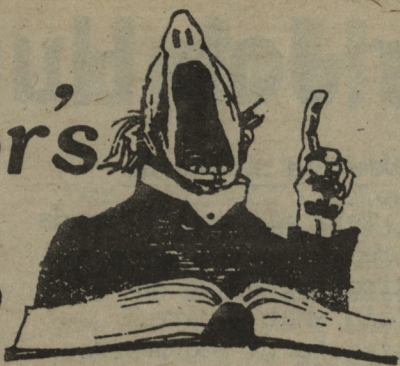


The Professor's Diary



Monday: The happy thought struck me today that Professor X, my arch-rival, is losing his touch. If I mistake not, he is gradually taking longer and longer in successive conversations to think of something to talk about which he knows I do not know. The hope is that one day he may fall silent altogether.

He reminds me of a weekly series of informal talks I used to attend at another university, called "Can You Top This?". People would recount some interesting experience they had had, or reveal some piece of arcane knowledge (a la Robertson Davies). This was fun, but I have noticed that most conversations in the academic world are a speeded-up series of Can You Top This, Bet You Can't, or Did You Know This, Bet You Didn't. Professor X is, or used to be, a master of such pseudo discourses.

Tuesday: The Business school mind continues to fascinate me. Today I happened to mention to one of my business colleagues what a boon it is that we can now get the Globe and Mail direct. "Oh yes," he said, "And you know, the Globe has much more in it than just Business. It has lots of features on the arts, politics, foreign affairs," No kidding.

Wednesday: Mid-terms are here again. Today I came up with what I thought was a rather clever device for one of my courses. Instead of badgering my brains, as usual, trying to think of a test appropriately difficult yet fair, etc., etc., I simply said, "Write a question suitable for a mid-term examination in this course, and then answer it." But I reckoned without my bete noir, Gallant. His response was simply to copy that sentence twice. Now I'm trying to figure out if his answer is worth 100 or 0.

Thursday: The envelopes we get our pay slips in now, it just occurs to me, are like Christmas crackers. You grip both ends, pull smartly, and voila, you pay snaps out. Of course, if you're at my end of the pay scale, sometimes you get a dud.

Friday: I see Topics is out again today. An estimable and well-written little magazine. Hagiography raised to high art.



MOVIES WITH J.M.

Ragtime, an ambitious Dino De Laurantis project, presents itself as a time capsule of the 1930's. Opening newsreel footage sets the tone for the viewers trip through the social fabric of an era.

Several plots and themes intermingle throughout the film, however, the main storyline deals with Colehouse Walker Jr., a young, black musician who, after being the victim of an act of bigotry that is indirectly responsible for the death of his girl, takes justice into his own hands.

James Cagney, in his much ballyhooed return to the screen, plays a crusty police commissioner who must stop the violence of Colehouse Walker Jr.

Many other characters directly and indirectly involved in the main plot

slip in and out of the action in a manner that, while causing the story to sometimes lose its momentum, does not detract from the film as a whole. Their presences manifest a wide array of social attitudes that gives Ragtime a rich texture.

Also contributing a great deal to the film's texture is the music. Rather than simply using music of the era, the producers hired Randy Newman (remember the song "Short People"?) to write an original score. Newman spent several weeks listening to 30's music before composing an array of lovely melodies that compliment the period.

With such outstanding acting, music, writing and presentation, Ragtime is a shoo-in for at least one Oscar.

MAPUS Update

Mapus is presently in the process of determining the viability of a child care operation on campus that would operate on the credit/debit system. The program involves no financial dealings but instead functions on the basic principle of exchange: you earn credits by caring for children during your free time and these credits are then redeemable in free child care service.

Anyone interested in acquiring further information or who would like

to express support for such a program may write to Mapus, box 39, UPEI, or phone Judy Kohlsmith, 892-3795; or Jewel MacDonald, 894-8090. If sufficient support is shown, we will approach the university administration for allocations of facilities.

The credit/debit system can be used in many areas of university life - for example, book exchanges, and not only foster cooperation but plays that all important role of defraying costs.

Off to Europe?

Planning that big trip to Europe after graduation?

Interested in working overseas for the summer?

The international student identity cards are now in. Come on down to the student union office in the Barn and discover how the ISIC card can help you and the services offered through the Canadian Federation of Students - Services.

Cost is 3.50 and the card is good for a full year. Don't wait, find out now!

For more information contact John MacDougall or Terry Palmer.

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