

An Apology For Psychology

A recent survey showed that Psychologists (and /or Psychiatrists) have now replaced mothers-in-law as the most common topic for jokes. It is interesting to speculate on the reasons for this sudden notoriety of psychology and psychologists.

A not-too-serious suggestion is that this presents a morbid self-preoccupation among Western cultures, especially the North American. It is a sort of hypochondriasis; a scanty, very much misinformed knowledge concerning psychological and psychiatric facts, theories and speculations has led to ill-defined anxieties concerning one's own mental status. Of course, it is not as simple as this; nothing is ever simple to the psychologist. To complicate matters, another factor enters, the remnant of a mediaeval attitude towards mental illness. The fact is that, no matter how much one may consciously feel that there is no stigma attached to mental illness, there still remains in most people a fear—cum-suspicion towards such disease. The upshot is, recognizing (so we think) symptoms of mental illness in ourselves, the anxiety becomes intolerable. The two points of view, the self-preoccupation and the fear of insanity, are not reconcilable, so the only thing to do is to remove one of them. Anxiety is relieved by striking out against the psychologist, the man who was responsible for all the trouble in the first place.

To admit to being a psychologist in these sorry times is to risk a torrent of abuse or inanity. Typical reactions to disclosing one's occupation are as follows:

"I bet you know everything that goes on in my mind."

"I wish you would psychoanalyze me (my friend/enemy/professor/wife)"

"You're the type that charge \$50.00 an hour for doing nothing."

"Intelligence tests don't mean anything anyway."

And no doubt you have seen letters to the newspapers claiming that the only thing wrong with the world today is the existence of psychologists. Because of them (the psychologists), children are brought up as hoodlums or morons, criminals are spoiled and pampered, and the morals of the country are going to the dogs. The information from which such conclusions are inferred must stem from the most stringent, world-wide, multi-million dollar experiments, judging by the strength of language and conviction.



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tion. There must be ten thousand psychologists who would give their right hand to lay their left one on this information, for their own is sparse in comparison.

When physicists told us that immense power could be obtained by nuclear fission, no politicians, educators, or laymen called them incompetent charlatans. But when a psychologist shows that reforming criminals by "soft" methods meets with more success than the "treat-em-rough" procedure, "experts" from every field but penology or psychology are up in arms. "You can prove anything with statistics," they cry, usually because they have a habit of proving anything with statistics (of questionable soundness) themselves. Of course, it is the psychologists' own fault. They themselves never tire of pointing out that you cannot convince people by rational argument, so why do they try?

As a final shot, I would like to quote from a recently discovered unpublished dialogue from the works of Plato:

"You ask me, Gordonius, whom I consider most fit to govern a country. I think we may best answer this question by using an analogy. Whom do you say should govern a football team?"

Why, Socrates, the football coach. And why do you believe that?

Because he knows most concerning his players as footballers.

I see. Whom, then, do you believe should control a stud of race horses?

The chief trainer, of course, and for the same reason as before.

And what is that?

He knows most concerning horses.

So, it seems, then, that the person in control should be he who knows most concerning those of whom he is in charge.

I should say that that is so.

But, when we are speaking of control of a country, Gordonius, who is it that is being controlled?

People.

Do you mean people as footballers, or people as anglers . . . ?

No, people as they live through their lives, and as they live with others in their society, Socrates.

Then who would you say knows most concerning people living in this way?

I should say that it is the psychologist.

Then by our former agreement, it is the psychologist who should govern a country, is it not?

I am very much disposed to agree with you, Socrates."

From the leaves of the Dalhousie Gazette

One of the pre-Meds reports that in a certain hospital the customary challenge of the inmates to 'every knock is, 'Who goes there, friend or enema?'

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P. C.'S PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE

On the 27th and 28th of February the Progressive Conservative Student Federation will hold its convention for the Maritime region at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax. The conference is being held in conjunction with similar meetings in the Western and Central Regions and is intended to give the University Club leaders a greater understanding of political history, philosophy and policy, and also an opportunity to discuss the problems facing the individual clubs in the region.

The Hon. Robert L. Stanfield will address the group at a dinner to be held Friday the 27th. The business sessions will be conducted on a similar basis.

Professor Lorne Clark of Dalhousie Law School will lead discussions on the philosophy of the Conservative Party; Heath MacQuarrie, M.P. will conduct a seminar on Conservative Party history, and Edmund Morris, M.P. will be the seminar leader for the topic: Conservative policy with regard to current political issues.

It is hoped that delegates from 11 Maritime universities will attend.

The convention is being planned by a committee, composed of the presidents of the four Halifax University P.C. Clubs. The Dalhousie Law School will act as host club, and Paul Creoghan has been appointed general chairman.

GERMAN SOCIETY CHRISTENED

The newly christened D.G.S., Dalhousie German Society to most students, but to the German specialists, Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Studenten, started its campus life on Tuesday of last week with the election of officers, a German newsreel and slides shown by John Chambers.

Elected by those present were: President—Otto Haenlein Vice-President—Heidi Reibling Secty-Treasurer—Bill MacDougall Executive Members—Jean-Isobel MacDonald, Jackie Munro, Alec Farrell.

A varied program for the rest of the year was planned by the members. This semester will probably see an evening of German music, including sing-songs, addresses on various topics of interest, the report of a former exchange student to Germany, study groups, a stage presentation in English of *The Man Outside*, and, as a finishing touch, a German Carnival.

The next D.G.S. meeting will be held sometime in February, and all students interested in Germany are invited to attend.

BATISTA FALLS

Usually reliable sources say Batista Falls is located nine miles southeast of Sturgeon on White River, North West Territories.

FIFTH MODEL PARLIAMENT TO BE HELD

This is the fifth year for Dal's Model Parliament, open to participation by members of all faculties except Law, which has its own.

A group of students interested in politics laid the groundwork for the Parliament. For the first three years of its existence, it was under the control of campus political parties. As it was generally believed that the Parliament would better function under the supervision of a non-political organization, the Model Parliament was two years ago placed under the jurisdiction of Sodales. Setting up Model Parliament is a part of the duties of Sodales' Vice-President, a position held this year for the second time by Paul Robinson.

The aims of Model Parliament are to aid the student in better understanding the functions of government, to enable him to take part in open discussions of current political topics, and to familiarize him with

Parliamentary procedures. The procedures of Parliament follow as closely as possible those of the Federal Government. This year, Professor Lorne Clark, of the Law School, will give a course of instruction in Parliamentary Procedure before the Model Parliament is held.

There are sixty-five seats in the Parliament. These seats are divided among the parties according to the proportion of votes received. So far, the Conservatives have always won the Government position. During the first three years, only two parties—the Liberals and the Conservatives, contested the elections. However, in the last two years, three parties—the two mentioned above and the Canada First party held seats. As yet this year there are only two parties formed, but there is a possibility that C.C.F. Party may be formed. All parties must this year have contacted Paul Robinson to signify their intention of contesting in the election.

Elections are usually held in February, preceded by vigorous campaigning of the parties. The highlight of the campaign was a political forum at which the Party Presidents expressed their opinions on various campaign issues. Students were given the opportunity at the forum to question the Party Chiefs.

Elections arouse a fair amount of interest on the campus, 800 out of 1500 votes being cast last year, and 740 this year.

All positions in the House are held by students, except for those of Governor-General and Speaker. Last year Senator Harold Connolly was Speaker and Professor Heasman of the Political Science Department was Governor-General. Positions held by students included: Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and, of course, the Prime Minister, Cabinet Members, Leader of the Opposition, and members of Parliament.

The Rape of the Rotonde

by J. R. HURLEY

As o'er the long brown desk he bowed his head
 He asked the Great Muse if he might be led
 Into new channels of bright, flowing thought;
 On this he would wish his fame to be wrought.
 Mighty Ariel, hearing, called his crew
 Of airy sylphs, and many spirits too.
 "Go down and direct the suppliant one:
 Stick close to your duty and have no fun;
 For the sylph that deserts this sacred post
 And ruins the work of the entire host
 Will be locked in the ink well which you see
 And will thus be punished for revelry.
 Now go!" decreed our Mighty Ariel.
 Then thirty sylphs in mood most ferial
 Swarmed down from the high, fleecy clouds—But hark!
 Dark Umbriel would wish to make his mark.
 He watched the gay proceedings dour of eye;
 But HE could foil any plans from the sky!

Down to the Nether World he went, nor stopp'd
 Till at the sombre door of Megrin he knocked.
 He gathered up seeds of discord with glee—
 He loved to watch battle and misery!

Too late poor sylphs! Inspiration has fled:
 That gnome has emptied that vial we dread!
 "PATERNALISM!" cried out our Author;
 The Issue spread round and flew out farther.
 Across many a campus came the roar
 (Though most knew not what they were fighting for).
 Our poet was rebuked, and put in place;
 THAT was the time when, he should have saved face.
 He hit the Rebuker with written horns!
 (The sylphs do cry and sad Ariel mourns)

"Fight for Democracy!" the Councils plead:
 Too many we fear the Council did heed!
 "Sign here! Sign here!" Oh! that place will be rent
 By battle and uproar and wrath mis-spent.
 Will no one plead the case of the Accused?
 Are all in one army of fighters fused?
 Ah, quickly answers our Juditha fair,
 Who no such criticism would forbear!
 Had not she talked with all the rebel band?
 Then surely her account must be first hand!
 For the Rebuker's cause they cannot see.
 (Pity who know not true Authority!)
 The battle then ensued: pens flew to ink,
 Reams of paper in scrambled heaps did sink.
 But while the fighters would scribble and jeer,
 The Issue would rise to an airy sphere
 Where all such issues that flamed—and then died
 Are lost in darkness, forever to hide.
 Now Come! it is time to cease all frothing.
 Alas! 'twas much ado about nothing!
 Let us light the Calumet, clear the skies—
 For time heals all wounds, and how the times flies!