

by Reno

# The Highjackers

Why is everybody here? We might get a suspicion of student motives by examining the enrollment in The Pilot Project first year programme. Of about 700 first year students only 18 registered in the new programme. The Pilot Project is an interdisciplinary course which attempts to lend a progressive and tightly defined course schedule. It lays emphasis on broad understanding of themes and issues rather than the boxing of knowledge into departments, and on discussion as a forum for learning rather than the mere relating facts by a lecturer to be absorbed uncritically by students. It is, I think, a sincere attempt to provide an environment in which people can learn meaningfully, to avoid the pitfalls of academic gamesmanship. Why didn't more people register for it?

Fear. I think those who made a conscious decision not to take the new programme did so because they were afraid of it. They were afraid because the new course didn't seem to offer the same standards of ladder-climbing that they were accustomed to.

It wasn't as clearly defined as those other courses which students had traditionally taken. One was also expected, apparently, to take part in discussions - not quite as secure as sitting in the back of a lecture theatre. Maybe you couldn't transfer to another University. What would your degree really be worth? Little matter whether anything was learned whether one's philosophy was ever challenged, as long as you got that piece of paper for a job and I sympathize with these reservations, although I disagree with most of them.

But I don't believe that the fault lies with individual students. I think that we could expect little else from our present high school system. High school graduates have been submitted to the personal achievement rationale for so long that any other motive is entirely foreign. They have been taught that the grading system is the important part of the educational process taught to compete with their peers, rather than working together. Doing a homework assignment with a friend is considered cheating. How absurd. Good students are quiet and well-behaved,

the high schools tell them - No wonder discussion is scary - It's an entirely new phenomenon.

But the old marking system gives the professor the ultimate power of evaluating students - don't disagree with him, because he can penalize you, and he often will. Then when you apply for a job, your employer will see the mark and discover that you might be a shit-disturber. That's

scary, and that's what a real education should be - it should challenge you and everything you stand for.

Despite the foregoing, I am optimistic about the contribution that this year's Freshmen can make to UPEI. From my observations during the first week of school, they appear more critically aware than any previous high school graduates. Continue combat!



## Fish

## Ish



MONTE CARLO (CUPI) -

"The oceans are dying. The pollution is general."

Jacques Ives Cousteau, who has covered more than 155,000 miles of ocean exploring and making movies in the past three and a half years says:

"People don't realize that all pollution goes to the seas. The earth is less polluted. It is washed by rain which carries everything into the

oceans where life has diminished by 40 per cent in 20 years."

Cousteau also said that "an excess of fishing is also pollution."

New methods utilizing modern technology is upsetting the balance of life in the oceans, he said. "Even in the Indian Ocean, which is little travelled."

However, he said he had hopes that efforts now being taken might stop the pollution trend, "and the rest can be saved."

## Narcing up the wrong tree ....

### ED NOTE

In the early days of Union organizing, a scab was about the lowest form of life God put on earth. Today when young people consider the methods used by NARCOTICS

agents (a Charlottetown lawyer, when describing such methods, said that even a dog would not turn on their own kind like they) many feel that Jack London's description of a scab might be very fitting for a 'Narc' also. Here is a portion of his description of a scab with the word 'Narc' inserted in place of 'scab'.

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a narc.

A narc is a two legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water logged brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

When a narc comes down the street, men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him out. No man has the right to 'narc' so long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in or a rope long enough to hang his body with.

Judas Iscariot was a gentleman compared with a narc. For betraying his master he had character, he had character enough to hang himself. A narc has not.

