

Getting the lead from page 9.

Plan frees the individual from the system, he is no longer judged to perform so that he is judged in a normative way. He makes his own progress through the learning process. Children are taught the teaching themselves. "They learn by their own efforts, and they remember what they learned in a way which is impossible for children who accept ready-made knowledge from their teachers, or learn mechanically through mere repetition." There are discipline problems, the children are all occupied and interested, and they are not contented with the authority of the teacher to rebel against.

Some have argued, and justifiably, that the structure of our schools is alienating. If you compartmentalize your body, you compartmentalize your mind. Sitting in the same place in the same way that always faced front. This method is specifically designed to minimize student participation, and is therefore a lack of control. I wonder who thought of the idea to put people to six hours of forced silence. The idea is stupid and serves no purpose other than to save control. Our schools for the most part, are responsive hierarchies serving vested interests.

Goodman rightly questions the ethics of spending billions of dollars preparing people to work in a system far removed from any concept of reality. The idea of the liberal education is to train the mind in academic disciplines, but the mind trained in academic disciplines possesses an ability to transfer this learning to other disciplines. I cannot deny that this is true. But in a structured classroom, there is a surprising amount of distractions, the problem is not all the information

needed to solve it, there is not risk taken in seeking innovative answers. The theory we are taught is fine, beautiful in its own way, but it bears little resemblance to the practical. If the aim of schooling is to produce people willing and able to be citizens in the Jeffersonian sense, then schools are failing in this endeavor.

How can you possibly have concern for your fellow man and for your country, if you have been trained to put yourself first, and desire only the good marks and to be better than the rest. Schooling has become a competition with its own very obvious snob-system at work. Our school system works reasonably well for the middle classes, it is for them that it was designed for, and it is them that it serves. They have been trained in the home to be good little boys and girls, so having this stressed in school does not seem such a contradiction. But for those from the lower classes and those who have an aversion to this sort of mass conformity, the system, is at best a farce. They know that all they are going to get out of it is employment at some job that is just as boring as school was.

"School problems, failure in school work, and misbehaviour in school are often judged to be a common source of the frustration and alienation which motivate delinquent conduct." For schools to any longer go on pretending to be for all people, they must, first and foremost, drop the premise that those who are school successes are the valuable people. They must also institute some way of leaving and subsequently re-entering the system, in a way that has no stigma attached. My little sister got kicked out of school when she

was fifteen. Officially, she quit, but that is not true. She used to attend about one class a week, most of the rest of the time she was supposed to be at school she would either be at home pretending to be sick, or off somewhere smoking dope. Now, it is obvious to anyone who cares to think about it that the kid had a problem, she hated school. Yet her problem was not one of feeling dumb and therefore out of place. She simply was not getting anything out of it. She is back there now, hating it just as much as ever. But in the six months she was out, she found that the only thing she could do was work in a restaurant, and she hated that, and couldn't stick it, so her only alternative was to go back to school. Granted, I recognize that Veronica's reactions were not completely the fault of the school, she added her own personal problems to the situation as well. But at her school about half of the kids quit at one time or other sometime during high school. This makes it clear to me that the schools are not providing for a good number of students.

The idea of the community school is a good one. They could be places where the people of the neighborhood, not just the kids, could go and learn something. I'm beginning to think that schools, like love and youth, are wasted on the young. Most kids would much rather be out playing marbles than doing sums. And really, one is just as valid as the other. There is no divine law that states that everyone must read and write. These are nice things, though, but I don't think that anyone could exist in our society without learning how to do those things without the aid of a formal education.

Spanish pilot course planned

The Committee for Spanish in Alberta's Schools is working to have Spanish taught as an optional second language in the schools of the province. The proposed starting date for a pilot project is September 1977.

The President of the Committee, Heliodoro Briongos, said his Committee has been working since early this year, meeting with representatives of the Provincial Department of Educa-

tion and the Edmonton Public and Separate School Boards, about the pilot project.

The Committee is currently seeking the support of all those interested; any wishing further information are asked to contact: Committee for Spanish in Alberta's Schools, Spanish Club Don Quijote, Dept. of Romance Languages, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E1. Or Mr. Heliodoro Briongos, at 432-2381 or 426-7766.

STUDY SKILLS SEMINARS

Reading, Notetaking, Exams, etc.

For Information Contact
STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

5th Floor Students' Union Building
Phone 432-5208

BE ADVISED

Of the following deadlines:
(SU Elections)

Jan 25 Nomination Day
Feb 2 Start of Campaigns
Feb 11 Election

Inquire at SU General Office

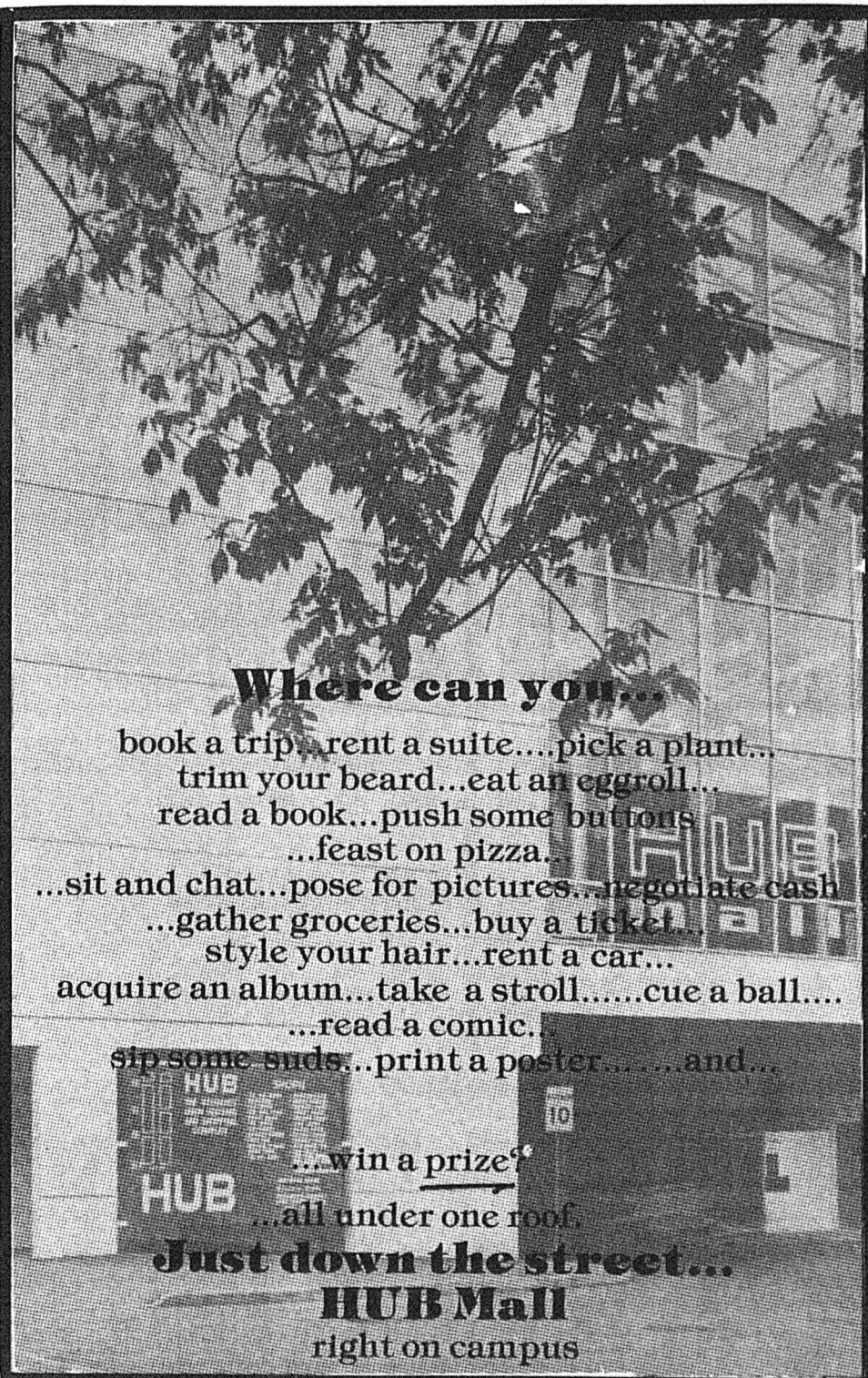
An Apology

To those people seeking Students' Union Telephone Directories

Unfortunately it is not possible to print more Students' Union Telephone Directories because the printers accidentally ruined the plates necessary to produce the books. It should be noted that the same amount was printed as last year and it was thought that that quantity would be sufficient.

Our sincere apologies to all those who still hoped to get Directories.

Eileen Gillese
Vice-President, Finance & Administration



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- ...gather groceries... buy a ticket... style your hair... rent a car...
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