

On Growing Up

Running through every aspect of the Leadership Seminar last Sunday was a concerned current of thought on the state of maturity of the University.

Professor William Angus of the faculty of law directed his thoughts primarily to the student body whose members he called "provincial bores". Provincialism in these terms refers to the student as one who knows nothing, cares nothing, and is willing to learn nothing of other cultures, ideas and philosophies. University of Alberta students fit the title and the rut, and seem content to wallow in it.

What we know of the world has been found by looking periscope-like out of the rut at the rest of the world through such media as the travelogue, the television set, and the prose and poetry of, primarily, our own cultural background.

Not having an extensive traditional background of our own, and having shown little incentive towards developing one, we could remain, by no effort, in our rut. We must learn from other cultures of the world if we are to become a University in the sense universal.

Until now we have been existing on a kind of cultural inbreeding, which like the purely genetic kind, tends to emphasize faults rather than develop better traits. Even worse, we have been content to ostrich-like ignore these faults and have learned to live with them, but not look at them.

We do not choose to go out of our rut to find new lines of thought and endeavour which freshen the cultural backwater that now engulfs this institution.

Like a teen-age boy who physically is "filling out", with some consideration from our "elders", the University of Alberta is becoming physically strong enough to take a place in the world on its own. At this point in the University's development must come the development of personality.

The physical development is recorded in the figures of registration at the University. The lack of development of a personality is recorded in remarks of persons like Professor Angus.

Development must come through direct contacts with persons from other cultures, cultures which do have a personality. The University must attract these persons, and the students must be prepared to learn and accept what ideas they bring with them. Students must know these persons intimately enough to be able to draw new ideas and philosophies from them. Students must move out of the "provincial" atmosphere in which they have grown up to

other Universities where again they must be prepared to learn and accept in order to come back to the University of Alberta, contribute to its personality, and help lift it from the rut;

When the University does develop its own personality it will be, in name and effect, an intellectual meeting ground and source bed of truly "universal" knowledge.

If Out--Then Down

At the NFCUS Seminar held in Vancouver this summer, Mr. Walter Gordon, chairman of the 1957 Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, expressed his opinion that Canada's independence is being threatened by American economic domination.

This view is but one example of a growing Canadian nationalism. It is however, not a constructive nationalism, but one in which we seek for a scapegoat for our ills; a pro-Canadianism which finds its basic expression in anti-Americanism.

It is present in our highest government offices. Prime Minister Diefenbaker's emphasis on Canadianism initially found its expression in an attempt to shift a large part of our trade from the United States to Britain. Even more significant are the recent regulations preventing oil companies from staking exploration claims in our northland, unless the company meets certain conditions in regard to more Canadian directors and Canadian ownership.

Actions such as these are laudible but misguided expressions of national pride.

Canada's high standard of living has been made possible through the willingness of foreigners, primarily Americans, to invest in this country. Although the necessity of sending millions of dollars in dividends out of the country may upset our balance of international payments and impose minor hardships, it is only neutral justice that American investors be entitled to return on their capital which has brought, and is still bringing us so much benefit. It would be base to accept the help of Americans, unaltruistic as it may have been, and then to impose restrictions when we fancy we no longer need them.

These arguments would be negated if Canada were in danger of losing her national sovereignty. However, all evidence points to the contrary. America has been our number one trading partner. American investors hold over fifty per cent of the stock in our corporations. Yet, with relatively few exceptions, the United States has not interfered with the self-determination of the Canadian government, or American-controlled corporations in Canada. Taking into consideration, the precarious world situation today, and in particular, the economic aspects of the Cold War, America has shown an amazing restraint. This past experience as well as our mutual belief in democratic principles, show that America can be trusted.

Indeed, America has to be trusted. Like it or not, we are a very small cog in a big wheel, and although we are not controlled by our neighbors to the south, we are dependent on them. In the view of H. Leslie Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, also at the NFCUS Seminar, economically, the United States will become even more important to Canada in the future, particularly in trade. As undesirable as it may be to put all our eggs in one basket, our geographic proximity to the United States, coupled with our distance from other major industrial nations, makes this a necessity. If we were to impose restrictions upon American companies and investors, we would be the losers through a drop in our standard of living. In addition, the United States would take swift action which would be justified, in order to put us in line. This in itself, would be more likely to result in a loss of our political sovereignty than would the present situation.

If Canadians wish to control more of their industry, they must invest in it, rather than sit on their savings as in the past. They must take the risks which have paid off handsomely for Americans. Any move to restrict American investment would be cutting off our nose to spite our face.



REFLECTIONS

About two thousand years ago, Marc Aurelius, emperor of Rome, wrote a book he called "Meditations". In it he presented his conclusions about Life. Marc Aurelius was a stoic, so his main conclusions had to do with duty and temperance. I don't know whether these occasional columns will propose either duty or temperance; but they will present certain conclusions about life. They will be commonplace and trivial to many. But they are the result of sincere efforts to understand the business of living a satisfying life.

Animals, particularly the higher species, exhibit a peculiar characteristic. They have what may be called a self correcting mechanism. Whenever they arrive in a situation that threatens their existence or welfare in a way they recognize, they react to extricate themselves from that situation. They invariably react the same way. Some can be taught to react differently if the situation immediately following is beneficial. For example, a lion can be taught to jump through a flaming hoop, if the trainer offers him food.

But no matter what, no animal can foresee more than a few situations. And no animal will deliberately jeopardize itself unless prodded into this action by humans or extreme fear.

Psychologists (bless their twisted little souls) have driven rats crazy by the simple expedient of presenting the rats with situations they cannot escape.

What has all this to do with people? I think it is good grounds for believing that man, of all the animals, has something you could call free will.

Man's ability to foresee long chains

of probable situations is really only a difference in degree. But it would be reasonable to expect man, if he really is 'only an animal' to always act in such a way that his best interests are served to the best of his knowledge. Man does no such thing: Everybody has some small or large vice that endangers his mental health, and very often his physical.

Q.E.D. Man does have a measure of free will. Some have even said that this is the only truly human characteristic. In the words of Dorothy Sayers, "It is the lot of man to be the only creature capable of going against his own true nature".



Dear—I Apologize

To The Editor:
Regarding my letter of September 27.

First, I would like to extend a heartfelt "Phooey" to all those readers who found malice in the above letter. It was pure opinionated garbage brought on my personal experience and therefore not applying to anyone's views but my own. Peter Hyndman should have noted that I did not condemn girls' fraternities or fraternities in general and that my remarks were directed only towards the social climbing "dandies" that make up about 20 per cent of each frat. I extend a sincere apology to Peter and the Council gang for any loss of sleep I might have caused them. As far as that goes, Peter is quite in the clear. I have never, as yet, seen him rousting about in one of those typical gook outfits (Gold Key, Gold Key and more Gold Key).

Now for Chris Evans—the darling of the Mooseketeers (complete with horns) and author of that delightful Gateway feature 'Scrabble'. As a point of interest, I would like to note that Chris is both a law student and a frat member. (Oh the shame of it).

His nasty streak is thus undoubtedly accounted for. I refer, of course, to his challenge to appear at The Gateway office, Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. under penalty of seige. (tsk, tsk.) To begin with, I am not "a joiner" and even if I was, it would avail me no possible good to waltz down there at the above date since The Gateway staff meets on Sunday and Tuesday evenings only. Perhaps I am being overly suspicious but vivid pictures of me rattling forsakenly through the deserted (very deserted—in fact extremely) halls of the SUB, while certain gentlemen I know are getting the last laugh, keep bourfcing through my mind. If this is true—Chris Evans, prepare for an attack. Kenton is not all that is coming. I have extremely sharp teeth.

Loretta
Ed. NOTE—When the Scrabbler suggested that you appear at The Gateway office on a Wednesday night, it was because there would only be a small staff working there on the Wednesday, thus saving you and The Gateway from possible embarrassment. The Scrabbler's original offer still stands.

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