

A biological model for education

by Mary Lucas

What do you know about the Canadian Union of students? Well, if you are like most other students around here, probably all you know is that they keep sending you brochures on life insurance. And that's about all I knew until last May when I went to the CUS National Seminar in Winnipeg as one of the two delegates from York.

The Seminar topic: "Education in Society: Rhetoric versus Reality" was discussed by various speakers including Larry Anderson speaking on "Form and Structure."

His basic belief is that the university per se is a Bad Thing (he never explains why, except for saying "the university is a factory").

The university, he continues, should therefore be destroyed though he offers no advice on how this could be done and suggests no replacement for it. He opts for a society without any institutions (which is the ultimate in shallow thinking.)

Even Everdale, his example of such a society, has institutions; the difference is that the students themselves democratically establish them but they are institutions all the same.

Well since Mr. Anderson has virtually nothing of value to offer except a look into a certain kind of radical mind, why devote an entire article to his views? The chief reason is this: Mr. Anderson's views represent the most influential faction within CUS — although most of the conference delegates I spoke to did not share these views.

The students of York university pay \$4,500 per year to keep York in CUS, and if Mr. Anderson's speech represents the general trend of thought within CUS (as I think it does) then I think York would do well to follow other universities and drop out of CUS. Why not use our \$4,500 for a more useful purpose. How about some YSC scholarships?

Perhaps we could set up an organization with other universities better suited to our needs. This is my personal opinion on the matter, but all of us must make the decision.

Future articles will be devoted to further exploring the matter, so that you will have a sound basis for your decision.

The following are excerpts from a speech by Larry Anderson of the Dept of Psychology at Lakehead University.

"I think there are two kinds of people — there are people who will grow up to be doctors, engineers, people in business etc. and there are people here who say, "Screw that shit." I don't want to reform the university because I don't even like the university. I think that this analysis may be helpful to both groups.

"I think education and psychology and sociology must take into account a biological model.

"I don't think we're ready for models yet. We

got sidetracked in our educational system, and in our sociological thinking by trying to become too rapidly sophisticated in quantification and statistics and their models, so we have things like behaviourism and physicalism.

"There may be a better biological model than the one I'm going to use. The idea is the concept of metabolism — within that framework, we have anabolism and catabolism. Catabolism is essentially a building process and anabolism is essentially a destroying process (he has reversed the two terms — catabolism is the destroying process, not anabolism). If I confuse them, will some biologist tell me? And I am essentially the fool of wickedness and destruction. I'm not going to present you with a form, because within the body the destructive and constructive processes both do their job.

"So first of all the question is, "What form should education take?" and "Do we need to have a form of education?" Let's ask that question first.

"The first thing I'd like to say is that I'm not sure whether you need an educational system at all.

"Secondly, let's talk about the differentiations between those people who think that universities are passe, and those who want to reform them. The university structure as it exists today, whether you have a model of it or not is set up to serve a particular kind of function. That function is to feed people into the apparatus of the industry as it exists now, whether it's a community college or a provincial university.

"And so there will be some of you who will be interested in making that process more efficient and more liveable.

"You will be concerned over the fact that somebody has power over that university and that they can flunk 40% of you if the professor is having a bad day. But some of you are saying "No, let's construct counter-institutions." But I'm thinking that the kids at Everdale when they get to be our age may already be thinking in terms of no institutions whatsoever, not even creating counter-institutions, which is a term that everybody is throwing around.

"Right now I see society in a process of development. The term that I use is a biological term, although again a philosopher may tell me that it was originally physical. The term used by biologists is differentiation.

"One of the concepts of spirality, and what that means is that old forms appear at a new level. The best example that I can give is a child who fingerprints. He gets down there with his arms and his fingers and his whole body occasionally, and just, you know, making a nice kind of pattern that fits good. That kind of process has emerged now as another level of art."

to be continued

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A forum for comment and reaction. Excalibur will accept columns, comments, and cartoons from any member of the university.



Involvement is the issue

by Mark Rezun Winters I

It is becoming a known fact that York University is increasingly becoming the non-activist of all Universities in the whole of Ontario. The problem lies with the students themselves.

We came to university to acquire an education and to analyse the many phases of university life, not to spend our time boozing it up in residence elevators on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons.

Where were we on October 26, during the "International Day of Protest" for an end to the war in Vietnam? There were no more than 20 students from York. The

three whom I had occasion to talk to came from Glendon, the others belonged to the York Campus Socialist Group.

You don't have to be politically oriented to become part of the group. You don't have to be an anarchist, a Communist or a narrow-minded peacenik for that matter. The cause of the march was to denounce the Canadian government and its miserable economic system for its complicity in the war. Over 300 million dollars of Canadian currency is being fed into the American war. Why?

It is our duty as Canadian students to let the general public know where we stand on this issue. This issue ought to be a common cause of every free-thinking individual on our campus. But where was our support on October 26?

Here in Toronto the demonstration was supported by the Ontario, NDP Exec., the Canadian Union of Students, l'Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec, T. C. Douglas, David Lewis, Roland Morin (Quebec NDP president), the Voice of Women, etc.

There are too many of us that are so selfish. In the classes of Professor Broadbent who televises his lectures on politics, economics and society there are too many base individuals who can find nothing to do with their time except heckle the speaker when he mentions anything like Marx, or socialists or T. C. Douglas. I seem to encounter the same people fleeing their time away during the weekends — either boozing it up or frolicking about with their fast cars and steady flow of cash that their mummies and daddies constantly provide.

We ought to become more involved. Let our university acquire a real name. Let the other schools witness the mass involvement that we are able to produce. It matters not what form this involvement signifies as long as it is a rational display of power.

Stop pulling those goddamn fire alarms

by Mike Snook

Firemen from North York were required to answer three false alarms at York last Saturday night.

This is in keeping with our average for the last four years. But the firemen weren't happy; for some reason they take fire alarms seriously.

Resident students apparently don't regard the alarms with much more than "who gives a shit" attitude. They all stood in their respective cubby-hole windows and watched the red flashing lights pull up in front of their residence. I'm waiting for the first time some idiot starts a fire in his wastebasket and panics.

There is another reason that firemen don't like false alarms. There is an element of danger in riding a speeding fire-truck through North York to the university besides getting forever lost and marooned on campus.

During one response to a false alarm at York, a firetruck was involved in an automobile accident and a young man in his twenties in a car hit by the truck was killed. You might say the person who pulled the alarm is responsible. In fact, you might even say he is guilty of murder, indirectly. The next time you consider pulling a fire alarm for a joke, think of that.

This time the authorities have the name of one of the individuals who was apparently involved in pulling the alarm on Saturday. If he is found and proven responsible, he is liable for a \$500 fine

and over a year's imprisonment. Think of that the next time you wish to play a practical joke with

a fire alarm.

In other words, don't pull the fire alarms.

The view from the bottom of the pile.

by Larry Goldstein and Stuart P. Hertzog

Dear Ann Landers: A couple who met in this office three months ago have fallen in love. We are all for romance — we think it's wonderful — so please don't assume we are jealous cats. I myself am married and the two others who are helping me write this letter have attractive boyfriends.

The problem: The lovers cannot keep their hands off each other during office hours and it is sickening. Either she is nibbling on his ear by the water cooler or they are both standing by the window in the middle of the afternoon, her head nestled on his chest — just looking out at heaven knows what.

If he isn't at her desk, she's at his desk. If she goes to the file cabinet, he goes, too.

Can you suggest something? It's more than we can stand. — **COLOR US NAUSEATED.**

Dear Nauseated: No office manager around there? If there is, something will be done about this revolting situation before long.

If not, turn your heads the other way. The love birds will probably get married and that will put an end to the kitchey-cooin'.

The above letter & answer appeared in the Star last week. The letter of course is silly enough to warrant filing in the waste basket. The answer is obscene.

There is something infinitely sad about the whole Ann Landers bag. Her's is a country where babies are bitten by rats, where a racist fascist gets millions of votes and where cops riot against demonstrating kids. And yet she calls love caresses "revolting". She presumes to give advice to people. And people take her seriously.

Obviously, Ann Landers is one up tight broad, afraid of her own and others' sexuality. She's doing her best to influence others into her own sickness. She is much more in the mainstream of the American political tradition than say, Eugene McCarthy.

Her attitude created the atmosphere in which racism thrives. For racism is an aberration of sexuality. The American white is sexually terribly afraid of the black American. This is the main reason why the white middle class hates and oppresses the black. This is why the white middle class puts down radicals as pinko perverts.

Ann Landers' answer graphical-

ly illustrates the hysterical fear that Americans feel about sex. It is because of this fear that they continue, in the face of all that is reasonable and just, to murder the black and to tear their country apart. This fear keeps them lashing out at all those who would liberate the libido. Sexual freedom and political liberation are inextricably intertwined.

Perhaps Ann Landers will live long enough to know what revolting really is.

We are really happy that Dean Saywell enjoys our column. Accusing us of not getting our facts straight, however, does not answer the question raised by our column.

Why, in the face of the petition signed by numerous top students and student leaders, did the York administration fire Dick Pope? Why were delegations of students seeking his re-instatement stalled and finally dismissed with no answer?

This is our university and we feel entitled to an answer. Now that we know you read the column, Dean Saywell, perhaps you'll answer these questions.