

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor;

Many of you have no doubt by now had occasion to pass by the SUB, and perhaps a few of you have been fortunate enough to actually enter this truly proletarian edifice. If so, your eyes were assaulted by a flagrant and barbaric metal structure lurking just outside the SUB's front door.

Symbolism is one of man's unique characteristics. No other animal shares this propensity to abstract concepts and experiences into skeletal, associative frameworks which manage tacitly to purvey a rich spectrum of artsy-craftse sense data which, in ordinary, Everyday Life remain out of our realm of experience even in the most explicit and mundane contexts. Art and symbolism are inextricably intertwined; they are not synonymous in any sense, but they spring from the same psychic origins, and consequently find themselves complementing each other in the quest for sensual-intellectual integration.

However, these two often find

themselves in mutually exclusive camps. An excellent case in point is the flagrant and barbaric metal structure already referred to, "The Twentieth-Century Student." A clearer example of artistic genocide cannot be found.

Picture, if you will, a phthisic three-dimensional xerox rendered in structural steel. Its heritage that of the kindergarten modeling-clay class, it strikingly portrays the Twentieth Century student in all of his brutal reality. Blank spherical charliebrown head looking neither right nor left, gaunt and consumptive, it brushes aside uncertainty (brilliantly portrayed by two gigantic question marks, an allegory of our ambiguous era), it strikes forcefully through confusion towards the still waters of the SUB. Its symbolic aspects are as striking as a slap in the face. There is a deeper meaning than first meets the eye. But is it art?

Maybe, and maybe not.

Lothar Handjobbe

To the Editor:

I wish to comment on a Teaching on China I recently attended at the Tupper Building.

The concluding session which took place Saturday morning, began with the showing of two films. Then Prof. Gavin Boyd of S.M.U. presented a talk on the foreign policy of China. His non-Maoist approach contrasted sharply with that of the other panel members who were Roy Wylie, Neile Hunter and Dr. Mary Sun.

Following statements by each of these people, a more open discussion proceeded which involved members of the audience also.

At one point, obviously in reference to the manner in which a previous question, had been phrased, someone stated that it was a mistake to view Communism as analogous to our Western religions.

I must disagree, especially after seeing the last film shown there. It showed clearly the mass hysteria generated by the appearance of Mao Tse-tung, as

well as the constant indoctrination via propagandizing that utilizes every media of communication. Observing the exaltation of this man and his thought, one had the impression of viewing an example of extreme idolatry.

Any accomplishments of the revolution in China have not been without a price, for, to quote Erich Fromm.... "China negates by the means she employs, the emancipation of the individual person which is the very aim of socialism." Many valid criticisms are made of our North American society. However, I reject the notion that Mao Tse-tung has a prescription to cure the ills of the world or that violent revolution is the answer to our problems. To those who wish to become involved or who seek enlightenment regarding meaningful solutions to problems facing the human community, I would recommend such books as: "The Revolution of Hope," "Toward a Humanized Technology," "May Man Prevail," and "Marx's Concept of Man" by

Erich Fromm, "Decisions for a Decade" by Ted Kennedy, and "The True Believer" by Eric Hoffer. The latter may be helpful in aiding understanding of the phenomenon of these leftist revolutionaries. An interesting article on the Cultural Revolution in China appears in the February 21st issue of Life magazine.

Students who cherish the independence and freedom as individuals may find meaningful association with the Universalist-Unitarian Church on Inglis Street. Membership does not involve subscription to any sort of dogma. Each is encouraged to appropriate the belief system he finds most meaningful, without being so presumptuous as to desire that all others adopt the same religious concepts. The goal of "unity in diversity" existing in this Church should become that of the world community in regard to different social, economic and cultural systems.

MIKE BAXTER

Committee Appointed



P.H.R. James
Dean of
Arts and Science

A faculty committee will be appointed to investigate relations between the Dean of Arts and Science and faculty members - a move that has saved Dean Henry James' academic neck, for the time being at least. James, who was appointed last year to replace Dean Cooke, has been under consistent fire from faculty members of late for his proposed reforms in the Arts and Science curriculum. The Gazette has learned that many academics want James out and that the committee is only a stop-gap measure designed to prevent an immediate showdown.

Shortly after assuming his post, James began to press for curriculum reform. A principle aim was "to give individual students more freedom and more time to choose their field of specialization."

His progressive stance on such basic issues spurred conservative elements in the academic ranks into active opposition. Those not opposed to his policies have been alienated by the Dean's administrative style and the sore toes which have often been the result of his manoeuvres.

Another factor is James' belief that departments should be more or less self-sufficient, financing their programs largely through grants and the like. Here the model is the Psychology Department, of which the Dean was head and prime benefactor before assuming his present office.

While James undoubtedly has set out some progressive and important ideas in the field of academic reform it is becoming increasingly obvious that diplomacy rather than reform will have to be the watchwords if he intends to stay on as Dean.



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