

Would you date a Chinese student?

by D. Moulton

Saint Mary's University offers a sociology course taught by Professor Okra-Ku. It is a sociology research methods course and part of the course requires that students undertake their own research project.

One of these projects led by Mary Beth Wallace undertook to research "Attitudes Towards Minorities". The Chinese population at SMU forms the largest minority group within the University, and thus became the basis of Ms. Wallace's study.

The Chinese Students Association got wind of this survey and went immediately to speak with Dr. Carrigan, President of the University. The members of the CSA felt the questionnaire implied an inferiority on their part and they

did not want the administration to get hold of the results.

The problem arose over the second part of the questionnaire. The first section asked people their vital statistics and general information concerning themselves. This would enable the researchers to categorize different students - e.g. freshman as opposed to juniors; men as opposed to women, rated on a level ranging from conservative to liberal. The latter half of the questionnaire, however, was the source of the trouble. Respondents were asked to check off the answer they felt applied to their feelings on the subject. These questions had a tendency to stereotype Chinese students, however. Certain questions to which the CSA adamantly objected follow-

ed these basic lines:

"Would you date a Chinese Student?"; "I don't want to associate with Chinese students." Other questions concerned the Chinese with respect to career and administration as well as social life. Although questions may sound rather harsh and derogatory, they represent the format used in standard attitude tests.

Ms. Wallace assured the CSA that the purpose of the survey was solely academic and that the results would not be made known. Nevertheless, Ms. Wallace had to apologize to a host of people, which included Frank Lee, head of the Sociology Department; Dr. Carrigan; Dr. May Sun of the Science Department; Dr. Faith Chao; the CSA and Dr. J. Owen, Dean of Arts. The letter of apology

was to be published in "The Journal" - St. Mary's student newspaper.

There was talk about discontinuing the survey altogether. However, the aforementioned have agreed (after numerous meetings) to let Ms. Wallace and cohorts continue on

the grounds that no more questionnaires be given out. This means for the researchers that their sample must be cut from about five hundred to three hundred. Ms. Wallace is satisfied though for as she said, "I didn't want to offend anybody."

Women in China

Marylee Stephenson, Editor of **Women in Canada**, will be a guest speaker at Mount Saint Vincent University on March 27 at 12:30 p.m.

Her visit is being sponsored by the Mount's "Perspectives on Women" course and the sociology department.

Ms. Stephenson will discuss the women's liberation movement with specific reference to Canada.

An assistant professor at McMaster's University where she teaches Sociology of Sex Roles, Ms. Stephenson has researched the women's movement in Canada, and particularly in Vancouver.

The public is invited to hear the talk in Seton Academic Centre room 501.

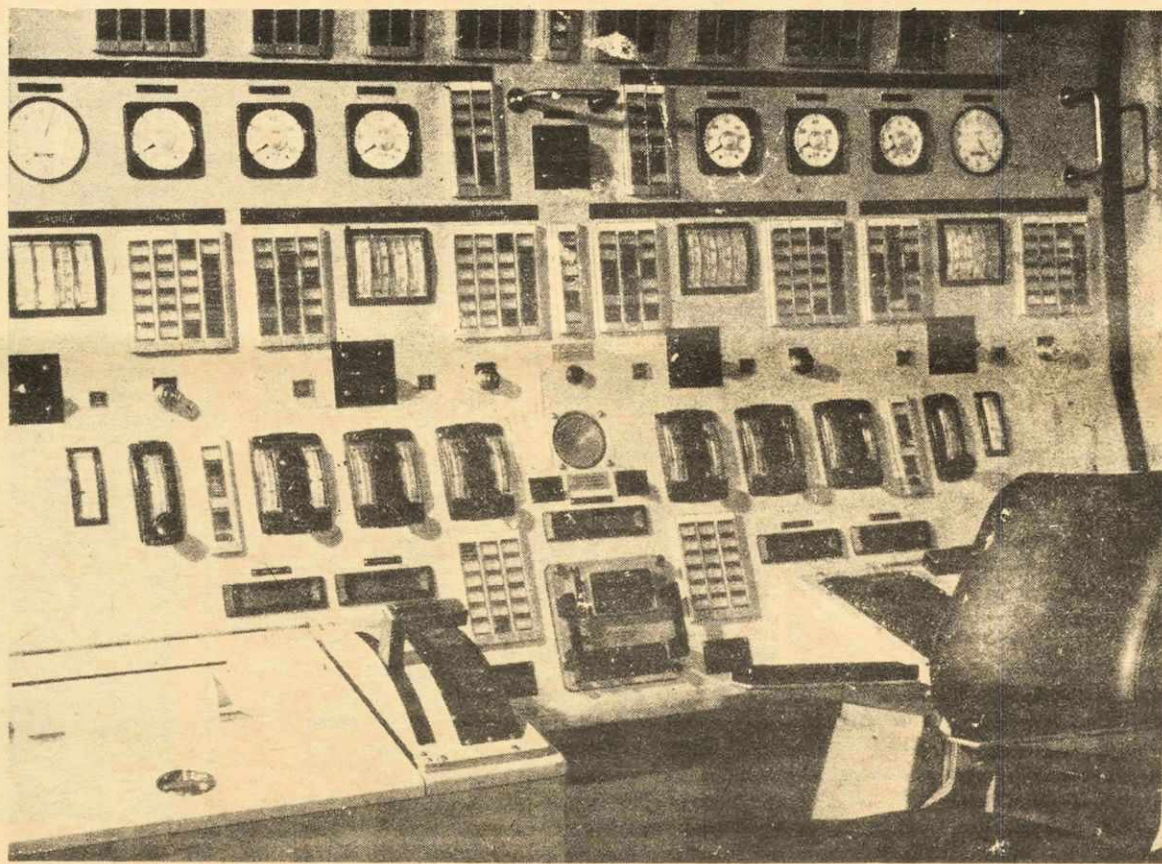
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travels back up the line to the top. Since most of us would not agree that this is a 'good' answer, the SUB Ops. Board may say "Lower the volume". This directive goes back down the line until it stops at the Entertainment Directors office, where he writes an extra clause into the contract for groups playing in the future, and not just the group coming up next week.

This can take as little time as two weeks from start to finish, and is an extremely efficient system. If policy decisions start at the top; they have only one way to go-down-until being implemented by the proper office. If an individual problem, starts at the bottom, it goes up until it reaches the strata where an authoritative decision can be made; usually, this is at the second link, the Night Manager. If the problem become more serious, it travels further up, and as already pointed out, this is very time-consuming, but eventually gets worked out.

The entire system breaks down when a problem is introduced into the middle of the chain - it doesn't know which way to go - up or down.

So, if you have a problem and are too apathetic to inquire about it, and many others have the same problem, we'll get around to it maybe next winter. If you are concerned enough to plunge into the Red Tape, but don't luck into the right office the first time, forget it; as it will get forgotten. If you do luck into the right office, you may get satisfaction in a matter of days, but you may not. It's generally better to get your council representative to introduce the problem at the top, and wait a few weeks...Well, its better than nothing...



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