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Human Insects or Knowledge Expansion?

This year some of our professors have decided individually that our standards of education should be raised. As yet this policy does not seem to be backed by the university and all the faculty.

We think that in a university there should be a high co-ordinated standard for all courses. University degrees should not be won without effort. We also think that there is too much value placed by all, students and faculty alike, on a numerical mark for a course. This seems to stem from the motivating power behind most students that better marks will eventually provide better jobs and thus more money from a university education.

But our biggest complaint is that the university is not fulfilling its proper function. It is being prostituted to provide a trade school not only in science and engineering, but in arts courses as well, as a means for ambitious people to make more money in response to a desire overwhelming our present society. The university today is not primarily interested in a quest for knowledge. It is only a clearing house where the printed page is sold by word and idea to its customers.

We heard a student complain a few days ago that his professor gave all the class low marks on a test because most of the class used no originality. The professor was undoubtedly correct. But are the students wholly at fault? Our educational system seems to concentrate on making parrots out of us. We are taught to mouth rules and ideas of others and we are marked accordingly.

In the sciences, both pure and applied, students must follow rules and formulae that are all worked out for them. Similarly in most of the arts courses students are just as limited. In hardly any of the courses are we taught to think, to reason or to be original. We are taught to be precise, and to be exact and to remember facts and ideas and even to connect those ideas. We are taught to apply what we learn; otherwise there would be no changes which the



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AMENDMENT

ARTICLE IX. FINANCIAL
Sect. 3 (a) On or before the second Friday of October there shall be held a preliminary budget meeting, at which the Financial Committee of the SRC shall present to the SRC its budget for the year. This proposed budget shall contain estimates from all organizations created under the SRC which wish to draw on the general fund. From these budgets the SRC shall, at a second meeting, determine the budget for the year. (b) Finally the fifth and tenth days following the preliminary budget meeting a second budget meeting shall be held at which the SRC shall decide upon the budget for the year.
Sect. 5 If an organization should require funds before the budget is passed, that organization may make application to the SRC at any meeting of the SRC for the necessary amount of funds. Such an application... of the SRC.
Section II. If the budget... protest. The budget or item finally approved shall be the budget or item for the year. The above amendments have been placed before the Students' Representative Council by the SRC Treasurer.

world today calls progress. Scientific progress in machines or chemistry or economic theories is not any real addition to knowledge. This addition to knowledge should be the basic purpose of universities.

Everybody has taken Freshman Mathematics here at UNB. Everybody can then understand the limitless permutations and combinations that can be derived from the millions of 'facts' and ideas now known.

Today all that we are learning, in most cases, is to make up these existing facts and ideas into new permutations and combinations. We go about it in the same way as our ancestors did. There is a definite set pattern. We are not learning to concentrate on thinking and reasoning toward adding to the original facts and ideas. We are learning to cram more into our minds in less space of time, but we are not learning to enlarge and develop our minds. We are not learning to be original. We are just accepting and facing challenges automatically.

Some philosopher has suggested that insects at one time had free will but they lost it completely because their existence did not require them to think anything original in response to a challenge. They finally arrived at a point where they reacted automatically to their learned characteristics from past generations and as a result lost their power to think.

The tendency of humanity as a whole today seems to be away from the realm of human reason toward that of an animal—or an insect, living automatically and responding to challenges in the same way. The function of universities is to develop man in the sphere of mind where he should be expanding. We are only seeming to progress in the modern rapid development of the combinations and (Continued on Page Seven).

VETERANS NOTICE

BLUE CROSS
All new subscribers to Cross are requested to their applications in by 29th February. Old men are required to renew subscriptions by the end of first week in March. Don't delay, please call the undersigned any evening between 7-9 P. M. CECIL CHARLTON, Group Secretary, Building 31, Apt. Alexander Co.

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