

Faculty- Intellectuals Or Clerks?

By DR. GEORGE HAGGAR

The fundamental issue facing university faculties in Canada is whether our "intellectuals" will continue to act as sales clerks or begin to act as intellectuals. Doubtless, most of them as "liberal-minded people" consider the question before us irrelevant as a social issue, but significant as an academic exercise in this world of liberal harmony and "fellowship".

The exponents of harmony in this country have of late discovered that students in fact have passions and those untutored minds are people.

What is amazing, however, is that those consumers are raising questions about the quality of the sold products and sometimes the manufacturing skill of the producers. And most irritating of all, is the fact that the students are asking the higher clerks -- the administrators -- they are shopping and above all, the management of the factory system.

As catalysts of the coming revolution, the students are the harbingers and the heralds of a new civilization -- a civilization that asserts that man is not a speck in the cosmic dust, nor a chattel to be bargained about, nor a child to be assuaged by a pacifier. They are saying no to dehumanization, no to pleasant platitudes, no to programmed education; they are proclaiming their humanity in a debauched milieu and they know who is responsible for this monstrosity.

In their quest for self-discovery, human commitment and social emancipation, the students have put their seniors on the defensive and the latter have reacted in typical ruling-class manner.

They have either withdrawn into their shells hoping that this "generation gap" is a temporary phenomenon; or, having noticed the mounting tide of the onslaught, they have tried to harness it so as to reinforce the existing order and demonstrate their liberality. Thus, the new "public relations" in the universities, the commissions, the joint committees and the new "fellowship". But all this utilitarian activity and this "humanism" seems to have whetted the appetites of the consumers who are no longer satisfied with "joint partnership" and are seeking the substance of power, not its shadow.

Here, I think, is the crux of the matter. The students have learned here and elsewhere that in fact, the supporters of the status quo have no intention of sharing in the government of the university and do not plan to abdicate or surrender. Moreover, the faculties have become the Girondists in "this best of all possible worlds". And since they do not want any basic change -- they merely want to be "in" on the secrets of empire and to achieve this "historic mission" -- some of them would like to have a united front for the students. Though most professors are contemptuous of "student power" they think that the "radicals" are a small but a useful minority whose immense energies could best channeled to advance professional interests.

Put bluntly, professors have no regard for student radicalism, and have not examined its contents. But they want to use it as an instrument to club the administrators with rather than use it as a means of opening new fields of student-faculty

relations or broadening the existing sources of co-operation and communications. This opportunism is being slowly detected by the students, but as accredited clerks and members of the new priesthood, the professors will go on demanding a role commensurate with their functions in the eternal design of the contemporary university with their functions in the eternal design of the contemporary university, thinking that they can call in the troops if the occasion requires them. Meanwhile they will rely on "reason" to persuade the administration that the "machine" can be operated more productively and more efficiently if they sit in on more non-accountable and non-functioning committees.

To illustrate this principle, let us cite our campus -- the best of all possible campuses. Here we merely have an ecological community -- a personalized environment of monads linked together by a physical plant and a "benign" administration whose members prepare and distribute the monthly "diet". The faculties protest and they grumble in their "palatial" faculty lounge, and they even talk about "power", but the moment someone has access to power, his information becomes privileged and it cannot be divulged, etc., etc., etc.

The difficulties of the professors are compounded by their lack of collective consciousness as a group and thus their relationships with the students cannot be any more than transactional. For these reasons, the faculties are half-victims, half-accomplices and therefore, half-human beings. And this leads me to say: unless the intellectual replaces the clerk, both the administrator and the teacher will become superfluous clerks in this great private enterprise of ours. Therefore, it follows that the intellectual as the interpreter of the "tradition" must become the author of the tradition, and if he does not, or refuses to, he like his predecessors, must be consigned to the dustbin of history.

Knowledge is pain and the demands of virtue are onerous and only the great create great deeds. And this epoch is a time of greatness, a time of quest, and a time of love; a time of spring and a time of passions; a time of brotherhood and a time of integrity; a time of choice and a time of authenticity; a time of man becoming man and a time of freedom and her majestic unfolding.

It is a time of revolution!

Birth Control Info 'Pornographic'

CALGARY (CUP)—The North Hill News in this city finds birth control information "pornographic".

Normally, few people care what the North Hill News feels about anything. But that antediluvian newspaper also publishes the Reflector, student newspaper at Mount Royal Junior College, and in that capacity, refused to print a page in the Reflector -- reprinted from the Ladies Home Journal -- outlining the various methods of birth control.

Roy Farran, owner of the News, said the article was a breach of the Criminal Code of Canada, and served no purpose. He said people who desire information about birth control should see their doctor.

Between eight and 10 university newspapers in Canada have reprinted the article in question this year with no repercussions of a legal nature.

The Reflector, curiously, has an agreement with the News not to print four letter words. Apparently the News includes the word "screw" and lines like: "wanted -- a pregnant virgin for Christmas pageant" in its four letter list.

The birth control page appeared blank on Friday, Oct. 18.

The student council has arranged to negotiate with Farran over his right to censure the Reflector.

EDITORS NOTE:

George Hagggar has a doctorate in political science from Columbia. Throughout the three years he taught at WLU, he was an outspoken critic of Western society, and the university system in particular.

It was largely because of the appearance of this article that his contract was dropped last year.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers condemned the actions of the administration as "unacceptably authoritarian" but did not seek Hagggar's reinstatement and did not formally censure the school.

Hagggar subsequently applied to 13 universities advertising positions in his field in the CAUT bulletin. He was turned down at every one of them.

He has now left the country.

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START

- BoM** (Bank of Montreal): Campus bank. A good place to start almost anything.
- Home Economics**: Home economics. Best cookies on campus.
- Campus Centre**: Campus Centre. Often a monument to an illustrious founder, or the campus barber shop.
- Residences**: Residences. The food is worthy of note usually.
- Arts Building**: Arts building, with wing.
- Science Building**: Science building, with a bigger wing than the arts building, which of course has spoilt the beautiful symmetry of the original beaux-artsy plan of most campuses.
- Campus Placement Office**: Campus placement office, which has copies (free even) of the bank of Montreal's new book about career opportunities in the bank that likes people and students.
- Engineering Building**: Engineering building. Completely ignores the beaux-artsy old plan because few engineers have ever heard of a word like symmetry.
- Cow Barns**: Cow barns. An optional accessory on most campuses. If you've seen one you have smelt them all.

Instructions: hold your breath, pat a cow, take a deep breath.

RETURN TO START: Return to start. Stay awhile at the spot of your choice.

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Planned by McGill 300 Unit Co-Op

MONTREAL (CUP) — The McGill University student council is going after a solution to the housing problem.

Wednesday night (Nov. 6) the council voted acceptance of a plan that would see construction of a 300-unit self-sustaining co-op with rents no higher than \$48 a month. The plans were drawn up by a team of architects hired for the purpose.

The council will now seek financial support from the university or other sources. As well, it plans to buy up old houses in the student ghetto area. From conversion to co-op housing.

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