

Yearly election edit

OF MINOR MIRACLES

By the time you read this it will be a little late to get into the race for students' union office (nominations deadline 2 p.m. Wed.) Hopefully there will be two or more strong candidates contesting each position.

Gateway editors traditionally write election editorials, bemoaning on one hand, the dearth of candidates, and on the other, the excess of empire builders.

This year we are going to rejoice that people run at all.

If there are acclamations we will be aware that often there has been a contest of sorts behind the scenes. Not all of the politicking is done campaign week.

If there are empire builders we will remember that there is no hard line between healthy and unhealthy ambitions, or between symbiotic and exploitative contacts.

We hear a lot of wisecracks—this time of year—about empire building and "glory boys." The acid may be mostly from chewing sour grapes.

It seems to us something of a minor miracle

that anyone is willing to carry the load of responsibility involved in the executive students' union positions. It is quite easy to stand back and criticize but relatively difficult to do a competent job.

Without their efforts a great many useful things wouldn't get done, and some other things would get done for us but not necessarily according to our liking. In short, without students' union leaders the university administration would run our affairs for us. Which would be rather sad.

We don't quite understand what it is that motivates our ambitious friends to seek office. But we are glad for it, and we suspect that in many cases it is love of the work itself even more than love of prestige.

We are glad someone is willing to expend the time and the emotional energy.

We are grateful to that ten per cent of our fellow students who carry ninety per cent of the administrative load. They are welcome to such glory and honor as they can get.

It doesn't come free.

Featurette

Japanese World Revealed

Second and final instalment of a report by Bob Church on his trip to Japan last summer as a representative of World University Service.

Crowds of pleasure seekers everywhere and one sometimes wonders if these people are happy or not. There is something frantic about them, milling around, all feet and elbows, literally pushing their way off trains so uniformed platform attendants can push more people back on. These attendants are necessary for the crowd wouldn't pack in tight enough for the doors to close without their help. People who have been pushed from their hanging safety straps stand with one arm stretched above the crowd for the simple reason that there isn't enough room to retrieve the lost appendage.

The Japanese people's fondness for crowds is well known, but as far as housing is concerned most of them have little choice in the matter. The cold facts come abruptly to life when the morning paper reports another fire has wiped out a number of people asleep in the attic of some shop or the daily toll of pedestrian deaths was a mere four or five yesterday, in Tokyo alone.

VIGOROUS INDUSTRIES

But let me not leave a false impression, for Japan has a bustling vigorous-economic climate. Industry is divided into two groups; one segment is the large modern company, which, because of a big outlay for advanced techniques has succeeded

in greatly increasing the productivity of its labor force; the other is a more traditional sort of firm, which with little capital and a great deal of sweat manages to be competitive. In the giant Sony plant which is as antiseptically clean and well lighted as a hospital, white garbed transistor technicians equipped with masks sit on the assembly line which is world famous for its electronics.

To me the most astonishing fact about the Japanese was their eagerness to read the vast array of printed matter available. In one section of Tokyo most of the shops are literally stacked from floor to ceiling with volumes and volumes of every sort of literature. I was told the number of volumes published every year is among the highest per capita in the world. This fact, coupled with one of the world's highest literacy rates, means that the Japanese will automatically move ahead due to the time spent engrossed in books and newspapers which I was told may be lacking in integrity.

Upon association with Japanese students I was soon to realize how important it was to them to belong to the proper clique. Because belonging to the clique or faction is deemed so important to personal success and status, ambitious Japanese try to join an influential group at a young age and this in turn means that it is important to go to the right university.

ON THE INSIDE TRACK

The great increase in high schools since the end of the War has result-

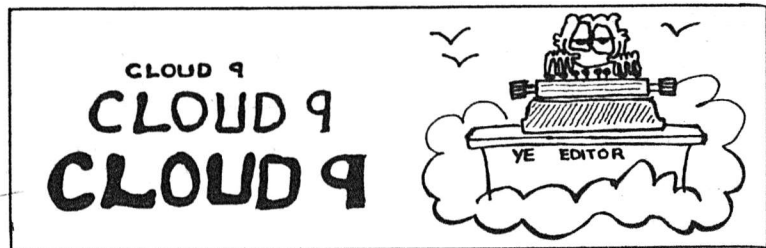
ed in a tremendous flow of graduates to the traditionally honored universities. Competition is so fierce for entrance into Tokyo and Kyoto Universities, the top two traditional schools, that chances of being admitted to either of them on the first try is limited to a very select few. The ambitious and prestige conscious student may take entrance exams for several years rather than settle for a college of equal academic quality but lower prestige. The reason for the pull of Kyoto and Tokyo universities is that graduates of these two universities have an inside track on successful careers in business and government.

PRESTIGE!

The other two prestige symbols of any honorable Japanese student (besides being in dire need of a haircut) is to carry a Left wing Iwanami book or magazine to show he belongs to the intelligensia and to take part in demonstrations which are sure to be exaggerated in great prominence in the headlines of the newspapers.

One only longs for home when, jammed in a baseball stadium to watch the Braves and the Tigers battle in a close ball game, who should come to bat but the local hero, none other than a grossly overweight Don Newcombe, star center fielder of the Braves.

Truly, one of the world's most fascinating countries, a country whose ideology and traditions place it in another world if it weren't for the young peoples' provocative Hollywood dress and blaring jazz.



Aunt Phoebe has been giving me a hard time for defending Canadian University Students Overseas.

"It only appeals to the do-gooders" she snorts, "and they're likely to do more harm than good for Canada."

My feeling is quite the opposite. The CUSO idea has a strong appeal to me, yet Auntie has to admit that I don't fall easily into the "do-gooder" category. (And on the other hand, I see no necessary harm to Canada from representation by do-good types abroad.)

In my feelings the CUSO project is one of the most exciting and worthwhile of the myriad opportunities open to university students.

And my motives are not particularly pious; they don't involve, in the first instance, benefit either to Canada or to the "ignorant and suffering" whom CUSO serves. For me the first consideration is the opportunity to expand my world; my contacts, my understanding, my sympathy, my ability.

Only after this, only of secondary importance—to me—is the "do-good" consideration.

John Chappel, medical doctor—president of the U of A Students' Union, 1956-57—and his wife Valerie, have taken a similar opportunity to expand.

John is working in central Malaya with a clinical team inspired by the late Dr. Tom Dooley.

Somehow I don't see John as a "do-gooder," with its connotations of naivete and asceticism. Rather I suspect that he has gone to Kuala Lipis, Malaya, because it offers him scope of a rather unlimited sort—for adventure, for learning, for living, or loving, for enjoying—and the hardship the "sacrifice" thrown in only for good measure after the cup is already full.

Here I am again, Aunt Phoebe, waving to you from Cloud 9.
le baron



THEORY: If the university wishes to show prospective students the institution as well as allow the general public an insight into the goals of the campus the best way is via a Varsity Guest Weekend.

EQUIPMENT: Retain 1,000 students, send the rest home for a weekend; schedule exams around and about the selected date; 300 hosts, a special edition of Gateway, 21 songs and a cast of thousands; 15,000 "imaguest" lapel pins; 400 "imahost" pins; 16,000 tons of mud; three gold key blazers; 5,000 junior high school students; 75 ex campo VIP's; press corps; and a campus.

METHOD: Suspend the blazers as one would hang a carrot before an ass's eyes. This will undoubtedly attract an ass for the job of organization. Forbid entrance to all professors, lest they give the visitor an idea there is something academic about a university. Give all hosts a specific job, so they may run around like decapitated chickens. Hold an ice-carving competition; for the university's motto is "Campus is a carnival, anno toto." Print the Gateway in green and yellow that its print may not be read. Make sure that there is definitely not enough parking space, then advise press, radio, and TV and the JC's the affair is on.

Stand back and wait for population explosion.

OBSERVATIONS: It takes precisely one day to track 16,000 tons of mud into every building on campus. Not one high school student learned anything about his tentative university career. All students who went home for the weekend got their term papers in on time. None of the students who stayed did. 5,000 people cannot drink coffee in the SUB cafeteria at one time. Radsoc managed to give each guest the opinion that all students listen to CJCA. It is impossible to see the Physmatics show in the six minutes the average display must be allotted if everything is to be seen.

CFRN lost 65,000 listeners in one day of broadcasting.

RESULTS: One campus-sized migraine; one lost weekend.

CONCLUSION: That the best way to give tentative university students an idea of the institution is not via VGW.

Red Flags At Western

LONDON (CUP) Two communist flags made their appearance over the University of Western Ontario Tuesday.

The flags were hoisted by members of UWO's newly-organized communist party, according to a story in the UWO student paper, The Gazette. They "are a symbol of defiance

and anger at the apathetic attitude students exhibited when they were told in earlier copies of this paper that a communist party was to be formed at Western," says a story in The Gazette.

The party says it now has about 30 students interested in its activities.

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