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# In Perspective

## Crime doesn't pay, huh?

By RICHARD J. NEEDHAM  
 The Globe and Mail

What are you going to be when you grow up? A doctor, a lawyer, a marriage counsellor? Those are interesting and remunerative occupations. But for real fascination (not to mention real money) you might consider becoming a criminal.

"It is absurd to say crime does not pay. It pays magnificently, and the proceeds are free of income tax." That's the considered opinion of Cyril Harvey, who has served many years as a county-court judge in England. He has reached the conclusion that crime is a profession, an attractive one with many devoted practitioners.

Crime (like war) is interesting and exciting. You don't have to go through daily drudgery in an office or factory; you just "work" when you happen to feel like it. The return can be high - million-dollar robberies are all the rage nowadays - and, as Judge Harvey points out, you don't have to pay any income tax; an important consideration in present-day Britain, as it is in present day Canada.

There is a chance you may be caught; and after that, there is a chance you may be convicted. Time was when this would have meant being sent to row in the galleys for the rest of your life (as in Ben Hur); or tortured (for a clinical description of this, read Frederic Prokosch's book, *A Tale for Midnight*); or hanged from a wayside gallows; or placed before a firing squad. ("Really, captain, not one of those horrible menthols; I must insist on a Rothmans.")

But that was then, and this is now. The worst that can happen to you these days is that you'll go to the pokey, where you will be supported in relative idleness and at a living standard which most of the world's non-criminals would consider luxurious. As Judge Harvey puts it: "Misfortune in crime will only lead you to a custodial institution where you will be housed and fed for a period at the public expense, and will enjoy the company of many kindred spirits."

Given the present circumstances of Western civilization - general affluence, high tax rates, relative lenience (in historical terms) toward the criminal, political leaders whose aim is to please rather than to rule, a widespread conviction that the whole purpose in life is to acquire as much money as possible - given all this, crime seems likely to flourish.

In North America, criminals get an assist - a sort of bonus - from politicians in the form of pseudo-moral legislation which neither is nor can be enforced. Our laws dealing with gambling, liquor, sex and drugs are immensely encouraging, helpful and profitable to what is called organized crime. Racketeers pray nightly that these laws will not be relaxed, and their prayers are answered.

There's another big factor, and that is boredom. Social reformers used to think that poverty was the cause of crime. They believed that when there were jobs for all, homes for all, education for all, leisure for all, pensions and such for all, everybody would be happy and virtuous. The reformers have been disillusioned. People (especially younger people) get bored with peace and plenty, with security and stability; they want risk, change, excitement, so off they go to smash windows or hold up storekeepers or steal cars and drive them to the public danger.

Clever people will go into crime when the stakes are high, as is shown by the brilliant planning of Britain's Great Train Robbery - and by the equally brilliant planning of the subsequent jailbreaks. Or they might go into it for amusement, for curiosity; the French statesman Mirabeau became a highwayman for a spell. "Your money or your life!" I just to see what courage it took. It is known how he enjoyed it.

What is certain is that the veneer of civilization is, and always has been, a thin one needing careful, patient maintenance. What is equally certain is that you will not necessarily improve men's moral condition by improving their material one; and in this respect, New Zealand has something to tell us. Its top-security prison has been destroyed by 200 hardened criminals who finally had to be quelled by 500 police, soldiers and firemen; the prisoners set fire to everything that would burn, including the chapel. These colorful events took place in the biggest city of the oldest and most complete welfare state in the world.



## Voice of the Student

# The Dream and the Reality

One may choose, if one wishes, to ignore reality; but one cannot ultimately escape from it.

In his recent editorial, which the Dalhousie Gazette has reprinted, Mr. John Ewing of the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute has cast what I consider to be a number of slurs upon the military profession, and has chosen to allow himself the luxury of withdrawing into the cozy protectiveness of a self-admitted idealism. I should like to make a reply to Mr. Ewing in the hope that he, and those who agree with his point of view, might in future refrain from the slurs, and turn from considering the world as it ought to be to considering the world as it is (which in no way implies that such consideration should not be devoted to examining what changes are desirable and how they might be achieved).

Mr. Ewing would like us to forget about war, to forget that wars have ever happened. To some extent he may have a good idea here, although a few amusing parallels between his notion and the Orwellian concept of Goodthink might be drawn. But, for the most part, Mr. Ewing does not bother developing his idea; rather, he entertains us by dashing about the countryside in pursuit of some vaguely defined ogre, upsetting windmills of various descriptions in the process.

Mr. Ewing would prefer to think that man, with his supposed powers of reason, has risen somewhat in evolution from the lowly stature of a bug. He grumbles that this hardly seems justification for war, or anything else. It is not intended as justification for war, or anything else. A reasonable person would see it as simply a comment upon the human condition, upon man's propensity to war, nothing more.

What Mr. Ewing does here is obvious, and no less dishonest for all its obviousness; he courageously attacks Air Vice-Marshal Collishaw's metaphor, finding perhaps the idea behind the metaphor to be too tough a proposition to take on. As we might expect, Mr. Ewing gains an easy victory.

Mr. Ewing also makes casual reference to "alleged" acts of heroism. Why "alleged"? Does Mr. Ewing perhaps contend that such acts simply did not occur,

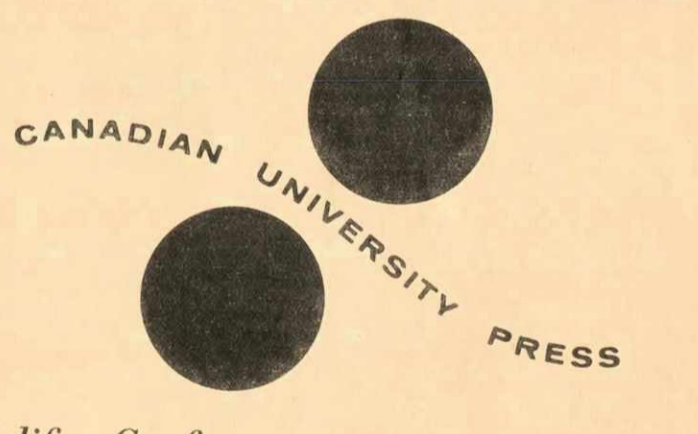
that they were nothing more than creations of the propagandist's pen? Or possibly he feels that while such acts as described did in fact occur there was nothing particularly heroic about them. Well, we cannot really know just what he means. If he means the former there is not really much that can be said, except to ask our sceptic to produce the grounds on which he brands these stories false. If the latter is his position we can say this: The Victoria Cross is awarded, after a good deal of substantiation, to men who commit deeds involving a greater degree of personal courage than would be expected of any man under the circumstances; in other words, no blame would ever have been attached to any of those men had they failed to act as they did.

While physical courage may be a barbarous concept in Mr. Ewing's circle, a concept to be sniggered at, most people take a somewhat more tolerant view of it. One may well choose to forget that such deeds occurred, and glorification of them is wrong; but it is unfair to ask Mr. Ewing to refrain from issuing cheap slurs against brave men, some of whom have forfeited the luxury of being able to reply in their own defence.

Now it must be admitted that the above two paragraphs are really of little consequence. The points which they comment upon were irrelevant to the core of Mr. Ewing's argument. They should not have been in his article in the first place, their absence would not have been missed. They were cheap remarks, and fully deserving of the scorn with which I have treated them.

The core of Mr. Ewing's argument is summed up in the sentence, "Nobody seems to remember that if it wasn't for such men on our side and the others - war would never have occurred at any time in any place." A fairly safe argument, akin to saying remove all fuels and how can you have fire.

Well, perhaps at Ryerson Mr. Ewing has taken a course which has shown him how the nature of mankind EN MASSE is to be changed, how we can turn all men into pacifists. If so he might have told us about it, if not he would have done better to have turned



## Halifax Conference

# Its influence on student councils

SASKATOON (CUP) - One of the most significant results of the Canadian Union of Students' Congress in Halifax last month was its influence on student councils across Canada.

Ever since then, student leaders have been discussing the implications and resolutions passed, and debates on or lost during the Congress. They have also been debating CUS goals and objectives.

The University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon is a good example of the kind of discussions going on across the country.

At a recent Student Representative Council meeting here, council members seriously examined CUS -- its priorities, its problems, its purposes.

While there was little evidence indicating any substantial pressure for U of S to withdraw from CUS, there was a great deal of discussion about how CUS can become more effectively representative of Canadian students, and considerable criticism regarding CUS achievements in this line.

CUS is no longer truly Canadian, charged internal vice-president Leslie Shaw, pointing to the absence of Quebec universities, Newfoundland and Alberta in the union.

A union must have purpose and meaning for its members, he said. The local campus issues must be given priority to obtain this objective. Shaw cited decision making regarding educational financing and tuition fees as examples of priority issues.

External issues should be of secondary importance, he said. External vice-president Eric Malling disagreed with Shaw. Defending the action of elected leaders taking stands on international issues, he said it is an integral part of CUS activity to make such statements and take responsibility for them.

CUS activities have a three-fold priority--activism, providing services to students, and organizing a program of studies with governments, Malling continued.

The Declaration of Canadian Students, drawn up at the 1965 CUS Congress, set certain ideals of achievement. This included the question of universal accessibility and thus involves CUS in the whole community, Malling said.

SRC president Dave Tkachuk said more students need to question CUS. In this way, CUS would be a movement of students, not just an organization.

At first I felt CUS was ineffective, but now I'm in favor of remaining in CUS, Tkachuk said.

There must be more attempts by the national CUS executive to negotiate with discontented universities in order to avoid any future withdrawals from the union, he said.

Only last week the Saskatoon campus was reported to be considering withdrawal.

# Oh! Hell...

Richard Needham, a columnist with the Toronto Grunt and Wail has invented a game which is sweeping the country. It is called: "Hell is . . ."

- Here is a sample of the way we play the game.
- Hell is a place where all the doors to washrooms are locked.
- Hell is a place where the Dalhousie Tigers are the only football team.
- Hell is a place where everyone has to eat food from the Dal canteen.
- Hell is a place where the only university is Saint Mary's.
- Hell is a place where the King's mens residence would be classed as fit for human habitation.
- Hell is a place where the English professors would write the newspapers.
- Hell is a place with 10 cent 'pay toilets' when you only have a nickel.
- Hell is a place where the only newspapers are the Chronical Herald and the Mail Star.
- Hell is a place where the Los Angeles Dodgers always win the World Series.
- Hell is a place without Upper Canadian beer.
- Hell is a place without European and Oriental women.
- Hell is a convocation address by Henry Hicks.
- Hell is a place where the CBC controls all the television channels.
- Hell is a place where sociologists and psychologists are taken seriously.
- Hell is a place where Lyndon Johnson is the only person you can believe.
- Hell is a place where you are given the opportunity to show just what you know.
- Hell is a place where the only limitation is your ability.
- Hell is a place with an H.F.C. office in every block.
- Hell is a place without Canadian hockey players.
- Hell is a place with an all-Canadian professional football team.
- Hell is a place where they only sell American beer and Mexican cigarettes.
- Hell is a place where you have to read Dalhousie Gazette editorials.
- Hell is a place where they pay you for original ideas.
- Hell is a place where the United Church is the national church.
- Hell is a place where love is dead.
- Hell is a place where John Diefenbaker is the Prime Minister.
- Hell is a place where the Dalhousie council makes important decisions.
- Hell is a Canadian Indian reservation.
- Hell is making love in an MG.
- Hell is a place where short skirts are outlawed.
- Hell is shaving without water.
- Hell is a place where fat girls wear shorts.
- Hell is a place where Quebec is not part of Canada.
- Hell is a place where Maritimers are considered radicals and progressives.
- Hell is a place where the Italians are the soldiers; the Americans the missionaries; the British the philosophers; the Canadians the entertainers; the Mexicans the scientists, and the Chinese the politicians.
- Hell is a place where the beds are five feet long and two feet wide.
- Hell is a place where Oral Roberts is the Dean of Medicine.
- Hell is a place where the commerce professors run the business world.
- Hell is a week of Fridays.
- Hell is a place where the CNR runs the railways.
- Hell is a place where they only sell one-way tickets to Newfoundland.
- Hell is a place where Roman Catholics never practice birth control.
- Hell is a place where the frontiers of science are endless.
- Hell is a place where all beds have lower bed linen sheets.
- Hell is a place where all beds have toilet seats.

## War pushers are not wanted

BY JOHN EWING  
 The Ryersonian  
 I am writing to you because I am sure that you will be interested in the views of a student who has just returned from a tour of duty in the military forces of Canada.

It is a common mistake to think of the military as a profession. It is not. It is a business. It is a business that is run for the profit of a few men who are interested in power and money.

The military is a business that is run for the profit of a few men who are interested in power and money. It is a business that is run for the profit of a few men who are interested in power and money.

Let's forget whole affair"