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if profs are paid more
will youth volunteer
to increase irresponsibility
and improve the gateway?

voluntarism threatened with extinction

by jim laxer
canadian university press

Though headlines in the student press haven't reflected it, this may well be remembered as the year when youth become irretrievably co-opted into "the system."

Quite naturally, whatever national student awareness there is has been focussed on "events"—a mass march at the University of British Columbia, a referendum at McGill or a teach-in at Toronto.

But while students, externally, have continued to play their court-jester role, unnoticed changes are sweeping their familiar role into the past.

It has become commonplace to point out that in a society where autonomous pressure-group politics has all but broken down, minority groups, the poor, and youth remain the most significant forces not yet tied part and parcel to the status quo.

Both in Canada and the United States, commissions on biculturalism, civil rights movements, and assorted wars on poverty are moving to co-opt the largest social groupings since the New Deal carried off organized labor in the 1930s.

This year, in Canada, the establishment has turned its focus on youth.

The most dramatic example, of course, has been the creation of the Company of Young Canadians, with its projected million dollar budget and 250 field workers this summer.

But quite unnoticed has been the continuing development of quasi-public bodies that now surround parliament in an ever-widening chain of patronage.

Along with the familiar Centennial Commission and the Company of Young Canadians is the Citizenship Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration that plans to move into the youth field on a major scale.

With the exception of the Company, these agencies devote only a small percentage of their money to youth. Of course, they are theoretically accountable to parliament, but the fact is that as government spending increases it is utopian to expect parliament to examine the details of outlays that are neatly tucked away in the corners of major department accounts.

This year several million dollars will flow from such groups into the youth community. Admittedly several million dollars is the sort of laughable sum that the Strategic Air Command consumes in vapour every few minutes—but it is a large enough tail to wag the Canadian youth community from coast to coast for a whole year.

Increasingly, youth and student groups are becoming supplicants in the ante-chambers of these agencies.

The more enlightened among them have set up Youth Advisory Committees where student and youth representatives are invited to blow off steam in the presence of minor functionaries who have no power to make policy decisions for their agencies.

The Centennial Commission is a case in point. In November the commission called together representatives of 30 youth organizations to make recommendations concern-

ing its youth travel and exchange program.

The conference voted to set up a committee to meet publicly with the commission to discuss grievances within the voluntary sector. It was hoped that such a body would make the commission accountable to the public in the allotment of its grants.

The real decisions affecting youth are made by the lower echelons of such agencies. But personnel at such levels are civil servants who cannot comment publicly on what they are doing. In theory, the opposition parties could raise such questions in the House; but they are busy hunting bigger game and only in spectacular cases do these chicken-feed sums get aired in public.

One such case was a bid by the Student Union for Peace Action last summer for a Centennial grant to bring together summer project workers from across Canada for a week long consultation.

The grant was refused, in the opinion of a majority of youth representatives at the November conference, for political reasons that had nothing to do with the commission's publicly stated criteria.

And yet to find some official to comment on why SUPA did not get

its money is virtually an impossible task.

Whether SUPA should have got a grant is not the issue, of course. The problem is that the youth community, increasingly dependent on government funds, has no check on the agencies that dispense the dole.

It should be remembered also, that as an organization comes to lean on government money it may be increasingly difficult for it to dare to challenge traditional social views. The SUPA case has shown that a public body, meeting behind closed doors, can avoid answering public questions, if it so chooses.

As many youth organizations now see it, there is a danger that voluntarism, with its potential for new ideas, is threatened with extinction.

Significantly the Canadian Assembly of Youth Organizations, an umbrella forum that brings together most major youth groups in English Canada, is planning a conference in March on the subject "The Implications of Increasing Government Involvement in the Voluntary Field."

It is felt that unless public accountability can be guaranteed, the mainstream will be hooked increasingly to the Ottawa boondoggle. The radicals, on the fringe, will still wave placard of course, but for the most part youth will become the junior rung on the great society ladder.

does alberta pay its professors enough?

the gateway
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It is a lamentable fact that professors are born and not paid, says J.D.B. in The Rebel (Toronto University). Like coral insects they spend year after year under water in conscientious toil and reach the surface (a living wage) to die when their place is filled by others who have abandoned hope and the cycle goes on . . .

But the meagre salary is only one aspect of the general aspect towards things academic on this continent. Everybody rants about the university's function in developing leaders, but the modest part played by the professors doesn't count. The graduate scorns the base rungs by which he did ascend . . . Imagine a Canadian or American laborer being glad to pay respect to a great scholar. As an American college president remarked, a professor never gets into the papers unless he is one of the principals in a divorce case. But let a man make ten million out of Teddy Bears, and forthwith a hundred newspapers syndicate his views on present day philosophy . . .

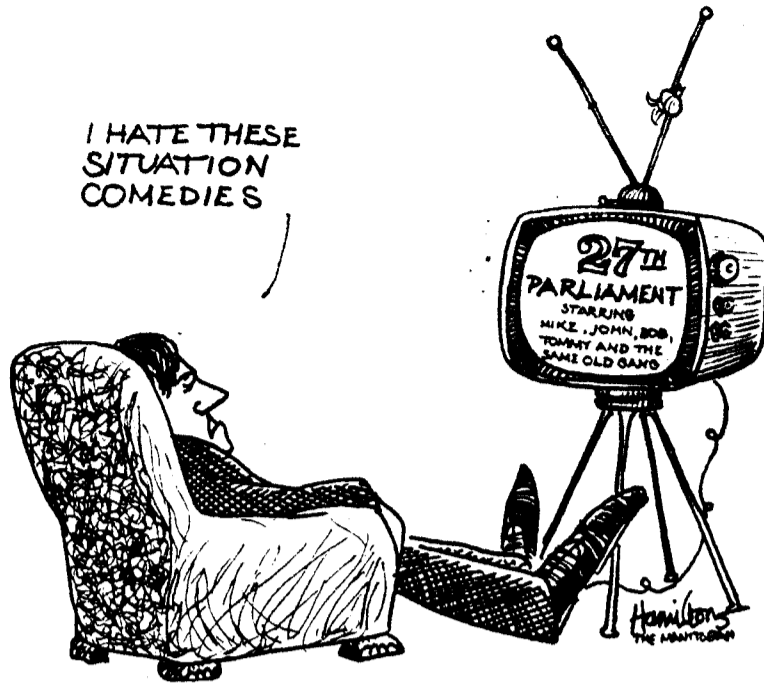
Why does he never ad-

vance with the times; why do colleges suffer from dry rot; why, ad infinitum? Of course it is natural that professors should be attacked, for if there is one subject more than another that the man in the street understands, it is education, especially higher education. A professor of Orientals may not be able to draw up a will—not having much incentive—or to amputate a leg or make hens lay, but where is the lawyer or doctor or farmer who cannot tell with precision the hundred and one things that are wrong with our colleges?

The fact that they do the most valuable part of the world's work does not matter, because it does not appear in the Annual Statements. Even the war was begun and ended by professors—for fear of misunderstanding I may say I refer to Foch, not Wilson . . .

At last the worm seems to be turning. Harvard is raising ten million dollars to increase its professors' salaries, and Princeton is following its example. Perhaps in 2000 A.D. a university professor with a salary in advance of a policeman or even a minor league ball player will try to live on \$1,500 a year.

I HATE THESE
SITUATION
COMEDIES



letters

irresponsibility

To The Editor:

Until today (Tues., Feb. 8), I had a great deal of respect for all university students. These people, I have always told myself, are the ones who will soon be leaders in and of our communities and from their ranks will come the leaders of our governments.

However, this morning I was convinced that some of these people are nothing more than a gang of irresponsible three year old kids and should be treated as such. That is, they should be put over someone's knee and have the daylights walloped out of them. I am referring to last night's incident in which an individual or individuals opened the gates to the boarding of the new Students' Union building, started a Michigan Front End Loader (which was left for the night due to a broken fan belt), and went for a joy ride. Besides the extra work and inconvenience caused by their pranks they also ran the risk of damaging this machine by seizing the motor.

These people are probably the ones who beef about the high construction costs. One of the things they fail to realize is that every time an act of vandalism occurs, the general contractor's and all the subcontractor's property damage and public liability rises. They don't realize it, but they are the ones in the long run who bear this unnecessary expense.

The second letdown I had this morning occurred when I walked past the engineering building and saw such things as "Engineers are Slobs", "Plumbers go Home", and "The Nut House" written on this building, with spray paint. All I can say is that this is a hell of a display for the upcoming Varsity Guest Weekend and I hope the other students have something much more constructive to show the general public.

Rather than deface and destroy public property and drag the image of their fellow students into the mud, I suggest that the people responsible for such vandalism seek out Ed Monsma, the new chairman of the Students' Union Planning Commission, and apply themselves as energetically to his project of raising money by fund drives.

Adrian Papirnik

improve the gateway

To The Editor:

Over the past couple of years, a move in The Gateway from individuality and spontaneity towards a sometimes uneven "professional" polish and machined perfection has been noticeable. As one who remembers the columns of Chris Evans,

the late Richard Kupsch, Manfred Rupp, Jon Whyte, Adam Campbell, and even the sentimental Richard McDowell, I miss the tone of humanity and forthrightness that the old paper once had. These columnists were ingloriously wrong as often as they were devastatingly right in their opinions but one always felt, upon reading their work, that one had experienced genuine contact with a human being. Above all they had, thank God, a sense of humour.

Think of Chris Evans' column of 1961 that advocated a line-painting contest on the No. 2 highway, and think of the present series of articles on life insurance, for God sake, and you will see what I'm driving at. Must The Gateway address its readers as though they were gall-bladdery old men looking forward to their pension and a life of puttering around in the greenhouse while the hemlock of senility creeps over them?

An undergraduate paper poses a rare opportunity to present a genuine alternative to, rather than a reflection of, the often stuffy professionalism of the average Canadian daily. Why blow this chance for a few awards offered by professional newsmen on the basis of professional criteria, which are very different, in my view, from what your criteria should be?

Spontaneity, recklessness, and humour may be subversive in this province, but they have never been punishable by law. How many of your staffers have had any fun in the last few weeks?

Why not loosen up and give a bit more encouragement to, for example, your whimsical Ferrier, your Rabelaisian Campbell?

The administration is "serious and responsible"; the student government is ditto (although responsible to whom or what, I sometimes wonder). As a consequence, many students—perhaps most think of these bodies as "them" rather than "us". A former student union president, Wesley Cragg, noted this widening gulf two years ago and the gulf doesn't seem to have narrowed.

I don't blame anybody for this; perhaps it can't be helped. But that is not reason for you to drift away with them. As a paper full of enjoyable, rather than strictly serious and informative, reading, The Gateway could be the greatest cohesive influence on this campus.

R. T. Kallal
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We are sure Mr. Kallal is aware of the fact that he, the "whimsical Mr. Ferrier" and any other students' union members are welcome to work for this volunteer organization at any time.—The Editor