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EDUCATION OR CONFUSION

There are three commonly accepted methods for obtaining a college education, all of which are highly recommended for a variety of reasons.

The first method requires the student to obtain his knowledge by reading. A period of time is designated, at the end of which the student is required to hand in a report of his findings in the several books he has read. It is a singularly liberal plan which not only promotes the student's creative abilities, but leads him in the pursuit of many kinds of knowledge not directly related to his thesis or essay. This 'beside-the-point' knowledge which he thus acquires is usually of a highly beneficial and broadening nature. Probably the chief recommendation in favor of the 'read and report' method is that the student is allowed to thoroughly grasp the issue and orientate himself with respect to the report he must make. It is his soul task and hence one which receives all his attention. In short, he can become absorbed in the writing of his essay and thus understand what he is doing.

The remaining two methods are perhaps the least satisfactory with respect to furthering scholarship. They both require the student to show his knowledge by answering questions on the various topics he has pursued.

The student may acquire his knowledge in one case by reading or, by attending a series of lectures which are directly relevant to the subject in which he is interested. The examination method has long been considered as tending to be only partially indicative of a student's knowledge and one which makes learning a competition and not a pleasure.

Considering each of the three methods, however, we find a system which makes adequate allowance for the student to digest and mull-over his subject. In each case he has ample opportunity to put something of himself into his work. Whether his knowledge should be evidenced by exams or essays is not the point. In all cases the student is working toward a goal in a manner which enables him to devote himself completely to his subject. He is either working towards the completion of an essay or towards an examination, but never towards both. He may get his knowledge from books, which he reads on his own time, or from lectures, but not from both at once. In all instances the student is allowed to give his undivided attention to his work.

When one views the application of these methods to the system at U. N. B. he sees a picture of dire confusion. There seems to be very little opening for a student who wishes to spend some time thinking about matters of scholarship. He doesn't have time to do a really good job at anything as an undergraduate.

On Monday, for example, he may be given an essay topic of the broadest nature and told that he must have it done in two or, if he is lucky, three weeks. On Tuesday he is told that he is to have an exam the following day. He may at the end of the week have as many as five essays assigned which must be written when he isn't studying for an exam. On top of this he is required to spend the most productive portion of each day in lectures. The result is that he either misses lectures in order that he may have time to do the reading required for the proper production of essays, or he attends lectures and copies his essays out of books in the library. The exams fall where they may, and are usually prepared for at the last minute.

In all this confusion, when is the student to find time to orientate his knowledge? When can he begin to truly learn something of a permanent nature? The answer is that he can never really know anything to his own satisfaction. He isn't required to understand. He is caught up in a system of systems as it were. The cry of the undergraduate is, "show me the facts that I'll need to pass exams in May. What book will I copy this essay from? I haven't got time to stop and think about what I'm learning because I've got to hand in an essay tomorrow and write an exam the next day. I can't study because I've got lectures all day."

The student is merely required to catch onto the system before he can graduate. He isn't required to think.

NFCUS ACTS . . .

The University of New Brunswick's NFCUS committee has decided to co-operate fully with its National Executive in a vital drive for a reasonable government student-aid program in Canada. The University Council and the S.R.C. have both given approval of the committee's plans for a complete survey of student earning power as against University costs at U.N.B. The plan involves the use of the beginning lecture periods on Friday to enable all students to fill in the required data on separate, assigned sheets of paper.

Canada lags behind other Western countries in her student scholarship and bursary program. Example: Britain helps 70% of her student body; Canada helps 14%. Note also that Canada has only 3% of her college-aged youth in Universities, while the USA has over 15%. 1951's Royal Commission on Education supported the first NFCUS brief for government aid. It is believed that an M.P.'s suggestion that student wages have increased enough to cancel this need has helped hold back proceedings on the Commission's report.

The new survey now under NFCUS' direction across Canada, will, it is hoped, prove in detail that University costs have increased over the past three years at a much faster rate than have student wages. The findings of the survey will back up an approach to local M.P.'s and M.L.A.'s and community clubs, to establish the fact that more government aid is necessary, and, if possible, to gain action on the question. The U.N.B. survey findings will also be sent to the NFCUS National Executive in Ottawa, to help complete the nation-wide costs-to-earnings picture. Your co-operation is essential. Watch for more news in the immediate future.



THEY SENT ME DOWN TO GIVE YOU A HAND PLUMBING THE ROD.

THE U.S. AND INDIA

(The Manitoban)

The Luce syndicate (Time and Life magazines) have struck out hard against Premier Nehru and his foreign affairs expert and UN delegate, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon.

In a recent edition of Time, Mr. Nehru was upbraided for his trip to Red China and for his conciliatory attitude towards the Communists. In the feature article of a late edition of Life, Mr. Menon was pictured as a socialist with strong communist tendencies, and an occult agent of those who wish to destroy the effect of American diplomacy.

DOUBTFUL FOUNDATION

The Luce syndicate may or may not have good foundation for their comments. Perhaps Mr. Nehru is wrong when he observes that Red China is too busy reconstructing its own economy to be bothered making trouble for others. Mr. Menon's statements in the UN, which admittedly bore a striking similarity to Mr. Molotov's statements of the same day, may not have been coincidental, as Mr. Menon claimed they were. And Mr. Menon may have meddled in the Geneva Conference to an extent which a non-delegate should not participate, just as Life's article alleges.

But the Luce syndicate is doing its own cause more harm than good by accentuating the differences between United States foreign policy and the stand taken by India's political leaders. Surely Mr. Menon's statements in the UN this summer, to the effect that India's differences with the U.S. are superficial, and that on the basic questions they are still in agreement, cannot be brushed off with an accusation of insincerity. Surely the fact that Mr. Nehru deplores communism within his own country should be sufficient indication that he is not a sympathizer.

WIDENS BREACH

By adopting a hypersensitive attitude to criticism of American foreign policy from India's leaders, the Luce publications are doing nothing to heal the breach between India and the U.S. On the contrary, they are attempting to emphasize those differences. The result is, the differences which Mr. Menon termed superficial this summer are now becoming more critical because of such influences.

If Mr. Menon and Mr. Nehru are to be reprimanded, let the criticism of their policies be of a friendly nature—not a vitriolic attack against the leaders of a democratic country, and prospectively our strongest ally in Asia.

Mr. Luce and his staff are all too quick to point out the possible influence Chou En Lai might have on Nehru, but they are blind to the possibility that Mr. Nehru will be more likely to influence Chou En Lai. In fact, this possibility would be repugnant to them even if it did enter their minds.

UNPRODUCTIVE POLICY

By their constant derogatory statements directed at Mr. Nehru they are reducing the hope that the Indian premier will attempt to influence Red China in a manner which might be favourable to the West. Mr. Nehru would probably be more disposed to do very little to assist the cause of the American State Department as they seek a suitable denouncement in Southeast Asia.

Time and Life may have a valid criticism of India and its leaders, but their tactless expression of disapproval will not influence India's statesmen and may reduce our chance of working through and with these men for a peaceful world in the future.

A LOOK AROUND

Recent reports from the editor of the '54 year book indicate that the ill-fated publication should be available this Christmas. There have been several inquiries made in the past few weeks by last year's graduating class regarding the whereabouts of their year book so it is probable that at least some of the copies will be picked up when it comes out.

Word from the Editor of the '55 edition of "Up the Hill" are much more encouraging. Mr. Barwick has announced that approximately half of the book has been organized to date and every effort is being made to assure that the book will appear on the campus before graduation. Those seniors who do not have their graduation photos in by Christmas vacation will receive a blank space in the book in place of their smiling faces.

Fourth year Beaverbrook scholars, Bill Baker and Dick Hale have announced that U.N.B. Christmas cards are now on sale. They are to be congratulated on the efficient manner in which they handled the ordering of the cards. An attractive glossy print specimen, the cards sell for one dollar per dozen.

The five day week has become a reality for many employees Up the Hill. The Bursar's office, the post office and the janitors have been given an extra half day off. The change was effected last week-end for the first time. Those who normally do business at the Post Office on Saturday mornings are obliged to contact the Arts Building Janitor, who in turn is obliged to contact a university official to receive permission to unlock the door to the office. If there is no mail in your box after you get in, you are in danger of being regarded as a pesky nuisance. Ottawa is not expected to retaliate at the drop in stamp sales which is the result of the five day week.

The introduction of several new members of the Brunswickan staff in response to the front page notice in last week's issue has quelled fears that the paper would have to cease publication. The scarcity of students with past experience in newspaper work is still predominant but the new recruits have shown much interest and willingness to learn. It is hoped that Mr. Sancton, Managing Editor of The Daily Gleaner, will give a short talk to the staff in the near future.

How About a Canadian

(The Ryersonian)

AN OFFICIAL OF THE Stratford Drama Festival tossed a tantalizing possibility into the laps of Canadian drama enthusiasts a short time ago. The publicity director of the Ontario festival said it would be a fine thing for Canadian theatre to have Fridolin, the distinguished French-Canadian actor, participate at the festival this summer.

It remains a matter of speculation as to whether the official visualized M. Gratien Gelinas, better known as Fridolin, as taking part in the actual Shakespeare festival. This is a tempting idea. Fridolin is probably the best known of all Canadian performers and one can see without any trouble the droll and ingenious touches which he could bring to a number of the classic roles.

If Fridolin and the Stratford people can work out some agreement, the move will be a great victory for Canadian theatre and for Canada in general.

It seems odd that a Canadian drama festival should star a foreign personality. Yet that is exactly what happened last summer when James Mason, the renowned British-born actor, portrayed the starring roles at Stratford. Granted, Mr. Mason's performances were well worth the price of admission, and at the same time the festival did a resounding business at the box office. But the possibility of securing Fridolin's talents this summer would not only guarantee another success, both culturally and financially, it would also be a landmark in the encouragement of Canadian artistic talent.

If the Stratford directors entertain any idea of cultivating young Canadian dramatic talent, here is their chance. A move in the right direction would encourage many first-rate artists to remain in Canada. It is to be hoped that the powers-that-be will make the correct decision.

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