

Editorial

i hate pleading. I REALLY DO HATE PLEADING. yet what alternatives are there to alert students fed a diet of soap operas and high school level university courses to world events? how can you be impressed upon to realize the devastating effect that world occurrences will have on all of us? how can you be convinced that one of the duties of a human being is to have a universal concern for the condition of mankind... not just your roommate or your grandfather or Joe Clark, but for the plight of the political prisoners in South America, for the beneficence of the blacks in South Africa, for those 500 political deaths in Jamaica, and for the dying Cambodian race.

i'm not trying to sound like a stereotypical radical right out of the Sixties, but those radicals were correct in principle. we should have sympathy for our fellow man because his actions will eventually affect us. after all, how many of us would have been immediately aware of the implications of an assassination in Eastern Europe in 1914?

granted, world news these days is depressing and sometimes downright boring. that is partly the fault of the media, encased in their fantasies of accurately reporting the events of earth. on an individual level this world is contented, but on an overall basis we are doomed by our own selves. if you wish to contest this, write for the SUN next semester. laughter will save us.

have a contented and funny christmas and be strong.

Feedbag

Search For The Grail

Dear Editor,

The President of the University of Prince Edward Island has effectively decided that, within a few years, graduating Island high-school students who wish to receive a higher education will have to pursue that increasingly elusive 'grail' in some part of the world other than their Island home. The really sad thing is that Dr. Meincke has given every indication that he does not realize that this is what he has done by promoting (and isolating) the Business Administration program at the university to the status of a School from its present (and soon to be former) rank as a department within the Faculty of Arts.

Of course, by making this move, the President is both conforming to and reflecting the contemporary utilitarian vision (or lack of vision) of education-as-apprenticeship and cannot, therefore, be accused of doing anything revolutionary or creative.

It is incredible and discouraging to realize just how many people today, including a host of students and professors, believe that unless an education is directly translatable into dollars and cents, or unless it can be effectively applied to the building of the better mouse-trap, it is somehow meaningless and a waste of time.

A truly liberal education, one designed to 'liberate' and form the powers of the mind, to pass on, in other words, the intellectual discipline and breadth of vision which have always characterized truly learned men and women, is today being gradually edged out of some modern universities by those in favour of particular forms of training

designed to prepare young men and women to fit comfortably and neatly into the slots and niches of the social machinery as these become vacant. Contemporary education is increasingly becoming less a humanizing process and more a "doggy-school" where students are trained in the methods and techniques, the 'tricks of the trade', of a particular occupational area. Surely a fully human education is more than learning the 'tricks of a trade'; surely there is more to being human than being expertly prepared, on paper at least, for pushing the right buttons, using the right forms, or employing the right (read, "most popular") method in teaching or in transacting a business deal. And yet, it is this narrow, materialistic and even dehumanizing approach to the educative process that is fast turning higher education into nothing more than longer education.

By elevating the Business Administration program to such prominence within the university community; by effectively reducing the number of students enrolled in the Faculty of Arts (which may have tragic implications when that Faculty holds out its tin cup to the university for funds for its programs), President Meincke has driven his nail into the coffin of higher education in P.E.I.

It can only be a matter of time before the University of PEI makes the final break with its past and degenerates into a series of professional schools (Business Administration, Veterinary Medicine, Education, and the gods know what else), and the talented men and women who presently teach philosophy, Religious Studies, Classics, even English, History

themselves updating their resumes.

It may already be too late to reverse this trend at UPEI, but if Islanders were to raise enough of a stink over the potential loss of higher education in their province, perhaps those with the decision-making power at UPEI would reconsider and look more carefully at the long-term implications of their actions. We were not asked our opinion on this

matter (a gross oversight on the part of the President considering the long and rich history of the two Island institutions of higher learning which supplied the building blocks of UPEI and which were so intricately woven into the fabric of Island life), but perhaps, we ought to offer that opinion now.

Yours truly,
Timothy P.G. Trainor, B.A.
UPEI Class of '79

UPEI SUN

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The Staff meeting is Monday night at 7 in the SUN's office, fourth floor Main, east end. BE THERE!!

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