

THE DYING RACE

by Neil J. Mulvaney

It has been said that "all generalizations are wrong". But if one had the temerity to make a generalization about the liberal arts student at U.N.B., one could hazard the observation that he is ever on the defensive. The tacit and correct assumption underlying the article "Artsman be Proud", which appeared in the "Brunswickan" recently, was that they are presently exhibiting more symptoms of *shame* than of *pride*. It is true that the artsman is forever "explaining" his position. Even more, he is explaining his position in either apologetic or utilitarian terms.

And we need not look too far for the reason. Our college is by weight of numbers and by mental outlook a school of applied sciences. Our campus is ruled and will continue to be ruled by the students in these sciences. Yet, it is not by holding down most of the executive positions in the many campus organizations that this rule is exercised. Nor is it by supply intellectual or moral leadership that the engineer and forester has exercised his regency. For in these fields, the artsman is bearing his share of the load.

It is in the establishment of an "atmosphere" that the student in the applied sciences has made his predominance felt, and he has done this unconsciously, effortlessly. This "atmosphere" has been termed with varying degrees of accuracy utilitarian, practical, pragmatic and even anti-intellectual. Nor is this aura or atmosphere a bad thing. It is a measure of our times, a symptom of a dynamic, progressive and productive age, a symptom of a civilization in a hurry. This spirit is essentially practical and utilitarian, but it need not, and in its more sober moments is not, anti-intellectual. Greece, in the fifth century B.C. and Italy in the twelfth century were intensely intellectual, intensely artistic and yet basically utilitarian and commercial civilizations. But there is a difference. These civilizations had the time to spice their pragmatism with "hyacinths for the soul". They had the time to come to understand how much they needed the man of liberal arts. Our civilization evidently does not have that time. It is in a hurry, and so it must be. The graph of physical progress is rising with dazzling swiftness. The mechanism of this world is being harnessed to our physical needs with a speed that is almost beyond our comprehension. This is reflected in an unprecedented and urgent need for trained practical men, for scientists, for engineers and for foresters. If the supply is to meet the intensity of the demand, then the prices for their services must rise. And so they have been, and so they should.

But, in economic terms the student in the liberal arts is being lost in the shuffle. What small reimbursement he does receive is thought of as a reflection of "the broad mindedness" and "openheartedness" of governments and businesses. As the price of his efforts remain constant, the price that he must pay, in loss of pride and living standards, is rising rapidly.

Now, what conclusions can we draw? I have no intention of preaching about the supposed merits of a liberal-arts education. We can learn of these in a college calendar. I do not care to speak about the part the liberal-arts play in a balanced civilization, nor will I consider the results of their absence. Nor will I further concern myself with the emotional trails that the student of liberal arts may be forced to undergo as he carries on his defensive warfare, as he retreats, and apologizes, as he dilutes his original and youthful ambitions and denounces them as "idealistic", as he re-defines his motives and ambitions in utilitarian terms, in terms of cash-register evaluation.

But, let us have the courage to face our convictions! The student in the humanities is fighting a losing battle. More and more young people, who are promising and potential liberal artsmen, are being diverted into the fields of applied sciences by irresistible social pressure. They come to know, and their advisors do not let them forget, that a mediocre engineer is better paid than the best of artsmen. And those who do remain are constantly harassed, bewildered and uncertain; their originality is stifled by the ever growing ring of rigid utilitarianism. *Let us recognize the fact that the true liberal artsman is a dying race!*

Let us increase our efforts to divert him into more practical fields, by economic enticements. They are not a hardy breed. Few of them are willing to starve for their convictions. They can be bought, if the price is right. Why should we continue to extoll the merits of a liberal education in the humanities when our every action brands our words as shallow hypocrisy? In the light of a calm reassessment of our actions, now is the time to admit that there is no room in our civilization for philosophy, for classical literature, for history, for art or for anything that savours of impracticality. This is the time to root out and destroy anything and everything that cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents! Let us do this now, and one day we shall even storm the walls of religion, and enter onto the threshold of a "Brave New World".

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Friday, Dec. 7
Arts Union Dance, 9:00 p.m., Student Centre.
Saturday, Dec. 8
Senior Class Party, Lord Beaverbrook Hotel.
Wednesday, Dec. 12
Flying Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 309, Forestry Building.
Friday, Dec. 14
Semi-Formal Dance, Maggie Jean Chestnut Society, at the Maggie Jean Chestnut House.
Remarks:

It seems that every so often this column must contain a reminder that all campus organizations are required by the S.R.C. to report their activities, whether meetings or social functions, to the Campus Co-ordinator one week in advance of their proposed date. Of course, with Christmas tests so near, student activity is as a low ebb, but there are still some groups who have failed to report. It is hoped

that they will co-operate and help avoid conflicts.

MIKE CAUGHEY,
Campus Co-ordinator,
Phone 9004.

CAMPUS POLICE

"The Campus Police will be paid on Saturday, Dec. 8, in the SRC Office (Student Centre) from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m."

ROSS-DRUG-UNITED

402 Queen St. Phone 4451
602 Queen St. Phone 3142
361 Regent St. Phone 4311



Christmas Eve

By L.F.L.

Light snowy flakes are covering the earth,
Hearts are gay, where once they grieved,
Tiny stockings are hanging in front of the hearth,
Awaiting the Visitor, on Christmas Eve.
Stars twinkle brightly, forming countless diadems,
Guiding strangers, who travel by night,
The same as they did in Bethlehem,
whence came the Divine Light.
Holly and fern adorn each fire-side,
Children are happy and chuckle with glee,
for the season is the joyous Christmastide,
and the air rings with harmony.
Thus year after year, this feast we greet,
the day which gladdens each heart,
cheery words are exchanged when old friends meet,
each one at this time, doing his part.

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THE ROLLING STONE

Marvin J. Meloche

Last Tuesday, the Bailey Geological Society was treated to an excellent report by Roch Poulin on the nature of his field work in the Yukon last summer. His talk was extremely interesting, not oppressed by an overabundance of technical geology, nor too superfluous as far as detail was concerned. The balance of informality and content made it both enjoyable and valuable. Such reports by students are stimulating and prove to be a valuable training to the person delivering the talk, in a field where the writing of scientific reports is so essential.

The hallowed halls of the Geology Building are to undergo a facelift. The Geology Society has appropriated funds for Jane McNeill to decorate the walls with murals of a historical nature. The first project is a scene depicting Silurian times; this to be done on one of the walls in the basement. If this proves satisfactory as we expect it to, a large Carboniferous swamp scene complete with dinosaurs will be done in the main hall. If it proves unsatisfactory, one can always use paint remover.

This weekend, the Senior Class Party will be held at the Beaverbrook Hotel. Although the bar may prove somewhat of an obstacle to reflective thought, many will sense, as likely they have several times this year, that they are entering a period of great uncertainty and decision. Most of the Seniors will not be without some sober recollections of their college years. It is the end of a chapter of their lives. Old friends are committed to memory and we only recall them through old yearbooks, calendars, etc. It is an hour of decision. Many will be optimistic, facing the prospects of a career with a bright economic outlook and often little else. Others will lack in confidence, uncertain of what the future holds in store for them. Some of us will be concerned as to how we will

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MATTHEW HALTON

"A Lesson In Learning"

By KEN GRANT

Matthew Halton, famous International Correspondent of the C.B.C. is dead. His life illustrates far more than the routine events listed in the obituary columns. During the past twenty-five years Matthew Halton has viewed foreign events for thousands of Canadians. They have followed his mature and astute reports either in the Toronto Star or on the National radio and television service. In the opinion of the average man and of most scholars, Halton's observations were mature, authoritative, accurate and yet easily understood.

Before becoming a journalist Matthew Halton concentrated on obtaining a higher education. First, he attended the University of Alberta to secure a General Arts degree. From there, he went to King's College, London, to obtain his M.A. in Modern History. But even yet he was not ready to embark on his career. Continuing his studies, he completed his Ph.D. at the London School of Economics . . . The rest is familiar history.

The life of this Canadian offers positive proof of the practical value of our higher education in the field of Liberal Arts. Not for him was the sterility of the ivory tower. His work took him from the desert sands of El Alemain to the battle of the Rhine, from statesmen and generals to impoverished peasants.

Matthew Halton was a truly great Canadian, who attained success through the benefits derived from scholastic achievements and who never lost the common touch. In every way, his life exemplified the words of Cardinal Newman: "Education is a high word; it is the preparation for knowledge, and it is the imparting of knowledge in proportion to that preparation. We require intellectual eyes to know withal, as bodily eyes for sight."

DEBATING ACTIVITY

The final meeting of the Debating Society for the fall term will be held next Thursday, in room 106 of the Forestry Building at 7:30. The topic will be "Resolved that the Maritime Provinces should become a part of the United States."

This term, the society has had a large number of highly successful debates. The quality of presentation and of content has been consistently high. Many new members have participated in these intramural competitions.

Next term will see UNB engaging St. Marys, St. Francis Xavier and St. John Law School in inter-collegiate competition. Two UNB debaters will also compete in the McGill Winter Carnival Debating Conference to be held in Montreal in February.

EngineEars

by Red 'N Black

In view of the tragic accident of last Friday, we would like to make a few suggestions. Word has been received that the CPR is starting work immediately on the installation of flashing warning signals on the University Avenue crossing. This is all well and good but it is hardly enough. These will be of little or no value during the winter months unless extensive sanding and salting operations are carried out on the University Avenue entrance to the campus. In connection with this, we suggest that there be erected heavy wooden drop-gates capable of stopping a car travelling 15-20 miles per hour. The type of gate we have in mind is a thick laminated wood gate which, when closed would be supported at both ends. We would also like to see that strict enforcement of railway speed laws is maintained along this section of track.

While this installation of lights at the University Avenue crossing is a step in the right direction, we deplore the fact that the Board of Transport Commissioners and the CPR have no plans for the installation of warning devices at any of the other city crossings, notably the Regent Street crossing.

Last week's parade was an example of university students supporting a worthwhile cause and we hope the interest will not fade away. Such student activity has often proved to be a very powerful influence; a striking example being the magnificent role university students have played in Hungary's bid for freedom.

Here's a note for car owners! Seat-belts would have reduced last week's fatality to an accident in which only the car was damaged.

To the Students
and Faculty
of U.N.B.

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and a
Happy New Year
all the best for 1957

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THE HARVEY STUDIOS