

Patrick Connell

reviews a bombshell

This Magazine Is About Schools

Exciting. New. Creative. Unbigotted. Controversial.

All these adjectives and others could be applied to a magazine which is now in its second issue—"This Magazine Is About Schools." In the first issue, stapled to the back cover, was an extract from Mad.

Is "This Magazine" serious? Is this something education students should read, or, indeed the rest of the campus should read?

In the current issue there is a penetrating article by Edgar Friedenberg, the American sociologist, entitled "Our Contemptuous Hairdressers, which analyzes, in depth, the whole question of long hair and student discipline.

His conclusion is students in school are the one segment of society completely denied their democratic rights.

But the magazine is not filled with sociology.

Some of the editors are engaged in building a new school called Everdale Place, where students and teachers live in their own community and where students themselves participate in making decisions which affect them.

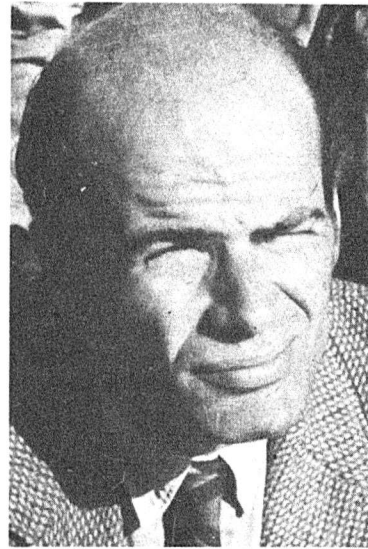
Miles Murray, a U of A student, spent some time there this summer helping to build some of the facilities.

In a brochure the initiators of the "school community" say children are not educated in public schools—they are processed.

Their real education comes in "classrooms without walls"—from their families and friends, from chance acquaintances and enemies,

from streets and alleys, songs, transistors and television, from games and gambles.

In school, their education was largely a matter of instruction, not discovery. Children participate very little in their own education.



CONNELL

Worst of all, they are herded in large groups, graded constantly, examined, time-tabled, filed and packaged.

This could be a critique of the University of Alberta.

What makes Everdale Place different?

It is a community where children and adults eat together, play together, and share the difficulties and pleasures of self-government together. There is intimate contact with staff which allows students and adults to develop the kind of trust in each other which is the basis of all real education.

Each individual's program is planned according to his ability, and his progress is not measured in grades.

It is not surprising knowledge is taken seriously in this natural environment. The contact between students and adults is intimate and authoritarian. Thus the old aims of education—morality and knowledge—do not have inhibiting overtones.

To return to "This Magazine," which is based on the philosophy being worked out at Everdale Place, it is obvious the structure of our public education system is now badly out of date, and new forms must be found—forms more relevant to contemporary society.

With others, both in and out of the public school system, the magazine is exploring new forms in its pages.

In this issue, Norman Freedman offers some meditations on three views of the plight of the child in our culture and the defeat of the child in our schools.

One headmaster, who is a mass-media draft-dodger in Toronto, joins the fight on manners and style. There is poetry from children who watched frog's eggs growing.

The magazine includes excerpts from a teacher's diary. The teacher tells of his attempts to introduce swearing—frankly and openly—into a Grade 10 classroom.

His students responded with horror and inhibition at first, but later incorporated their everyday langu-



Ceremonies of Humiliation in School
Edgar Z. Friedenberg

A TEACHER'S JOURNAL from Kelwood, Manitoba
James Desacove

GRACEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL:
an experiment without fanfare 95 cents

THE BOMB

age skillfully into their compositions.

"This Magazine Is About Schools," is published quarterly, at 95 cents a copy and is available from 405 Dundas Street, West, Toronto 2, Ontario.

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of the gateway

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This week Casserole breaks into something new—sports. Editor Rich Vivone has interviewed prominent figures in the hassle over the University Athletic Board's decision to cut junior teams and some clubs from its roster.

The interviews are printed verbatim.

Also in this issue is a review by Patrick Connell. He reviews "This Magazine Is About Schools," a new journal in the field. The book is controversial, and if any Alberta educators read it, there will be a stir.

Who knows, they may even ban it.

On the cover, is something we don't hear much about. Campus accidents and driving habits. Last year the president of the University of Ottawa's students' council was killed in a head-on Christmas eve crash, and two students were killed when a car broke into three pieces against a tree after a UBC fraternity party.

U of A has been fatality-free for the last few years. How long will it last?

Wilf Day takes a long look at the student revolution and university reform and notes that the Duff-Berdahl Report says students will get a voice only after they cause trouble.

Oh well, all's still quiet on the western front.



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