

Japanese Student Views: America Great

Tokyo Students Think Americans Are Free, Aggressive, Opulent And 'Cold'

By Wolfe Kirchmeir

The Japanese are probably the most westernized of the Asian peoples. The MacArthur administration following World War II attempted to Americanize them as well, and succeeded to the extent that baseball and Coca-Cola are now firmly established. It also produced a lively interest in America, including, apparently, Canada.

At any rate, an article in an English language paper of Keio University in Tokyo is entitled 'What Exchange Students Bring From America and Canada'. The following article is taken from that. Its author has taken the liberty of interpolating a comment here and there, and hereby tenders apologies to 'The Mita Campus'.

Several Japanese exchange students visited the US and Canada last summer. The hosting Universities were Stanford, California, and UBC. They returned to their country all bright-eyed and eager to sing the praises of America, if their article is any indication.

There were three things that impressed the students most, the American attitude to children, the American attitude to life, and the opulence of American Universities.

AMERICAN CHILDREN: FREE INDIVIDUALS

Miss Kurita admires the way American parents treat their children as individuals. This admiration is understandable in view of the comment on the "tendency of Japanese parents to reprimand their children for any bold statement, but in America parents are eager to hear what children say. . . They do not attempt to indoctrinate their children, but leave them free to develop.

This freedom of the child also shows up in elementary education. "Miss Haiso visited an American grade school and observed a first or second grade at class. The teacher asked . . . 'Do you like the picture? What do you think about it?' . . . It was a surprise for Miss Haiso to see the critical spirit nourished in so early a stage of school education. In Japan, children are not asked such questions . . . until 4th or 5th grade."

THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE: AGGRESSIVE, OPTIMISTIC,

Aggressiveness, both in decision and action, was probably the most impressive American characteristic. One of the students, Satoru Mori, thinks Americans "decide on a goal before acting then go straight to the end." A 'lust for work' is apparently also visible, or at least a desire to better oneself.

A consequence of the quality of aggressiveness is the American habit of judging a person by his results.

"Once a person has worked his way to a high rank, even if he was a lower class, people respect him as a man of real power . . . Knowing their ability will be appreciated in school and society, students compete with each other for grades and other symbols of achievement."

The fact that judging by results often means judging by externals was apparently not noticed by the exchange students. They did notice however that aggressiveness is closely related to optimism.

"Americans and Canadians are very optimistic after doing their best. They have confidence in their effort." Moreover, since effort brings results, any effort is worth-while. One student remembers the phrase "Let's see what happens". Americans seem to think all will turn out well.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES: DORMITORIES

American optimism may be easy, considering the American wealth.

"American students seem to be in better condition than Japanese to make effort."

"What Kieo exchange students envy most is the dormitory system. Living on campus they can give themselves intirely to study, apart from family affairs . . . In Japan where on campus housing is not available, we must dissipate our energy going to school and back home every day."

The Keio students also envied the counsellor system, a necessary evil arising from the freedom to change courses at will. It is possible, however, that "this tendency to changing their courses might be ascribed to the American characteristic of making effort in belief of new possibility". It may be, also, that too much freedom breeds indecision.

JAPANESE MERITS: SENSITIVITY AND WARMTH

America is not a pure paradise however. The price it pays for aggressiveness and worship of success is lack of delicacy, and lack of warmth.

"(Japanese) delicacy is found in our everyday life, for instance furniture, cooking and other house embellishments. In America and Canada where the way of living is being standardized . . . this sensitiveness can never be seen, the exchange students say.

"Parallel to the sensitiveness, Japanese have a strong fellow-feeling, which cannot be expected in American whose individualism gets predominance in every life. And exchange students met those people who were feeling empty, because of the lack of the close friendly relation, and ever progressing materialism."

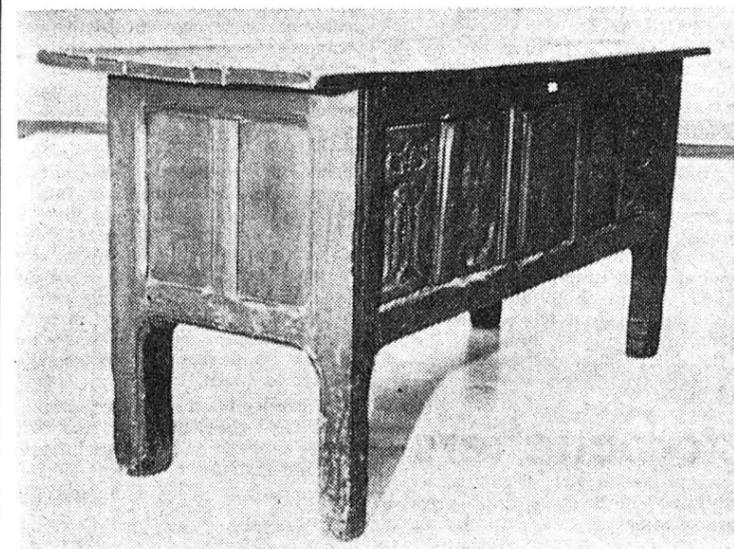
Ryerson To Enter NFCUS

Montreal (CUP)—A unanimous vote to "proceed with negotiations" at Ryerson's SAC meeting almost ensures the membership of the institution in the National Federation of Canadian University Students.

The constitution of NFCUS as it stands now, reads that only degree granting institutions may become members of the organization. However, during his visit to Ryerson in December, National President Bruce Rawson assured the SAC executive that this clause "was strictly a matter of semantics," and that it would be "a mere formality" to change the constitution and admit Ryerson.

Bruce Kennedy, Student Council president, said that he would submit a request for the entrance fee of \$1,047 to the council at the next meeting. Ryerson's entrance into NFCUS is said "to culminate a series of favourable public relations achievements."

NFCUS represents 85,000 Canadian University students, and has an annual budget of \$100,000. This enables the organization to promote seminars and scholarships, and to further inter-regional student exchanges on a local, national and international level.



Antiques Antiques

A collection of rare antiques gathered by Dr. F. E. Sherrer of the Peace River country, is now on display in Rutherford Library.

The antiques, collected by Dr. Sherrer and his assistant Ed Hauser, were bequeathed to the University of Alberta two years ago.

One of the most interesting items in the collection is a 500-year-old carved oaken sideboard Engraved with the floral emblems of England, Scotland, and France, the sideboard is said to have come from the reign of Henry VIII.

This antique, together with an oaken table from the Elizabethan era, and a 200-year-old roll-top writing desk, were sold to Dr. Sherrer by an Englishwoman who had brought them from Europe.

Other prize items are matching silver candlesticks belonging to King Richard II, and a gold jewelry box smuggled out of France during the French Revolution.

1635 BIBLE

Many of the antiques on display were heirlooms of the Sherrer family. Some were bought in Germany and Switzerland; the remainder were picked up by Dr. Sherrer from European immigrants in the Peace River territory.

The 150-year-old coffee pot was purchased in Europe as were the seven rare German paintings, a large collection of pewter, and Bibles dating back to 1635.

Since 1914 these antiques had graced the Peace River homestead of Dr. Sherrer. On his death two years ago, they were bequeathed to the University of Alberta.

A graduate in philosophy of Bern University, Switzerland, Dr. Sherrer came to Canada in 1914 and spent the rest of his life in the bush country of Northern Alberta.



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NFCUS Chairman Still Voteless-Now Appointed

Applications for the position of graduating committee chairman for class of '61 are being taken by the Students' Union secretary - treasurer, Lionel Jones.

The chairman will head a committee of two additional students and advisers. In past years the dean of women and Students' Union business manager have sat on the committee, acting as advisers.

All arrangements for the three-day May graduation events, including informal and formal dances and Valedictory exercises are the duties of

the chairman and his committee.

An informal, off-campus dance will be planned for the first day. Valedictory Exercises the following afternoon will include class historian, Bernie Adell's class history and valedictorian Jim Coutts' valedictory Address, presentation of the class' gift to the University and planting of the graduates tree on SUB grounds.

The graduating committee head will chair the Exercises which are held in a SUB lounge. Traditionally the afternoon ends with a tea given for the graduates by the Wauneita Society in their lounge.

Climax of graduation events will be the 1961 graduation formal at the Macdonald Hotel.

Nurses Graduate To New Med Building Quarters

Out with the old and in with the new is apparent in the school of nursing, as elsewhere on the campus. For many years the school was tucked away in the east wing of St. Joseph's College almost unknown to the rest of the campus. Last fall the school took up new quarters on the fifth floor of the recently completed medical addition.

Over a hundred students are registered in the school representing a number of stages in their professional education, and a number of specialized fields in nursing. Although many have spent or will spend some of their time in the University hospital, others are from many hospitals in Alberta or other provinces. The advanced practical obstetrics course

attracts Registered nurses from across Canada and the United States.

Of the students enrolled in the school, 39 are registered in the first year Bachelor of Science program, taking general sciences on campus. In the fall along with 60 other high school graduates, they will enter the University hospital for their clinical experience. This training will be culminated when they write their RN examinations three years hence.

For their fifth year the students come back on campus and major in public health nursing, or teaching and supervision. Here they are joined by a number of Registered Nurses from other hospitals who are taking a one year diploma course in one of the two majors. Seventy nurses are taking this part of the program, some with years of experience in nursing and others newly graduated.