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What Does It Mean?

Mankind has finally found a way to put something into outer space. For the present we will have to be satisfied that that something be a unit of intricate machinery, or a dog. But man is never satisfied and ultimately he will venture through the frontiers of space into territory which never before has been witness to human curiosity. That day will represent the culmination of decades of work and research. That day will also open vast new fields of scientific endeavour. Knowledge of the unknown that waits to be known. Strange phenomenon, barely conceived of, that awaits man's conquering hand. Sure as it is, this achievement must wait until a future when we have in hand considerably more knowledge than we now possess.

What of immediate consequences? In the world today, discoveries as earth shattering as this have at least two sides to them: the scientific and the political. Science undeniably stands to benefit considerably from this pioneer effort. The first step has successfully been taken in a whole new branch of human knowledge, comprehension of which is only in a very young stage.

From a political stand-point, the problem is not as clear cut, nor as rosy. It was our mis-fortune that we were not able to penetrate earth's atmosphere first. The Russians have clearly got "one over us". What they will do with this advantage is hard to say, although we can hazard a pretty good guess from past experience. Certainly they intend to use both the prestige and knowledge in political bargaining. It is immaterial whether this is a conscious, or unconscious thing. The knowledge that the Soviet Union has succeeded where no one has before is bound to make an impression in the councils of world governments.

The West must ask itself what it will do in the event Russia uses the satellite as a political wedge to influence the uncommitted countries of the middle east. For this is what she will probably do and it is not strange that she do this. Do we concentrate our efforts toward the making of our own man-made moon. Do we continue as we are now devoting our time to other fields of human endeavour. Do we build up our defences in case of attack from outer space. Do we examine the reasons for our failure to beat the Russians to the punch. What was at fault? Did we give the satellite projects a correct position in priority? Are the governments of the west unconcerned about space travel?

These and many more questions are waiting to be answered. It will not be easy to so answer them as to arrive at the best course of action. Perhaps we will arrive at only a close approximation of the right policy to pursue. But the important thing to remember is that the time to act is now, not tomorrow or the day after. And certainly not next week.

The situation is far from desperate. However, should we become cynical or complacent, we will find world affairs rapidly deteriorating, and everything we hold as good, and call right, slipping fast away like the night when the first rays of a new day breaks across the moon.

Who Pays? . . .

Now that all references to that "other university" have been purged from the New MacLaren Gates, it would not be amiss to ask authorities just who foots the bill? Efforts to appeal to the consciences of the culprits have come to nought and we can assume

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either they don't have any, or they are too hardened for our remarks to make any impression. We must admit that our first guess as to the identity of the "artists" had close bearing on the message messily splashed on the gates. This is not to say that we were right. Perhaps we aren't. However, the most recent examples of vandalism of this type, of which this is one, and the painting of the Students Centre and Gym was the other, gave evidence of garnet and gold sympathy. There is not too much of that kind of sympathy on this campus.

What We Said . . .

There seems to be quite a bit of confusion among students and others here about our story on bookstore prices. There need not be any. All that story was designed to accomplish was a presentation of a few facts about the Book Store to the students. Since the bookstore is an important and vital part of the college, we thought it our duty to make students aware of the situation. Service at the store has always been excellent and will continue to be so, as far as we can see. Prices of novels and pocket books are in some cases lower than in other places and for this we are all thankful. However, when we present a factual story to the students about something in which they are vitally concerned, it should not become the occasion for people on the one hand to say that "they thought the bookstore did that sort of thing" or on the other "all right if you think you're being taken in, go somewhere else". Both of these attitudes are wrong. The bookstore is trying to do the best job it knows how. We simply wanted to have something explained. It was explained and we are satisfied. So should others be. On the other side of the coin, we are not trying to unjustly accuse the Bookstore of anything, and no one should think this.

We did not do it out of spite, and we did not publish those facts to create a sensation. It was as a service to the students and university community. There was nothing irresponsible about the facts, nor the presentation, nor the fact that it was published. Any one who thinks so, is not adultly facing life.

Get Busy . . .

We will be forgiven, if we labour two points in these columns which have taken up space a few times previously. The traffic situation and the library situation (both of which could after all be described as traffic) To the first. It is becoming painfully apparent that silence coupled with lack of action is the only answer we are going to get from the university authorities on the traffic situation up the hill. We very much doubt if either of these measures will do very much to alleviate the congestion. Not only is the Albert St. corner becoming a dangerous menace to life and limb, but the normally simple task of parking is on the aspects of a game of hide and seek with no rules. The parking lot beside the new chemistry building is a disgrace. Covered with mud and ruts, approachable only by a bumpy, uneven woods road, its speaks very little good for college grounds administration.

We wonder how the "new system" in the library is working. Has it accomplished its purpose, whatever that may be?

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Written Examination, Saturday, Nov. 23

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University Placement Office, Arts Building

or

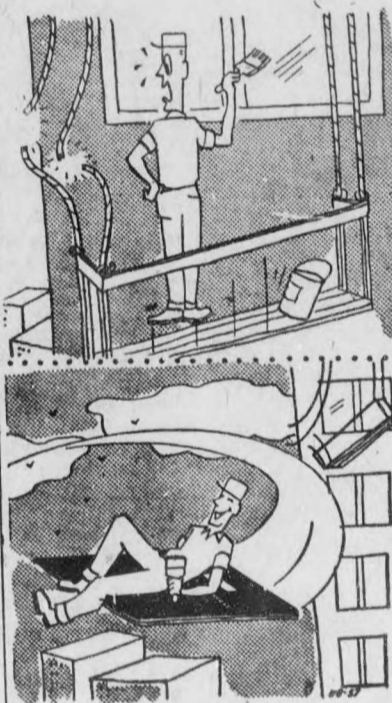
Civil Service Commission, Ottawa

If you write to Ottawa, please specify the classes in which you are interested and quote Competition 58-2650.

Attention All LIBERALS
 There will be a
General Meeting Monday Night at 8 p.m.
All Purpose Room

Note

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT



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