

poet's corner

A FABLE FOR FACULTIES

There once was a teacher, a new appointee
Impressed by his scholarship—to a degree—
Who hated all textbooks. Their authors and editors
Were only poor drudges harrassed by their creditors,
Inspired by a bill for a ruptured appendix,
A pair of red tonsils, a broken-down Bendix;
Unscholarly underlings, royalty misers,
Or—meanest of pedagogues—popularisers!
His reading lists, culled with the fondest caresses,
Had trade books and tomes from the scholarly presses,
But never—the mere possibility vexed—
Would he lower himself by requiring a text!

When he started converting his theory to practice,
He learned that a rose is a rose is a cactus;
The town, a black hamlet in dark Pennsylvania,
Was not an asylum for bibliomanis;
The public library was strictly from hunger,
The druggest a part-time pornography monger,
The stationer featured whodunit and comic,
The 5-and-10, popular science (atomic),
And just before Christmas one found a few copies
Of books in nooks in quaint gifte shoppes.
It takes mighty Macy or bookish Brentano
To build the mens sana in corpore sano!

The college library, by prexy and prudence
Confined to one copy for five hundred students,
Reserved the best books with the Deweyest decimal,
But your chances of reading were infinitesimal.
Some were lost and some stolen (which evil is lesser?)
And some were withdrawn by the jullest professor.
When the new teacher bogged in a learned morass,
The students, of course, had no books in the class,
So he couldn't achieve academic salvation
By fixing their eyes on the clinching quotation
But read it at length while the audience snored
Or scrawled it with infinite pain on the board.

One day on the campus he happened to stop
For a package of butts in the College Co-op,
And there in a haven of book-laden shelves
Were students and faculty helping themselves—
Not sweating in line growing edgy and nervous

But gleanng God's plenty arranged for self-service!
Clear, readable primers, staid, scholarly sources
Designed for all sorts and conditions of courses!
Fat cloth-bound collections, slim paper-bound bargains
In English and Russian and technical jargons!
His students perusing—not crude oversexed books—
But old and new classics—and all of them textbooks!

The moral is clear: Now he knows at a glance
A textbook by Tinker or Evers or Chance;
He's honored as one of the prominent sittees
On all of the textbook selection committees;
He eagerly greets all the publishers' peddlers,
Whom once he regarded as bothersome meddlers;
His outlook on life had acquired a new format;
His beautiful wife is no longer a doormat;
He seldom is vexed and he never looks sinister;
He quotes from his text with the zeal of a minister;
And his students—with readable textbooks to stick to—
Are eagerly learning, mirabile dictu!

ODE TO THE PRESIDENT on His Most Successful Handling of the Cuban Crisis by JER

Crisis, crisis, everywhere
I don't know what to think.
It seems no matter what I do
The World is turning pink.

I try in vain
To teach and train,
But all to no avail.
The World's gone mad
It's now the jad
To trod the Marxist trail.

Yet I am leader of the brave,
The noble and the free.
Despite all gripes, I know I'm right
My name is Kennedy.

I'll wave the flag!
I'll drop the bombs!
I don't care who gets hurt.
The only things that interest me
Are Russians in the dirt.

Crippled bodies, coffins, corpses,
I'll set in bloody whirl.
I'd rather do most anything
Than give those pigs the World.

STUDENT OPINION

by STEVAN D. KARON

"Do you believe that Canada's joining the U.S.A. is inevitable?"

"This is possible. However, if this country continues to be run by incapables such as Mr. Thief'n'Faker we will probably be taken over since we won't be able to make up our minds."

Male, 3rd Year Arts

"I believe that Canada will never join the United States for the very good reason that they don't want us."

Female, L.M. 2nd Year Bus. Admin.

"No. You can't have a complete economic union without a political union, and Canadians will never go for political incorporation into the U.S.A."

Male, J.R., 4th Year Arts

"I would like to say this about that . . ."

Male, B.L., 1st Year Arts

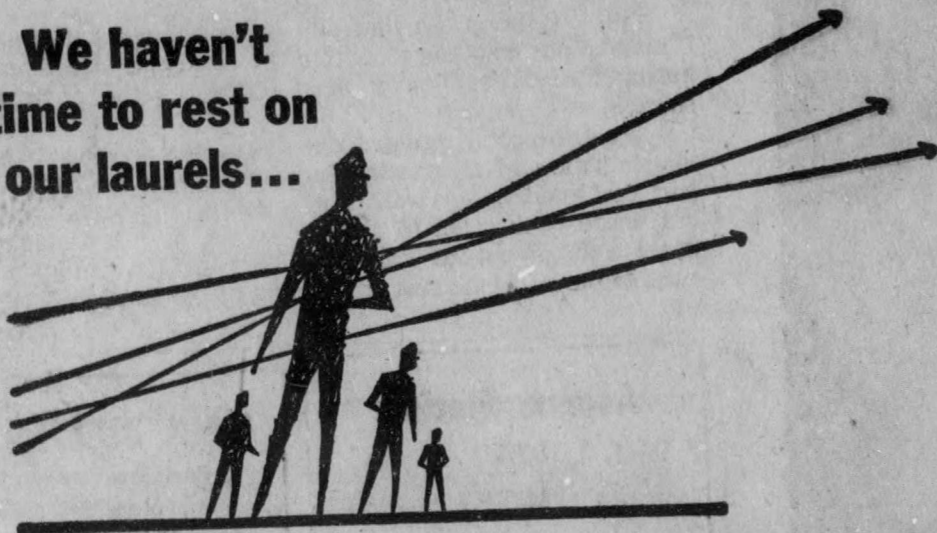
"In the long run, perhaps, not in my own life time, this can not but be inevitable. Economically and militarily our destinies are inseparably intertwined at the present moment. Political integration will come eventually when the forces of nationalism die. Canada is nationalistic now, in a time when nationalism is old fashioned."

Male, J.C., 4th Year Arts

"No. I believe that it would be an economic impossibility for the United States. American business would never raise enough capital to invest in our Maritimes."

Male, C.C.R., 3rd Year Arts

We haven't
time to rest on
our laurels...



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