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THE CADRE

THAN TO
CURSE
THE
DARKNESS

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English teachers protest rating

Recommend abolition of 'Matrics' in English

HALIFAX — At a conference at St. Mary's University in Halifax February 6 and 7, a group of fifty English teachers and professors from across the Atlantic provinces called for "the abolition of provincially standardized and externally graded examinations" in English. This would include, delegates explained, both the present system of matriculation examinations, or departmentals, and any other uniform, provincially-administered examination designed to rate students according to a provincewide standard.

Reasons given for the recommendation include the delegates' conviction that English is a field where such examinations are both imperfect as an evaluation device and detrimental to the teaching of English in the high schools.

It was also contended at the meeting that such examinations cannot allow suffi-

ciently for the wide diversity of cultural backgrounds in individual provinces, but it was decided not to make this part of the official recommendations of the meeting.

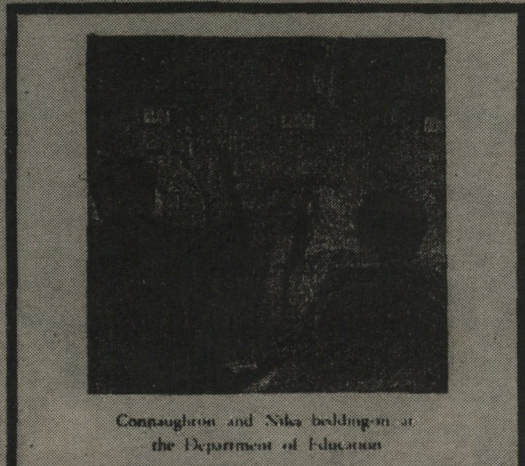
It was also recommended by the meeting that individual universities should be made responsible for selecting their own entrance and placement criteria, that the judgment of the classroom teacher in the high school should be "recognized as the decisive factor" in evaluating students in English classes, and that universities should "develop a range of clearly differentiated freshman English courses" to serve the varied needs of incoming freshmen.

The conference, whose official title was the "Conference on Freshman English in the Maritimes," included delegates from all four Atlantic provinces, representing universities, high schools, and provincial departments of

education. The meeting voted overwhelmingly for the four resolutions, and called for another meeting to continue the discussion. "This is really just preparing the ground," said one delegate. "Now when we meet next time we will be able to make some concrete recommendations about freshman English courses."

One effect of the resolutions, delegates pointed out, would be to promote a closer liaison between high schools and universities, "because you wouldn't have the matrics making a wall between them." It was also asserted that these resolutions should apply to disciplines other than English. According to a New Brunswick delegate, "The evils perpetrated by matrics pervade our entire educational system."

A second meeting is tentatively scheduled for the fall, in Fredericton.



Connaughton and Niles bedding-in at the Department of Education

Hilton fires activists

Two UPEI students were fired from their jobs with the athletic department, because of their involvement in the action taken by the students concerning the fee increase.

Bob Connaughton, who worked in the rink and Don Niles, who worked as an announcer during basketball games were told that they would lose their jobs. Ed Hilton, Chairman of the athletic department, told them, according to Niles that "you made asses of yourselves" during the student action. He also told them that they were fired.

John Keaveny, Student Union President took the matter before the Senate. Although no formal action was taken by the Senate, we have received information that they were offered their jobs back the day after the Senate meeting. Niles refused his job back, but Connaughton has gone back to work, apparently because he needs the money.

No discipline for faculty members

At a recent meeting of the UPEI Senate, John Keaveny President of the Student Union, suggested that since the University feels there is a need for a committee to handle student discipline, there should also be one for the faculty.

Keaveny felt that there should be some means for protecting students from faculty tyranny. Keaveny cited examples of this tyranny, such as, refusing to answer questions in class, using attendance records in grading. He said "Students have been even kicked out of courses for not meeting attendance requirements". One student commented that this is similar to a 19th century law in

Britain which held that the penalty for attempted suicide was death by hanging.

Keaveny felt that if this committee on faculty was set up as a committee of Senate then it should be made up of half students and half faculty.

The suggestion apparently got a very cool reception from senate. President Baker suggested that if this type of committee was set up the University would lose all of its good faculty.

Keaveny commenting on Baker's statement said "I feel that if a faculty member is doing a good job then he would have nothing to worry about from such a committee."

War is over (if he wants it)

WASHINGTON, DC (CPS) — After conferring for several hours with top political, military, economic and public relations advisers, president Richard Nixon today ordered the immediate withdrawal of all American troops from Viet Nam.

In a startling move of obscure political brilliance the president said, "It's not really our war, anyway." Presidential advisers cited growing political dissent at home and a need to "cement our divided society and allow us to prepare for the hard pull ahead."

The troops will begin leaving some time next week, as soon as the non-commissioned officers clubs can recoup their losses. The pullout will amount to some 497,000 military and civilian personnel. When asked if the new C5-A transports will be used, a military spokesman explained that the South Vietnamese government prohibits aircraft

whose engines produce over 140 decibels of sound.

The South Vietnamese embassy was closed and the ambassador unavailable for comment. Rumors circulating this afternoon said the ambassador had fled the country fearing threats of his life. (A state department spokesman denied that South Vietnam was preparing to sever relations with the US before the troops could be redeployed.)

Leading economists predict that the shift from wartime to peacetime economy could prove disastrous to the stability of the dollar and fear a plunge into the depths of depression. "What will we do with the six months backlog of war materials we have stockpiled?" asked Milton Friedman.

The president is scheduled to go on nation-wide television tomorrow night to make his position perfectly clear. At today's special press conference he refused to go be-

yond the following general statement:

"I want my position to be perfectly clear. This nation is going to fight communism wherever it springs up. Now, my fellow Americans, I realize the tremendous strain on our economy the end of the war in Viet Nam could be, and I have provided for it.

"Our neighbor to the north has long been fraught with internal strife. From the protection Canada has been giving our young draft dodgers it becomes apparent that Canada has been taken over by the communists. We cannot allow this threat so close to our own soil.

"After much deliberation, I have ordered the saturation bombing of eastern Canada, and our troops are already securing the principal ports, airports, and border crossings. If we pull together in this fight, Canada will soon be a safe place to live for all peace-loving people."

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