

On "Technology And Man"

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By
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Scientists Lose Interest

Dean Ruptash, faculty of engineering, Carleton University: The scientist drives toward discovery. Once a discovery is proved he loses interest in it and in its economic and social usefulness. The engineer, on the other hand, aims at perfection and application of a raw theoretical discovery. He is much more closely integrated with his society than is the scientist, for he must mold these applications in the patterns dictated by society and nation: if they want nuclear weapons, he cannot work with atoms for peace.

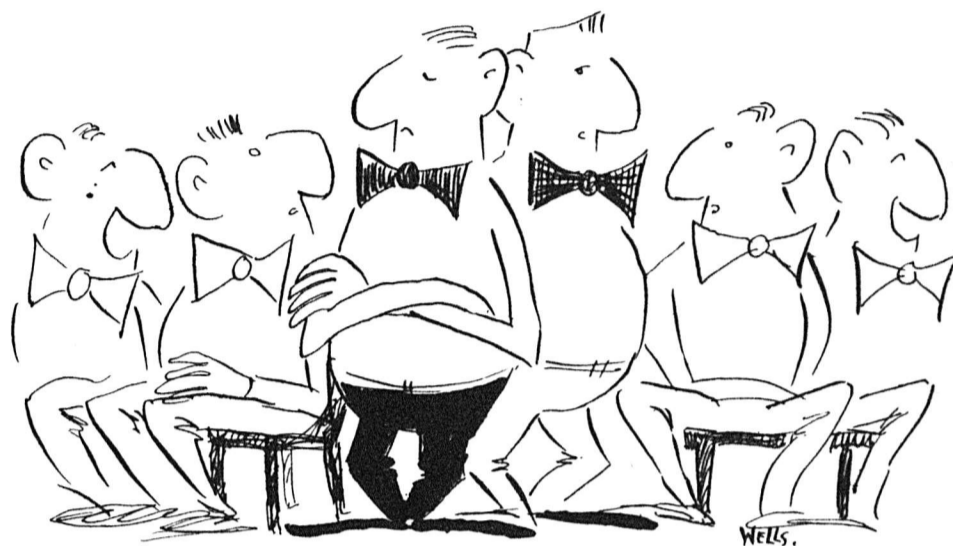
Mr. Sewell, president, Coca Cola Ltd.: An employer is not interested in a university graduate who is crammed with facts and specific knowledge. He wants a future employee who can think clearly. It is up to university professors to guide students in this direction much more than they have in the

past. The emphasis of a university education should be on the humanities rather than on technical and practical subjects.

The highlight of the seminar was Mr. Nik Cavell's closing speech, "Technology and the Underdeveloped Nations". Mr. Cavell concentrated on those nations of south-central Asia in which he had administered Canada's contribution to the Colombo Plan, especially India.

Mr. Cavell took a dim view of the present foreign aid scheme of most western nations. In his view they are simply dumping whatever surplus goods they have on hand each year into the underdeveloped nations, with no nation making an attempt to coordinate these exports with those of other nations. He suggested an overall plan, in which the funds of all nations would be coordinated, but with each nation still controlling the purse strings of its own funds.

Donor countries are spending too much money on formal education in these countries, because it is easier to organize a school system than to build a factory or power plant. The result is a surplus of some of the best-educated taxi drivers in the world, for



"ANYBODY HERE WHO IS NOT HAVING A WHALE OF A GOOD TIME PLEASE STAND UP"

the new technically educated elite has no opportunities to put its knowledge to any practical use.

Existentialists Would Approve

Mr. Cavell was not in favor of very rapid automation in underdeveloped areas, as the surplus of agricultural workers can only be employed in industry. Thus he did not allow automatic lathes to be installed in Indian factories because they would have reduced the number of jobs available. Under the circumstances this was probably an admirable step on Mr. Cavell's part and would meet the approval of such existentialist writers as Hannah Arendt who are lamenting the alienation of man from his work that the technological revolution has in part caused.

Question periods, usually lasting at least an hour, followed each speaker or panel. Many of the questions showed much insight into a given problem, but some delegates simply could not organize their facts, while others were more interested in showing off their own knowledge than picking a speaker's brain. A few of the delegates were rude to the guests.

Most of us were well pleased with the three discussion group meetings that we attended. Each of the 12 groups, composed of approximately 12 delegates had little trouble getting off the ground, and nearly every member participated in discussions, at least in my own group. Group leaders were chosen on the basis of essays which every delegate was asked to write prior to the seminar. Each group was as geographically and culturally diversified as possible. A staff member from OAC was on hand to insure that these diversifications did not impair intra-group communications — especially between French and English — and to throw in a few of his own ideas.

High-powered Delegations

Intellectually the seminar was not all that it could have been; as I implied at the beginning, there were compensations. It was

an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to other students from across Canada. Some of the universities had fielded very high-powered delegates, especially the University of Montreal and UBC, which reputedly had had in the neighborhood of 70 applicants for the seminar!

The common room of our residence was always full of small informal groups, a surprising number of which were discussing "Technology and Man." Another favorite topic of discussion was the conflict between Upper and Lower Canada. Problems like the language barrier and separatism become a little more real to a Westerner when he meets a fellow Canadian who actually cannot speak English (!) or a separatist who really thinks Quebec should secede.

The national and local committees had organized a full round of activities for us. Festivities began with an open night square dance and twist party, complete with a professional caller. We were taken on tours of the OAC campus, the city of Guelph, the Ontario Reformatory, and the Veterinary College. Free swim periods were also arranged at these times for those of a more active bent. A folk singing group from London, the Lowlanders, were brought in for a one night stand.

For the gourmet there was a chicken barbecue, a wiener roast, and the opening and closing banquets (the former given by the City of Guelph).

A brass and percussion band, thoughtfully arranged by the local committee, was used to get us up in the morning.

Shortage of Females

There was, of course, the usual round of informal outings and parties into the wee hours of the a.m. These were, however, often cramped by the severe shortage of female delegates at the seminar: male delegates outnumbered female delegates by nearly 2:1.

The OAC campus in the city of Guelph was well chosen as the site for the seminar. The OAC

campus is prettier and more intelligently laid out than some other campuses I could name; and the fact that the seminar was held in a small city probably tended to keep the group together more than if it had been held in a cosmopolitan centre (e.g. Montreal or Vancouver) with its many outside attractions and distractions.

The ultimate results of the seminar are probably twofold. First, it set us thinking about this increasingly important problem of the place of man in an age of technology, and it is hoped that whatever we gleaned from the seminar session will enable us to better evaluate and even solve some of the problems facing us.

A second result—again in the words of fellow delegate Pretty (and the threatened secession of the University of Montreal from NFCUS notwithstanding) — was "one more step toward the ultimate purpose of NFCUS—a certain degree of Canadian national student unity."

start in music. At the age of six she was dropped from her school rhythm band because she could not beat time.

But living in an atmosphere of music, she eventually was drawn towards folk song groups in Toronto, and her next step was the Travellers.

MANDO-CELLIST

Sid Dolgay had an auspicious beginning in the group as an accompanist on the unfamiliar mando-cello. When one member left, Sid's baritone-bass voice became part of the Traveller's songs.

Jerry Gray, a self-taught banjoist, first met Sid Dolgay in a group of young people interested in folk songs. After the formation of the Travellers, Jerry con-

tinued his studies in dentistry, and to the dual role of singer-student.

As singer-dentist, he now enjoys teaching young people at summer camps the fun of folk singing.

FINAL ADDITION

Ray Woodley, the newest Traveller, met the members of the group through a girl he was interested in, and when a new singer was needed, Ray was it.

To meet as many Canadians as possible through real, honest folk music of their own native Canada, as well as music from other lands — for this the Travellers aim.

They are the right people, in the right country, at the right time.



WHILE THE TRAVELLERS PERFORMED

... a child slept



ROGER PRETTY