

Down the rathole

The Promotions Committee recently published a pamphlet entitled "The Vision", apparently intended to supply students with information on coming campus events. It failed to fulfill this function.

With the exception of a very brief summary of coming events, the publication consists of a collection of crude jokes and immature comments that a good high school paper would be ashamed of. Some of the contents, beside being somewhat offensive, were bordering on libel.

Persons appointed by students' council to executive positions have a responsibility to conduct themselves in keeping with our status as supposedly intelligent adults. This excludes amateurish attempts to compete with FLASH or MAD magazines.

Any publication by the Promotion Committee should primarily be informative, and bring our attention to the many worthwhile and deserving events which take place almost daily on this campus.

Otherwise, student money is merely being poured down the rathole.

A cowardly move?

Our well-known history department, which last year raked Alberta educators for producing University entrants of downright dubious quality, has this year come up with something positive to remedy things—at least on campus.

Students may come here knowing absolutely nothing; but they may leave knowing a little more history than previous classes.

This year the department is offering a freshman history course which is pioneering a new approach to the whole problem of teaching frosh anything.

Instead of jamming the entire range of civilized history into a shallow survey course, the department is offering to interested students a course offering far more intensive study of certain periods of history.

This, obviously, offers far more opportunity for the student to become interested, to develop some insight into his study, to range through enough aside material to develop a "feel" for the situation in its historical context.

History should train the individual to absorb and retain a quantity of facts; and should also develop the ability to assess these facts so that the individual can learn from experiences of others.

But the fact that the department has taken

steps to improve the impact of its courses on students should not mean that the need has passed for testing students.

Last year's sensationalism in the popular press was undesirable; the results of educational research as they were reported had no business being as widely misinterpreted, misunderstood and misrepresented as they were.

However, the department still has an obligation—as have all departments offering courses which are continuations of high school courses—to study the quality of the annual crop of entrants to its courses.

We hope that the department didn't cut out the tests in a generalized reaction to the unfavorable effects of their releasing their results as they did.

If the department—and the other like departments—are to be able to offer constructive suggestions for the improvement of teaching approaches at the secondary school or the university level, then continuing tests should be conducted annually to assess the weight of eventual changes.

We are glad to see the history department coming up with something new. We hope they didn't get so involved in designing the change that they lost perspective on the investigations which pointed up the need for change.

Blue ribbon stock?

One of five female freshettes will be dubbed Miss Freshette 1961, Saturday evening. She and her cohorts will have received more attention in one week than most co-eds can expect during their complete university career.

Who ever she may be—Congratulations!!!!

The first of these meaningless honors will soon be followed by similar accolades to a similar group of girls by engineering and education. Honors based on outstanding physical characteristics are handed out on North American campuses much as blue ribbons at a county fair.

Cattle, horses, and dogs receive these ribbons and other paraphernalia. The award is meaningful, if not to the animal, at least to the owner. Represented are years of selective breeding and careful training to produce one fine productive beast. Beauty Queens are, particularly on this campus, flukes of nature with no purpose or use aside from affording entertainment at dances.

In an intellectual mecca such as the University of Alberta there should also be a contest to determine Queen of the Eggheads.

Freedom of choice

In an age when the motto, "Purge him, he has a new ideal," has caused the concept of freedom to be ludicrous, it is reassuring to hear a National Leader reply as did Lester B. Pearson Monday in Con Hall.

When questioned about the danger of communist infiltration into our Canadian Universities, Mr. Pearson in effect replied that if our freedom of thought is such as to outlaw foreign ideologies then the state of our nation and democracy is at a very low ebb.

Within the framework of our national government there is through fear of Russia, no opening for a communist in either civil service

or political functions. What is right in theory becomes in fact a dangerous ideology. There is little doubt of the necessity of this action and there is little doubt as to the theoretical impropriety of such a ruling.

To forbid foreign beliefs on our campuses because they are unacceptable to the majority of students and Canadians or because the Government forbids them is a tyranny. To call our government a democracy there must be unlimited freedom. Only when this freedom is an infringement upon another's right or the safety of the nation is endangered should any movement be considered to eliminate this infiltration.

An observation

It is amazing the amount of space one can fill with Lester B.



scrabble by chris evans

I have before me a most spurious piece of illiterature . . . The 'Vision' it is called, and apparently it is intended for "idiots" and (here I am confused) quote "disillusioned Conservatives" unquote. I am not surprised that the editor and publisher, idiots both, have distributed this kindergarten klapptrap for the edification of other idiots. Probably, this dirty little rag is just about the scope of the 'vision' that one would expect an idiot to see, very comparable to filthy postcards. John J. Barr, Esq., and John Irwin, Esq., are somewhat familiar to the U of A: it was Mr. Barr who last year candidly referred to our valuable foreign exchange students as being 'Seedy' . . . Correct me if I am wrong, Mr. Barr. And Mr. Irwin can always be found trumpeting about SUB or walking through the valley of the shadow of apathy, his loudhailer and his loud blazer, they comfort him. Do you recall the time, Mr. Irwin, that I caught you stealing invitations to the leadership conference?

'The Vision' is a disgusting exhibition and the greatest argument against the Commotions Committee that it has been my pleasure to put forth. In two palgiarized pages our campus 'jolly boys' have managed to cram a most comprehensive collection of race prejudice, filth, libel and slander. No thinking student should allow such a revolting publication to stand. It is an insult to university journalism standards. As an example of extreme bad taste, it puts Scrabble back on the Religious Page.

Echhh Dept.: Sock dances have got to go. Why students at the University level should be compelled to cavort about in stockinged, smelly feet on a floor that was built to withstand the slings and arrows of outrageous hobnailed boots, is beyond me. I don't know about you, but I had to peel off my socks with a paring knife after last Saturday's dance in the gym. The floor was so slippery with sour sweat that one performed the slip n' slop rather than the rock n' roll. And the acrid

odor of that olfactory gauntlet was enough to justify anyone wearing a gas mask or in the alternative, cutting off his schnozz. All that hot air from Frosh Court didn't help, either. Maybe the problem could be solved if everyone attending these dances wore soft soles to appease the heels in the phys ed department.

Stan Kenton is returning. Here we goooooo again. All Brubeck fans and conscientious objectors to the rear, please.

All of a sudden, comes a pang of conscience. Apologies to house ec. Methinks I have been too harsh. Did you know, Ladies, that one of your august Alumni makes the best plum pies in town? Let's put the whole pickle down to sour grapes and from now on I'll keep my fingers out of the soup and eat crow.

Late Flash: Ye Olde Blue Cowe will rise againe!

Dregs from the cup

Many students on campus may be surprised to learn there is one cup on campus not dedicated to liquids. Canadian University Press (CUP) organizes Gateway and other Canadian undergraduate publications, uniting them with a national wire press service. The ultimate aim of his CUP is an increased students' knowledge of Canada as a whole and in particular, knowledge of student activities in other sections of the nation.

This column should and may contain weekly blurbs and authorized plagiarisms from publications of other CUP members.

Now that they have advanced to the status of a semi-weekly newspaper, University of Saskatchewan appears to feel it has no need for more exchange students on its campus, or does not find it worthwhile to increase its foreign enrolment.

A would-be U of S scholar from British Guiana, Shaheed Mohamed arrived in Regina for fall registration in his pharmacy course. He knew no one there, and receiving something less than an overwhelming welcome, spent two lonely days in his hotel room. Disgruntled, he left for home.

If it had not been for a Manitoba WUS committee, the South American would have returned home with an extremely uncomplimentary impression of Canada and Canadians. Rescued by the Manitobans during

an airplane stopover in Winnipeg on his discouraging trip home. Shaheed was treated as a prospective U of M student. He spent the night at the home of a WUS member, obtained acceptance to the university and was ready to attend classes in his newly adopted surroundings the following day.

Even though his Manitoba career was cut short by a cable from home, Shaheed Mohamed did have two days with U of M. He could have left with only two Regina days behind him.

The story has been happier for other foreign students who have been welcomed to Winnipeg by the WUS committee. A similar program of introduction and orientation assistance is carried out at the University of Alberta by the Graduate Students' Association.