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WHAT'S ALL THIS TRASH ABOUT APATHY? I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!



Overheard in the Dal canteen

The MacPherson Report:

A critical report on the UofT undergraduate course

(from U of T Varsity)

As a smooth and pragmatic attempt to patch up some of the inadequacies of undergraduate education at the U of T, the MacPherson Report has much to commend itself. Most students and staff will applaud the drastic reduction of lectures, the exam-free second year, the increased student participation in academic decision-making, and the loosening up of the rigid course structure that are recommended in the Report.

However, as a contribution to the educational atmosphere of the campus and the level of consciousness of its inhabitants, both the Report and the method by which it was arrived at leave a lot to be desired.

First of all, the Report was written in an atmosphere of almost total secrecy without the participation of any member of the undergraduate student body. For this reason, the issue dealt with aroused the interest of only a small minority of the students, and many of the brightest were turned off by this unnecessarily secretive procedure.

Unfortunately too, is the fact that the Report includes virtually no discussion of the philosophical basis of higher education, at the underlying rationale of the Honor and General Courses, of the relation between the university and society and the university's self-appointed role as a certifying body.

The Report also gives no justification whatever for the departmental organization of the Faculty of Arts and Science, and no discussion of the adequacy of such a set-up to programs of generalist education.

Similarly the Report includes virtually no discussion of the effects of the rapid growth of the Graduate School on undergraduate instruction.

In the final analysis, the Committee relies on student course critiques, relatively minor inspections of junior faculty, and the pious statement that "teaching should be taken into account" at promotion time; presumably these are supposed to result in great improvements in lecturing.

However, the Report implies that the student course critiques should not be published, and in fact be given only to the Chairman of the department involved, in addition to the lecturer. This, of course would do nothing to improve the stifling teaching atmosphere of the campus — in which all-too-often teaching is not valued at all; and therefore we cannot see how this would result in any appreciable gains in the quality of teaching.

The Committee's discussion of the Structure of Degree Courses at the U of T was probably sabotage more than anything else by the stifling tradition of rigidity characteristic of the U of T Honor course system.

The Report spends about 80 per cent of its time in this chapter talking about relatively minor changes in the first year offerings of some of the Honour

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The real solution to the Dosco problem

Just about every publication in the province of Nova Scotia has taken the liberty of making a game of guesswork as to what is to happen to the DOSCO steel plant at Sydney. The Gazette has done considerable research on this question and has discovered a new offer which has been through the province, to Hawker-Siddeley. Because it seems to be the most probable solution, the government, following its controversial policy of secrecy in this matter, has not yet informed the people of Nova Scotia.

The Benevolent order of the Sisters of Charity of Nova Scotia combine, as is well known, the most humane instincts of social justice with the development of a place in the corporate sun. Their wealth

is as huge as their good intentions.

The Gazette has been informed that it is felt by certain members of this order that these could best be combined with the takeover of The Sydney plant.

There is no doubt that this would involve a basic commitment on the part of the workers; certain persons in key positions in the organization's decision making process have, for example, suggested that conversion to Catholicism would be a prerequisite for any prospective employee.

Yet this can only be seen as a vast improvement over the previous situation where the workers have been, for the most part, not primarily interested in Christian philosophy, but rather in the manufacture of steel. The most important consideration is of course that the workers of the plant will still retain their jobs and that Sydney will remain on Canada's economic map.

But the financial benefits to the Order are, of course, secondary. When asked by the Gazette how it was planned to put the mill on a profitable footing, our undercover informant, who of course, wished to remain anonymous, said he believed that there were two proposed programs: the lowering of wages,

The Dow Protests: a question of morality?

Recently, on several Canadian campuses, students have been protesting against the Dow Chemical Company of Canada recruiting on campus. The protests reached the extent that at U of T the Dow recruiting agent and the vice-president of the university were literally held prisoners in a U of T building until Dow promised not to try to recruit on campus. The following article by D. John Lynn of CUP tries to explain the reasons behind the demonstrations.

Hold a match under one of those foam take-out coffee cups. It bursts into flames. It's made of polystyrene. So is napalm.

Polystyrene is made in Canada. Some goes into the manufacture of take-out coffee cups, Christmas decorations, and toys. Some is sent to the United States as an ingredient of napalm, which is being used by the U.S. in Vietnam.

The Canadian manufacturer of polystyrene is Dow Chemical Co. of Canada, a subsidiary of the parent Dow in the U.S.

Campuses across Canada have risen up in protest — in some cases violent protest — against Dow recruiters interviewing on campus.

The Canadian protests began on Nov. 8 when a small group handed out literature at the door of the placement centre at the University of Waterloo. A week later UBC students followed suit, but this time they blocked the doorway. At Windsor last week campus Anglican Chaplain Bill Christenson led a similar group in protest, but there was no violence.

Then Monday and Tuesday, Toronto students kept a Dow recruiter and U of T vice-president Robin Ross captive until the Dow representative finally agreed not to continue his three-day recruiting program.

The Student Council at the University of Victoria shared these sentiments when they went on the record opposing the use of napalm. Dow recruiters were expected a week after council took this action.

Why all these protests? Demonstrators see it as a moral issue.

Harold Kasinsky, a University of California biochemist, who has made a study of napalm, reports: "A napalm B fire reaches a temperature of almost 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit in a few seconds.

The polystyrene component of napalm B acts like a glue at high temperatures, holding the fire to a particular surface.

"The new napalm B is so sticky and burns so intensely that it cannot be removed from human skin without causing whole chunks of flesh to come off."

Protestors say such a weapon is immoral — much more immoral than Atomic bombs. The U.S. Dow company makes napalm bombs for use in Vietnam. The protestors claim this is contributing to an immoral act.

Part of Dow's supply of polystyrene, the active ingredient of napalm, is made in Canada. Therefore Canada is implicated in this immorality.

But Dow points out its napalm production accounts for less than one per cent of its business. Opponents then say it would be a negligible loss to discontinue napalm production.

Pro-Dow forces on campus offer two arguments: the first skirts any moral issue and claims Dow Canada personnel work on a vast number of projects, so workers, those recruited annually from campuses, are not directly involved in producing napalm.

The second argument says it is the right of students to apply for a job of their choice, and the majority should not deny them this right.

"I want to be a rapist!" screamed one U of T student. "Get me an interview!"

At McGill University several companies have opted for off-campus interviewing. McGill Principal H. Rocco Robertson announced that three companies who have not yet had on-campus interviews, have consented to conduct interviews off campus in order to avoid "disturbances".

courses, and barely gets around to any concrete discussion of the inadequacies of the General courses.

Throughout this chapter, the presumption persists that the only thing wrong with courses in the General program is that they are not specialized enough — i.e. that they are not Honor courses.

The fact that something qualitatively different is implied in a general education than in a specialist education did not seem to occur to the Committee; and there is no discussion whatever of interdisciplinary courses, "project-oriented" as opposed to discipline-oriented.

Since friendships formed in first year tend to set the pattern for those of the later years, the reorganizations advocated in the Report could actually deepen the cleavages along religious lines that now exist, unless a method is arrived at of ensuring that each college embraces as heterogeneous a student body as possible, including substantial numbers of students from all backgrounds and persuasions.

On the issue of student participation in academic decision making, the Committee took several notable steps forward — first by advocating student memberships on the Faculty Council and its committees; secondly by ambiguously calling for a student voice in departmental decisions of departmental curriculum committees; finally the Committee also expressed its hope that students would be given full membership on the Library Council.

However, the Committee's recommendations about a student voice in departmental curriculum are very hazy indeed: no mention is made of whether the student-staff curriculum committee is to be advisory to a staff curriculum committee (as happened last year in the physics department), which might then be advisory to a departmental executive committee, which might then be advisory to a departmental meeting of the department's entire staff.

Even more important, no mention is made of whether students should or should not be members of Faculty committees considering Promotions and Tenure — the inclusion of student member of such committees (charged with gathering evidence of the teaching competence of the staff member being considered) would probably do more to improve the quality of teaching at this University than any other single step.

Furthermore, the Report makes no mention of the question of student representation on the Board of Governors, the Senate, the College Councils, or any of the important Committees of these bodies.

Because of the numerous gaps and omissions in the MacPherson Report, we think it is quite clear that students can no longer depend on nine "good guys" to bring them the Millennium. From here on in, the student will have to organize themselves into vocal groups to demand improvement.

Staff tokenism is no substitute for student responsibility and student power.

The pain robbery

This week a certain student, as we all know, was arrested for the possession of Marijuana. He is subject, if found guilty, to a sentence of up to seven years in jail.

Exactly why has Marijuana been outlawed? Does Marijuana pose a threat to the safety of our society?

It is general knowledge that Marijuana is less addictive than ordinary cigarette tobacco. And as far as the safety of our society is concerned, people must surely be aware of the fact that drunken driving, one of the most flagrant breaches of our public responsibility, carries only a penalty of one year's suspension of driving privileges and a relatively small fine.

On the other hand, the penalty for the possession of marijuana is up to seven years imprisonment. Studies have shown time and time again that there simply is no connection between the use of marijuana and that of other narcotics. In fact, the most predominant single factor common to the records of persons addicted to Heroin is previous experience in prison. Therefore, it would seem that if governments really want to eliminate the use of Heroin, they should outlaw prisons. At the very least, this argument has more evidence to support it than the one which espouses that Marijuana is the "first big step toward narcotic addiction and personal destruction."

Make no mistake. We do not advocate the wholesale use of Marijuana. We merely cannot condone the present laws concerning that drug. These laws are grievously illogical and are shocking evidence that our legislators are not at all in tune with the twentieth century. That these laws have not been changed in accordance with medical knowledge concerning the safety of marijuana is a condemnation not only of the legislators but of just what our conception of justice is.

Furthermore, that we can allow persons to be prosecuted under the present marijuana laws is a reflection on our social integrity and concern about the difference between what our system of law stands for and what it really is.

Hatchet man can't hack it

As former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower calls for an escalation of the Vietnam war (in face of the increasing number of men being lost by the American war-ogre) we discover that Secretary of Defence Robert McNamara, the one restraining force in the U.S. Military Complex, is about to resign.

McNamara has gone on record as calling for the cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam. Meanwhile, most of the serving U.S. Generals have demanded that the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong be increased. One can only assume that the loss of a publicly "moderate" Defence Secretary will have further implications.

It is not without reason that Secretary General U Thant, and many other responsible international diplomats (as well as Paul Martin and Lester Pearson) have recently pleaded with the United States to end their questionable aerial bombardment of a country which is playing a less direct role in the war than the United States itself.

It is not without foundation that these men have warned that even continuation of the war at its present level can only increase the danger of Red China's involvement, and prolong the war... not change its outcome.

But if it is necessary to "teach democracy" to the Vietnamese nation by annihilating her country and destroying her people, then that lesson is indeed an unworthwhile one, even if it is lucrative. Perhaps this is why Mr. McNamara is considering resignation.

But regardless, if McNamara does resign, and the administration appoints a successor, let us hope that they at least have the honesty to appoint him "Minister of War."

Dal Radio

Dal Radio has recently gone over the airwaves of CHNS. The association has obtained a five minute spot at 2:15 each day, on which it broadcasts a commentary by a student at Dal. Following this commentary, the audience has a chance to phone the station and express its views on the topic under discussion.

However, not many are taking advantage of this opportunity to express their views. This is unfortunate, since many of the topics dealt with are of great importance to society as a whole — and this includes the university society — and all the topics are controversial.

As a result of the large amount of controversy surrounding university life today, many people hold a great fear regarding students. A large segment of society does not wish to become involved, and therefore do not take advantage of opportunities to engage in a discussion with university students.

The students themselves are mainly the couldn't-care-less types, and therefore do not take the time to express their opinions to at least one member of the outside society — the announcer at CHNS.

As a result, the program is not accomplishing what it set out to do. It is expressing the opinions of only a few, and is not producing a dialogue between members of the university society and others — and this is bad.

and the treatment of safety equipment in the same way as any other part of the mill, that is to say, to stop its upkeep. When asked how this could be reconciled with the humanitarian instincts predominant in the policy of the order, this reply was given: "The wages should be lowered because they are among the highest on the island, and they unfairly inflate the cost of goods and services in this area. We believe in equality to all and the place to start rectifying inequality is to attack at the top."

"Safety equipment, we believe, has been the cause of more accidents than it has prevented, because it has taken the minds of the men away from safety; they have felt too secure in this respect, and therefore were needlessly harmed in many foolish incidents of their own making. If the safety equipment were removed, then this would not, of course, happen."

Our contact also felt that there would be a massive increase in market possibilities if the takeover were achieved. "The sisters and their cohorts in this religious thing have many, many times the industrial use for steel within their corporate structure than Hawker-Siddeley could come up with."