

EDITORIAL

I gather a survey was done a few years ago in the U.S. of A.* with the aim of understanding the changing motives of people for coming to university. Twenty years ago, the majority came to broaden their minds, to gain a larger understanding of life. Today the majority of us are here to get a good job. Twenty years ago there were not as many degreed people in the job market; idealism could hold sway. Today, a degree seems absolutely essential. But, while we may grant this, it would appear that we may be in danger of approaching an extreme which will make a university education the most boring and painful experience in people's lives. With the pressure to find fees impinging on the need to get out fast and work, students are very much work oriented and consequently studies oriented. They are extremely paranoid about taking on responsibilities that require commitment and more crucially, that won't look impressive on their resumes; for fear of losing study time. But students are not doing remarkably better academically than their predecessors did because while there is less responsible commitment, there is even more time wasting - time spent doing those things that we assure ourselves we deserve which require no prerequisite except maybe an NBLCC card.

The temptation facing the structures at large is to then cater to this kind of student because this is what the student demands. Thus, even Campus Entertainment is crumbling since it is becoming increasingly clear that the most successful entertainment venture to draw student is a cheap bar. Or is this the statement? Possibly the Student Union could begin to demand from students their participation in entertaining each other. Would students be unresponsive to watching fellow students explore their talents in an environment that belongs to them? Are we completely hung up on the idea of bringing in some big name? Campus Entertainment has much to ask itself. Throwing in the towel for good would be futile and tragic. Perhaps, a survey of student's desires could help, along with some adventure into the gamering of student involvement in the activities themselves - not as roadies or chair-movers, but as performers. I have discovered from staging school and university productions, community shows and Church Plays that generally speaking family and friends are dependable audiences, things develop from there.

Naturally, a new (perhaps naive) innovator and leader will have to emerge to see daring things attempted, but I hope some student will at least note the resume potential in a successful year as a promoter and take on the job. I also hope they will realise that entertainment is not just bands and media speakers; there are other things that can be attempted. The movies must continue - please, but let's challenge ourselves a bit. We won't get a chance to do it as easily when we get out there into the unreal city of everyday 9 to 5 existence.

By the way, does anyone know if Xavier Hollander the Happy Hooker is still alive? She was here some years ago. Maybe we could do a follow up talk. Now, that is Campus Entertainment.

KWAME DAWES

Just as a note to avoid misunderstanding, I am full of respect and admiration for the people who have handled Campus Entertainment this year and I admire their boldness in admitting defeat. I just think that we are now stuck with an uncanny challenge that requires extensive evaluation into the psyche of the Canadian student today.

*I hope somebody writes in screaming: "WE ARE NOT AMERICANS!". Somebody should or some of us will continue to make assumptions like that.

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