

Identity and anxiety

Debate crisis of student generation

EDITOR'S NOTE: Liz Campbell, former Dalhousie Student Council Vice-President gives her candid views on the recent C.U.S. seminar. In this article she discusses the problems of student anxiety and identity in contemporary Canada.

For the past nine years, the Canadian Union of Students has sponsored the September Seminar. The seminar is designed to provide a student forum for contemporary problems with the emphasis on university life. Topics in past have ranged from

"Democracy in the University" to "French-English Problems Related to Canadian Federalism". This year was different.

The ninth CUS seminar held this past August at the University of Waterloo was on "Identity and Anxiety". Crisis of a Student Generation. During the summer, delegates received reading material dealing primarily with the Berkeley Student crisis of 1964 - most of this information proved to be irrelevant to the proceedings and discussions of our seminar. Delegates were concerned;

they wanted to know what to prepare for a seminar on identity and anxiety - the individual's private identity crisis or the entire student's generations? We were told that the co-directors felt strongly that we, as delegates should be given credit for having enough self-awareness to be able to cope with such a question without having to be primed to regurgitate the popular analyses of identity and anxiety... "If nothing is concerning them, we can all turn around and go back home again."

Our instructions were to think back on some of the things that bug us. We did, half expecting speakers to expound on our theories and thoughts at the seminar. Such was not the case. All delegates lived for the week of the seminar in a student village complex - a cluster of residence buildings, a dining hall, coffee shop, and lots of grass. The seminar was completely unstructured, no speakers, no planned discussions, nowhere one had to be at a particular moment. Everyone was supplied with a

name tag (university represented not mentioned) and a meal schedule - everything was left up to the delegates. At first many people were frustrated because there was no structure; it would have been easier to take notes from a speaker than to fend for oneself. In essence, the steering committee, either consciously or subconsciously threw everyone together in a situation where all were without identity and most suffering from anxiety - perhaps a small crisis. After the first day or two delegates realized the beauty of being able to talk to whom you want, when you want, where you want, for how long you want, and about what

you want. No conclusions were drawn from the seminar other than personal ones. I doubt, in any event, that conclusions of such a broad topic could be drawn by a large group of people. Some people felt that the week was a waste of time as they didn't learn anything (I suggest that these were the people who offered nothing of themselves) one of whom went away laughing feeling that the crisis is a "pseudo-crisis" and were amused by the people talking about it seriously. Most, like myself felt the week was intellectually stimulating, fascinating, and educational.

I haven't, as yet said anything about the subjects discussed - academic pressure, the almighty degree, teaching methods, the trend towards training people rather than educating them - these were just a few.

I will discuss them at greater length in forthcoming issues.

Young -

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dent Union Building and we want to ensure that once this structure is completed the greatest possible number of Dal students will derive benefit from it. The changes outlined above must be made now to ensure this, and I would urge all students, no matter in what faculty, to come forth and participate in the functions of student affairs, after all without your help there can be no student affairs. It's your student government, don't just talk, help run it.

"John Young"

Young, a native of Saint John, N.B. is a first year law student at Dalhousie. Last may he received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Dalhousie.

Last year he was Student Council Treasurer, President of the Treasury Board, and a delegate to the Canadian Union of Student's National Administrator's Seminar at Banff, Alberta.

First Art -

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promptly at 12:15 and lasting thirty minutes. This has proved to be a very popular and entertaining introduction to art when shown in other universities. The first showing is on September 27th, and deals with animals in art.

A special film on "Michelangelo" will be shown on November 3rd during the Renaissance Festival, produced by a highly articulate art historian and loaned through the courtesy of the Italian Embassy.

Films, lectures and travelling exhibitions will be publicized in the Gazette.

TWO PAPERS JOIN CUP

OTTAWA (CUP) --Two Maritime student newspapers have joined the Canadian University Press as associate members for the coming year.

They are the Picaro, published by students at Mount St. Vincent University, and the St. Mary's Journal, produced at St. Mary's College. Both institutions are located in Halifax, N. S.

CUP's membership now includes 43 campus newspapers -- 12 associate and 31 full members.



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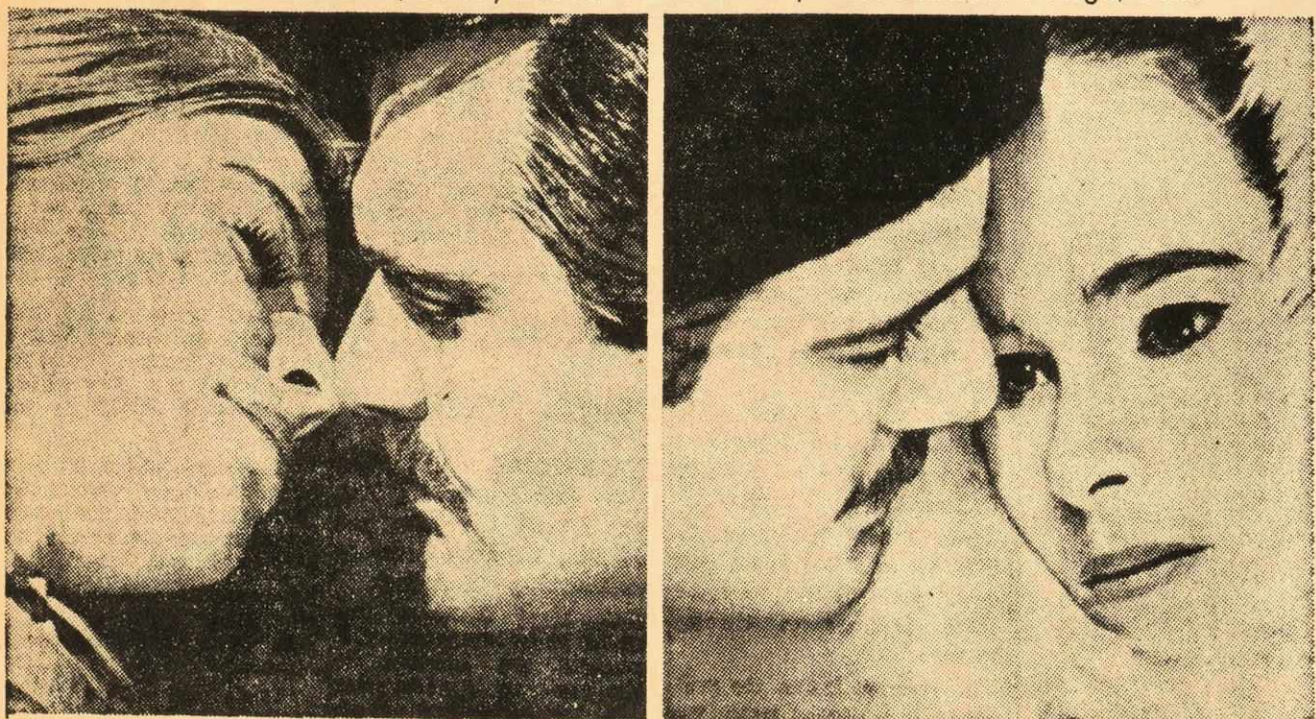
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