

Higgins speaks to UPEI on Thomas Merton

By Sharon Leighton

is the sane men who perpetrate Armageddon. It is the sane men who will push the buttons. What kind of a sanity is this? A sanity with no moral base."

When Dr. Michael Higgins, lecturer on Thomas Merton, made this quotation from Merton's works, it became apparent that Merton had not only engaged his age, but Dr. Higgins claimed, but as well.

Dr. Higgins, Director of the Center for Catholic Experience at the University of Waterloo, spoke to large and receptive audiences at UPEI on November 24 and 25. The subject of his lectures, Thomas Merton, was a monk whose writings from the 1930s to the 1960s had a wide influence.

Merton's interests included more than finding a moral base that would prevent nuclear disaster.

He was concerned with the spread of technicism, that viewpoint that sees the world as dependent upon techno-

logy. While he did not suggest that technology should be abandoned, he insisted that it needed to be kept in perspective. "Technology," he said, "represents the rule of quantity, not the rule of reason." He thought that when individuals are talked of as measurable, as integers for the machines to process, it is easy to lose sight of the importance of humanity. Man becomes a mere biophysical link between machines. A mass society is created, a collectivity of dependents, and the individual is lost in the mass.

He was concerned with totalitarianism. He was in Europe during the rise of Nazism and was alarmed by what he saw there. Later, the trial of Adolf Eichmann, the man in charge of Auschwitz concentration camp, made a deep impression on him. He wondered how it was possible that an intelligent, cultured man like Eichmann could perpetrate such horrors without even realising the wrongness of

such acts. He — and the many like him — defended themselves by saying they were simply following orders.

Merton decided that such men can exist because they lack inner development. They have the trappings of Christian culture, but no inner essence. Contemplation, the development of wisdom rather than measurable fact-based knowledge, was for him the proper safeguard against such submission to totalitarianism.

Merton saw another form of totalitarianism in North American culture, a totalitarianism based on a breakdown of communication, a violation of the language. This violation was done largely by advertising and people in positions of authority. As Dr. Higgins pointed out, there are two things of which everyone is automatically "killed": a commercial and a message from.

Merton said that most people knew how to deal with sense and with nonsense, but were foolish because they

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Jazz Concert Held

By Jocelyne Arteau

There was a Jazz Ensemble Concert at the Dr. Steel Recital Hall on Sunday, November 27 at 2:30. However, not many people seemed to have been aware of the fact. Not more than fifty people were present, perhaps due to the poor advertisement and rain.

Despite these problems, most of the people present enjoyed the band's performance. It must have taken the musicians many hours of practice to achieve such a high standard of play. For those who love jazz, there will be another jazz concert next semester.

Senate Meets

The Senate of UPEI will meet for the ninth time in 1983-84 on Friday, December 2 at 3 p.m. in the Board Room of the Kelley Building.

The agenda includes continued discussion of the Vet College issue, reports by the Academic Planning Committee on Soc./Anth. major(s), by the *ad hoc* Committee on Promotions Criteria, by the Nominating Committee and Honorary Degree Committee. The Admissions Committee will also give its annual report, and there will be (surprise!) a report by the President of the University.

Folk Festival Planned

The Sixteenth Annual Maritime Intercollegiate Folk Festival will be held at Mount Allison University in early February. The Mount Allison Gesner Geological Society will again be hosting this event.

MAPUS throws party

The first MAPUS Christmas get-together will be held on December 2 at 8:30 p.m. Festivities take place in Room 102, Blanchard Hall, and all mature and part-time students are welcome. Since this will be a pot-luck soiree, you are asked to contact Olive Bryanton, Ext. 296 or 675-3357, or Anna Sawicki, Department of Extension (Ext. 125 or 310) to find out what you should bring.

Wanted: Editor

The UPEI student newspaper needs an editor, starting January 3, 1984. The deadline for applications is Friday, December 2 at 5:00 p.m. Applications can be filled out at the Student Union Building (Barn).

Cake won

The Home Economics Club Halloween Cake draw was won by Mrs. Mollison from Sherwood.

Beware before Christmas

Before leaving for the Christmas holidays, students are urged to ensure that they do not owe money at the Business Office nor have Library books in their possession. Marks will be withheld in either case and, since the University will be closed Christmas and New Year's, there will be no way to check and get cleared until 3 January. Be sure ahead of time and avoid disappointment.

Also make sure that the Registrar's Office has your correct mailing address.

Grad Proofs in

The graduating class of 1984 picture proofs have arrived. They can be picked up during regular business hours in the Alumni Office, downstairs in the Kelley Building, starting Friday, December 2.

Students hurt in B.C. strike

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Complaints of penalization for respecting picket lines are continuing in the aftermath of a three day education sector walkout during B.C. strike activities in early November.

In one case, a professor held an unscheduled exam worth 50 per cent of the final grade while picket lines were up.

At the University of B.C., the administration has promised a policy but so far hasn't notified faculty or students of the decision.

But both Capilano College and Simon Fraser University have offered full amnesty for students who choose not to attend classes.

"This issue is very important. For some students crossing the picket line is the worst thing they have to do, but some people don't understand this," said Lisa Hebert, UBC student society external affairs officer.

Hebert said she has had complaints from a half dozen students and a campus chaplain said he's had another 15.

Hebert said she is urging the administration to issue a statement supporting the right to cross picket lines

without penalty. Student Council unanimously passed a motion with this intent, she added.

UBC academic vice president Robert Smith said the administration's position was outlined in a Nov. 7 memo to deans and department heads. The memo stated that the situation of students should be monitored carefully and revised if necessary, Smith said.

Meanwhile, Operation Solidarity and Solidarity Coalition continue to discuss other actions to fight legislation which attacks human and tenant rights by reducing government services.

But the massive protest which led to a near general strike of public sector employees has all but died as the Christmas season approaches and the province waits to see how consultation with the government proceeds.



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* TRAVEL CUTS is the trading name of Canadian Universities Travel Service Ltd.

Boy, that A.C.H.E.S.!

By Laurie Thompson

One or twelve members of the UPEI Home Economics Club will be attending a conference of the Association of Canadian Home Economics Students (A.C.H.E.S.) in Montreal, January 11-14.

This year's conference theme is "Our Future Marketplace". The conference schedule includes:

- a bus tour of Montreal
- various guest speakers with such topics as Communications, Career Management, Starting a Business, and Home Ec. Education
- a wine and cheese party

Students will be able to choose one field trip from

those planned as well. Tours are planned of CARA-FOODS, the company that caters for the major airlines; a Jewish General Hospital where the kitchen is specifically designed for Kosher food production; a Montrealer's small business where clothes are designed, sewn, and sold; and a special centre for the blind where computers are used to read the human voice.

For recreation, there will be swimming, night skating on Mount Royal, dancing and early morning exercise.

The conference is expected to be a smashing success. Our thanks go to all of you who helped support us in our fund-raising activities.