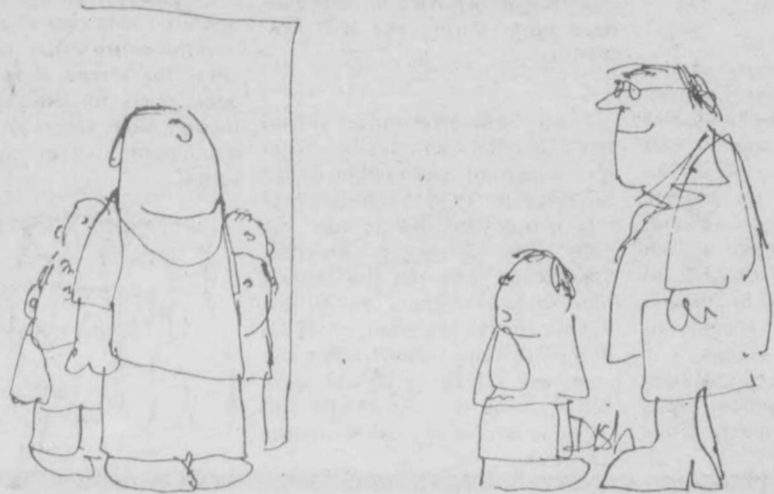


The International Union of Students:

a movement to fight illit

The following information was reprinted from:

- IUS 1 Magazine of the Democratization and Reform of Education.
- DEC's Literature List 1979-80
- Psychology today June 75



DAD! THERE'S A CHAP HERE DOING A POST-GRADUATE STUDY IN BEHAVIOURAL-COGNITIVE AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY... SHALL I KICK HIM ON THE SHIN?

The reform and democratization of education is one of the main objectives the *International Union of Students* has been struggling for since its creation, 31 years ago.

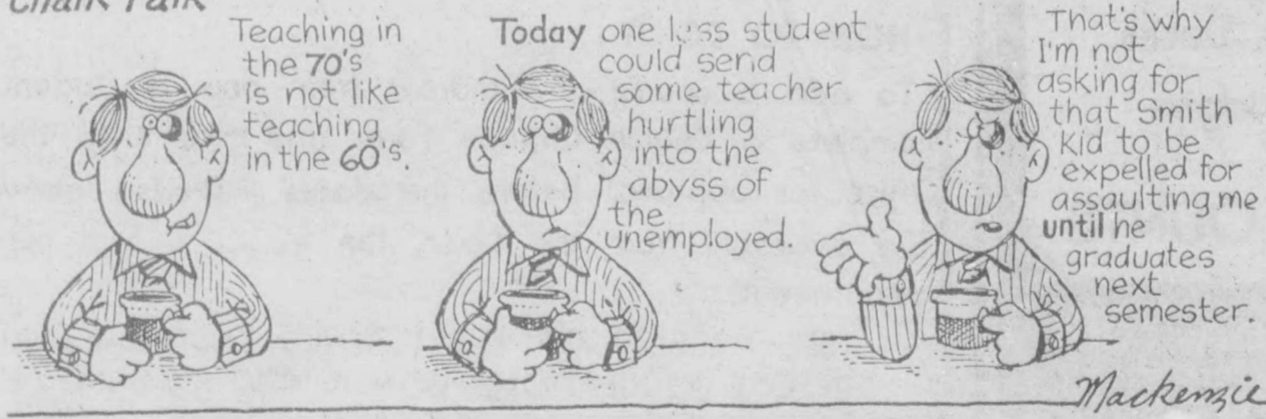
Areas that should be democratically controlled include the form and content of courses, assessment and validation procedures, the admission of students to institutions and the administration of institutions. There should also be continuous educational opportunity which should permit continuous part-time education throughout people's lives and provisions for full-time education courses.

A characteristic of the university in the capitalist countries is the failure to adapt the content and methods of education to the economic, social and cultural development of society. The insufficiency and continual reduction of budgets has, as a consequence resulted in a lack of staff, facilities and teaching materials.

The universities of Africa, Asia, and Latin America reveal the following specific features: a lack of any policy in respect to the planning of the educational system in accordance with the imperatives of these countries economic development; no understanding of the national realities of these countries with regard to either the form or the content of education; ignorance of the national languages, especially in the case of the African universities, and the imposition of the language of the former colonial power; a selective and anti-democratic admissions policy; a systematic tendency on the part of the neo-colonial regimes in Africa and Latin America to violate the autonomy of the university and suppress the student movement.



chalk Talk



The most restrictive higher educational systems are to be found in countries ruled by fascist and dictatorial regimes which are deeply hostile to education and culture and are even attempting to change higher educational institutions into centres for the dissemination of the fascist ideology.

In the socialist countries a solid basis has been created for a democratic educational system which serves the needs of the students, the working people and society as a whole.

Based on numerous activities in which the National Union of Students from all over the world have participated, the IUS concludes that to achieve their goals of education requires: 1. a guarantee to all youth of the simple possibility of approval to education at all levels on the sole basis of their capacities without discrimination as to sex, skin, colour, race, religion or political convictions, social status or social origin; 2. that the financing of education at all levels from state resources must be guaranteed; that the provision of adequate grants to cover all necessary living and studying express must be ensured; 3. the creation of conditions permitting workers to study; 4. that a choice of specialized studies be made available, taking into account the capacities and desires of the students concerned; 5. that the program, content, and structure of educational establishments be closely linked to the imperatives of the development in the service of the peoples and against the economic and ideological penetration of imperialism; 6. an educational content based on the appreciation of and esteem for the national cultures; 7. the elimination from study centres of all ideas and theories of facism and militarism; 8. that the educational system can be free, both in its financial and administrative aspects, from the control and influence of the monopoly of church and religious groups; 9. that the reform of education be applied in a systematic manner at all educational levels; 10. in universities, high schools, vocational schools, elementary schools, as part of the educational system as a whole; 11. that the educational system be adapted to the requirements of the country's social and economic development, in conformity with the interests of the people; 12. that one of the functions of education should be the training of specialists; while developing those capacities of students which are necessary for the satisfaction of the human needs of society; 13. that the budget for national education be sufficient to cover the needs of education in general and those of higher education in particular;