

CON

A pun is a pain in the ass, often, and an extruder of groans, frequently. But the discerning reader(s) will note the punning ambiguity in the title of this column: does it mean "con" as in "pro and con" ("for and against")? Or does it mean "con" as in "confidence game"? Which does it mean?

It means both. It partakes of the first meaning because I have, since infancy and despite the advice of many good people, tended always to accentuate the negative. This bad life-attitude has engendered in me a deep pessimism, which has in turn transformed the world for me into a perpetual source of surprise and delight, because I am continually astonished that things generally are not much, much worse. The column's title partakes of the second meaning ("con game") because, to my deep regret, almost everything I have written lacks utterly that manly straightforwardness, which I so greatly admire but seem fated never in this life to attain.

The point to the foregoing pedantry is that one need not and should not take very seriously anything that appears in this column, because it will be testy or devious or both. Do not, that is, read these lines with the same solemn awe that you quite properly bring to the columns of, say, the *Edmonton Journal*.

But what (you may ask) is this admittedly snide and unpleasant little column going to be about? We know how you intend to write it; we suspect that it is pointless to ask why, but we feel entitled to know what you intend to mander on about in this place every week. Well, that is a fair question. The trouble is, I cannot answer it, specifically; generally, I will concern myself here with those things which annoy or amuse me.

For example, the next few columns will concern fraud in education. Now, by "fraud in education" I do not mean what goes on in high school. That is a book it itself — a grotesque book, a book of high wild humor. We have, most of us, been exposed to North American secondary education, and found that it is not catching... but so bizarre as to belong firmly in the realm of fable.

For example, I recall with a fondness closely bordering on love a football coach named Murray. This man was just intelligent enough to walk using alternate legs, seldom or almost never attempting two successive steps with the same leg. Naturally, when off the gridiron, he taught English. And he was delightful. Daily he pelted us from his merry bag of misinformation ("A noun's

an action word, fellas.") and insanity. This gentleman, had not the light of his minor merit paled in the blaze of his capital renown as a football coach, would have won immortal honor in the field of pronunciation; his greatest contribution to this discipline came on the day he detected and corrected an error which Britons, in their bumbling, foreign obtuseness, had overlooked for at least a thousand years: he gave London's principal river a long a, thus rhyming it with "games" — quite a coup, this, for himself, right reason, and phonics.

And then there was Good Old Smith. Good Old Smith was not quite as smart as Murray, but he did the best he could with what he had, and in his quiet, unassuming way he was, I firmly believe, every bit as good an educator as Murray. Good Old Smith used to figure he had earned his money (Bless him! I cherish the memory of Smith) if he could, in the course of the year, get his students to understand that, even though we were living in the nineteen-hundreds, we were still nevertheless, and for that reason, simultaneously living in the Twentieth Century! Year after year he labored and fought and won out and got across his breathtaking concept. Good Old Smith, Good Old Murray, Good Old ...

And so on and so forth. Everyone has in memory his or her own mob of secondary school big smilers, charlatans, low zanies, and gay, bold liars. Instances and examples might be multiplied endlessly, to no purpose, since fraud in education implies the possibility of honesty in education, and it seems hardly fair to tax a quasi-custodial institution with failure to educate.

No, by "fraud in education" I do not mean what goes on in high school, since that curious institution seems essentially to consist, in this steadily delighted and increasingly insane hemisphere, of a vast and tacit agreement between student and teacher to forebear disclosing each other's incompetence. And I do not mean supersubtle professional chicanery, nor supersophisticated electronic student cheating gadgetry.

By educational fraud I mean *University* fraud — the old, the tried, and the true. I mean those traditions! — nay, hallowed and heartwarming — techniques, which have stood the test of time, which we all know and revere, and which we have all, at one time or another, as students or teachers, used to evade the irksome and sometimes hateful chore of education.

by Ambrose Fierce

Rhodes scholarship

Applications have been invited for three Rhodes Scholarships which will be awarded in the Prairie Provinces this fall. They will entitle the winners to study at Oxford University in England for two and possibly three years commencing in October, 1977.

For the first time this year women may apply for the Scholarship. Canadian or British subjects, preferably in their third or fourth year of University work, who are unmarried and between eighteen and twenty-four years of age, are eligible for the Scholarships. Alberta candidates appear before a provincial selection Committee.

Three Alberta finalists will proceed to compete with finalists from Manitoba and Saskatchewan for three Scholarships to be awarded in the Prairie Provinces. Although scholastic ability is of importance, such factors as character, qualities of leadership and interest in out-door sports, are carefully considered. Some definite quality of distinction, whether in intellect or character or a combination of these, is the essential requirement.

The Rhodes Scholarships, established in 1904 under the Will of Cecil Rhodes, are the best known of international scholarships. They have been the model for many similar awards in Canada, the United States and elsewhere. Rhodes scholars proceed to Oxford where unique opportunities exist for general undergraduate studies and for advanced work in both the humanities and the sciences.

The value of each Scholarship is approximately \$5,200 per annum. Applications

for the 1977 awards may be made until October 25, 1976. Application forms and particulars may be obtained from University Registrars or from the Secretary of the Alberta Selection Committee, Mr. S. M. Chumir, 210-639-5th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 0M9.

Immigration downswing

OTTAWA (CPA-CUP) - The 32,359 immigrants who came to Canada during the first quarter of 1976 represented a drop of 25.5 percent from the same period last year, according to statistics released by the Department of Manpower and Immigration.

Immigration has been declining in all categories of immigrants and from all world areas, reflecting regulation changes announced in 1974 that link immigrant flow more closely to the needs of Canada's labour market.

About 55 per cent of independent immigrants had pre-arranged employment, while the rate for dependent immigrants and those with relatives in Canada was 25 per cent.

Europe remains the major source of immigrants, although the first quarter flow declined to 35 per cent of the total, from 42.2 per cent in the first quarter last year.

Asia and the Pacific increased to 26.9 per cent from 24.3 per cent; Africa and the Middle East increased to 8.8 per cent from 7.4 per cent; Western Hemisphere increased to 19.6 per cent from 17.3 per cent; and the U.S. increased to 9.7 per cent from 8.8 per cent.



SERVICES POLICY BOARD

Students' Union requires two students at large to sit on the Services Policy Board. Responsibilities include formulating policies that govern all S.U. Business and Service operations. Please apply to Rm. 256 SUB.



ART GALLERY COMMITTEE

The Students' Union requires 12 students at large to sit on the Art Gallery Committee. Responsibilities will include choosing shows for the SUB Art Gallery, assisting with the hanging of shows, etc. Please apply to Rm. 256 SUB or phone Janet Moore, Arts and Crafts Supervisor at 432-4547.

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U of M boycott

WINNIPEG (CUP) - The University of Manitoba Students' Union has called for a class boycott on National Student Day (NSD), November 9, while the faculty association has supported the day in every aspect except that one.

Association president Martin King said calling for a boycott could be interpreted as the breaking of faculty's collective agreement or infringing individual academic freedom.

The association's board of representatives urged its members September 13 to "draw National Student Day to the attention of students, avoid scheduling of tests and exams on that day, and, if possible discuss the relevant issues in class that day."

National Student Day was proposed at a May meeting of the National Union of Students (NUS) to demonstrate student opposition to inadequate student aid, rising tuition fees and educational cutbacks that are limiting accessibility to post-secondary education.

FEES DUE By September 30

The last day for payment of fees is September 30th. If a student is paying by instalments (terms), the amount of the first instalment is the First Term assessment and the last day for payment is September 30th; the amount of the second instalment is the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 instalment charge and the last day for payment is January 17th.

A penalty of \$15.00 will be charged on any payment made or postmarked after these dates. If payment has not been made by October 15 for First Term fees and by January 31st for Second Term fees, registration will be subject to cancellation and the student to exclusion from classes.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section F of the Registration Procedures booklet or the calendar entitled "University Regulations and Information for Students".

Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are to be paid by the date indicated on their fee assessment notice which is to be mailed to them.