



editorial

Kindergarten syndrome

Last week an acquaintance of mine discussed the pros and cons (mostly cons) of this university's marking system with a doctor at the University Health Service. In between lively discourses on the climatic differences of Saskatoon, Peace River, and Edmonton, and their subsequent effect on dandruff control, my friend learned this:

-tetracycline is the most widely used prescription drug in the world.

-it is dangerous to pick your nose with a sharp pencil.

-students in North America suffer from about six times as many ailments as students in Great Britain.

This particular doctor believes our hyped-up illness syndrome is caused by the kindergarten approach to testing that North American universities take. In Britain exams are given once a year, he explained. It seems that over there students are recognized as adults, and as such are allowed to develop on their own initiative and at their own speed. Whether the student makes it or not come April exams, results are determined by his own approach to the work and not to a forced production schedule.

In contrast, universities here demand that their students start producing right from day one. Assignments, term papers, essays, and exams occur with depressing frequency. The doctor's view is that students here are treated as children who have to be force-fed step after step after chronological step. Lesson one must be consumed and vomited up in written form before moving on to lesson two.

Is that not just the way we are treated? Should we not be allowed to select, assimilate, and store knowledge without bearing the added burden of multiple exams, schedules, and deadlines?

Granted, there are flaws in any educational system ever developed. The merits and faults of ours can no doubt be debated up and down for an indeterminate amount of time. Nevertheless, the fact remains that we still have to face up to midterms and numerous assignments, possibly suffering from a higher number of tension-oriented afflictions than otherwise necessary.

This university's set-up (as we all know) places a great deal of mental and emotional strain on already overworked nervous systems. The good doctor's prescription: we must learn to laugh at the system and at ourselves in order to maintain dignity and peace of mind.

I wonder if British universities have need for a reading week?

by Kim St. Clair

Make universities exempt

The tenacity of the federal government in sticking to its recently-legislated freeze on prices and wages will likely be tested heavily in the weeks to come. Unfortunately for Canada's postal workers, fate has chosen the CUPW as an agent for that test.

Should the government through Postmaster General Bryce Mackasey allow the union even its more recently pared-down demand of a 51% wage increase, its inflation-fighting program could become a laughing stock. And if the postal workers are forced by law to accept increases under the new freeze, they would be getting screwed out of an increase that should have been justified years ago.

As well, the new freeze in itself could well become a testing agent for many a government-supported institution.

In my own mind, I don't think the federal government really considered very strongly the effects of its freeze on Canada's educational institutions, any more than the provincial government considered the needs of universities when it applied its own 11% spending increase ceiling just recently.

Few people, it seems, realize the importance of increasing spending on education at this time.

Statistics show that student enrolments are on the climb again, and those that peg the trends say students in high schools are once more turning to universities and colleges rather than looking for work.

In this light, it is difficult to say if institutions of higher learning are going to either increase tuitions, fire staff, increase class loads, or decrease quality of

Pig's Pen

Sex and the liverwort

Due to circumstances far beyond my control (i.e. midterms) I'm really not into writing in my usual frivolous style. What I am into, is cramming. Yup, I'm working on the sex life of the liverworts right now, which is nothing great in the way of porno, but is hopefully the difference between a pass and fail.

I hope.

Oh well, now what can a poor boy do? It's all the fault of some theorist who decided, 2 lab science courses for first year Arts students would result in a 'good, well-rounded education.' He can cram his well-rounded education in a place we all know and love.

All Art Students do not necessarily need, or want, such heavy-handed help with their educations.

The heavy tension trips are making me snappish, just like everyone else.

I have a far-too active imagination - I can almost see the Great God Registrar rising from it's grave to bury me in a rain of forms, if I blow it.

Now what scares me the most - the failing, or the forms I'd have to fill out? I think the paperwork.

letters

Savard retorts

I enjoyed Mr. Parent's letter to the *Gateway* of Oct. 16. However, he seems to have misunderstood my Oct. 9 letter.

Certainly, it would be extremely irresponsible to suggest space travel as even a partial solution to the over-

population problem. That battle must be fought and won here on Earth, and soon.

My letter was about the dangers inherent in an increasingly popular belief that alternatives to technology should be found, where innovation is strictly controlled, and complicated technologies phased out. One of the objections raised in my letter was that space travel would be necessary, not to remove Earth's surplus population, but to save some remnant of Earth's population when the Earth will become uninhabitable.

Regardless of the resolution of any man-caused crisis, such as overpopulation, nuclear war, resource depletion, ozone layer depletion, etc., a natural crisis could very probably render Earth inhabitable not in billions of years when the sun goes out, but in two thousand year, when the Earth's magnetic field reverses. And, unlike a billion-years, two thousand years is a time span meaningful in terms of previous human history.

The necessity for space travel capability to which I referred therefore has nothing to do with any future changes in the Earth's population in the meantime.

Also, I would like to correct an error in my Oct. 16 letter "Let U Proliferate." In referring to Dr. Paul Elrich's stand on fission power as given in his book "The End of Affluence", I accidentally confused his name with that of Dr. Robert C. Ettinger, of fame in connection with cyronics.

John Savard
Science 4

Handling the tourney

Next weekend the Northern Alberta Socks Association will be hosting an invitational

handball tournament against the north wall of Education II. All students are invited to compete against experts from the famous

Cape Canaveral Vehicle Assembly Building East Wall Men's Team; the up-and-coming World Trade Center and

Lower Manhattan Bouncers; and our own local champs, the Edmonton Plaza 'Mile-high Brick' team.

First prize will go to anyone who'll take it, and free sweat-socks will be given to all who attend wearing grubby sweatshirts and old Adidas. (No prizes awarded for Pumas).

Chuck Roast
Phys. Ed. III

No dogs allowed

This notice has been received from the Department of Physical Plant.

Effective October 15, 90th Avenue immediately east of HUB will be closed to reduce traffic and pedestrian conflicts under HUB. In conjunction with this closure, loading zone space under HUB will be expanded to meet needs along the east side of the roadway.

Visitor, staff and student parking east of HUB will be accessible from 110th street and 111th street on 90th Avenue.

As well this notice has been received.

Due to complaints received regarding the number of dogs on Campus and the increasing occurrence of unsightly areas, action may be necessary to remove unattended dogs. Staff members and students are requested to refrain from bringing dogs onto the Campus landscape.

So there, everybody.

Berry wesGateway

*Hey there. Been a while, hey? Well, I just got over a case of the clap and, I'll tell you, my typewriter ain't the only thing that hasn't been working.

This was no ordinary dose. The skin from my navel to my thighs turned a sort of yellow, and my tongue, no doubt to compensate for the inactivity in my abdomen, swelled up and got real stiff, so I couldn't eat for a week, and had to be fed intravenously. Then I got meningitis.

I'm OK now, though. The doctors say if I behave, I could live to be thirty-five.

*But I don't want you to worry about me. My old lady says she's going to get all cleaned up, and it won't happen again.

education, (or any combination) to toe the line on education spending. If institutions are going to increase tuitions (information in NUS's records predict it) are they going to be called "prices" and thereby be subject under the freeze? If the universities decide they need more staff under whose freeze would the prohibition lie in Alberta? Trudeau's or Lougheed's?

I feel all Canadians should adhere to and support the federal government's plan to fight inflation. I think it's a desperately needed plan.

But I also think educational institutions should be exempt from certain portions of the plan when and if it is seen they keep students out of school or deprive them of a top quality education.

by Greg Neiman

*The latest addition to the ever-growing population of associations on campus is the Polish Students Association, under co-chairmen Orest Kneisslski and Metro Headski. They'll be good company for the Chinese Students Association, the Arab Students Association, the Polynesian Students Association, etc. Say, isn't there supposed to be a Student body that encompasses all of them...like the Students Union?

*Looks like half-assed groups like Strawbs and REO Speedwagon can't draw enough people to make bringing them in worthwhile to the promoters. Now that Edmonton has the facilities to attract bigger names potential concert-goers seem to be get-



ting more selective, waiting for something worthwhile to spend their hard-borrowed bread on.

Speaking of which, Melanie may be a bust (ha, ha) but Loggins and Messina, on the same bill, should give you your money's worth. Coming in November.

*Who says you can't make a buck on campus these days? The Civil Engineering Club will be making money this fall - lots of it.

They're going to sponsor a large-scale Grey Cup Pool. There's one problem they have to overcome before they get rolling, however. But as soon as they can find an outdoor pool that's open in November, they'll be in business.