convention (held in Fredericton this year), it might be timely to put a few thoughts concerning forestry into words.

The president of the CFSE had said quite bluntly that unless definite conservation measures are taken, Canada's forests will disappear in 50 years. It was also pointed out that last year one half of our supply of American dollars came from the sale of forest products. The Canadian shortage of American dollars is well known to all. One wonders if the shortage may not become more acute with the passage of the years.

The Hon. Mr. Gill, our Resources Minister, told the members of the Society that theirs was a "grave responsibility". He said nothing of his responsibility, or of his department's, to the people of this province for conservation of its forests. One is therefore entitled to ask: what real steps are being taken to conserve our forest wealth?

According to my information, our chief forest enemies are man, fires and insects. To date, governments' chief efforts have been to control the activities to the latter two. I believe that our forestry students do receive some training in fire control and a very few specialize in insect control. But what about the ravages of man? I understand that by far the majority of Forestry graduates become employed by private firms engaged in exploiting our forest wealth; that they are not employed by these firms in conservationist, advisory capacity but to bring their technical training to bear to bring about greater efficiency in the extraction of wealth and therefore a greater profit to the employer. Needless to say, they are better paid for this work than are those employed by governments interested in conservation.

We have then the strange anomaly of a government institution training men to help ravage resources belonging to the people; resources placed in the hands of the government to be looked after in the best interests of all.

Our president Dr. Trueman, speaking to the aforementioned convention, remarked very aptly that the University had no problems in turning out technicians but did have a problem in training for citizenship. He further said that the great danger was in turning out people who could not see the woods for trees. I think that one of these days we are not going to be able to see the woods for the lack of trees.

A. LAYMAN

Politics On The Campus

There is some feeling on the campus that political clubs and party politics should have no place in campus activities. This sentiment has been voiced not only by reactionaries who maintain that progressive politics have no place in any scheme but by some students who have an intense interest in federal and provincial parties. The latter group maintains, that since the older students will be leaving the university within the next two years, to establish political clubs on the campus now would be to trouble the S. R. C. with an additional club, that in two years would consist of nothing more than a paper constitution. All well

and good; they might be right.

However, in taking such a stand, they are neglecting the significant function of a political club. A political club should not be a meeting of political converts to perfect the technique of out-witting their opponents, but rather, a centre of activity where party philosophies and platforms are examined, and research on Canadian problems carried on. Surely the campus is the logical place for such student activity.

The probability that such clubs will die out on a campus populated by younger students in no way detracts from their immediate value. Indeed, the significant function of a political club is to increase political consciousness, and by an uninhibited radiation of ideas to stimulate further investigation. If clubs were established on the campus, younger students would be exposed to party politics while they are at university, and party value would develop simultaneously with social and aesthetic values. Then, perhaps, educators and professional people would select their candidates for government in the same spirit as they select their books and instruments: Party allegiance would become a decision of a

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