

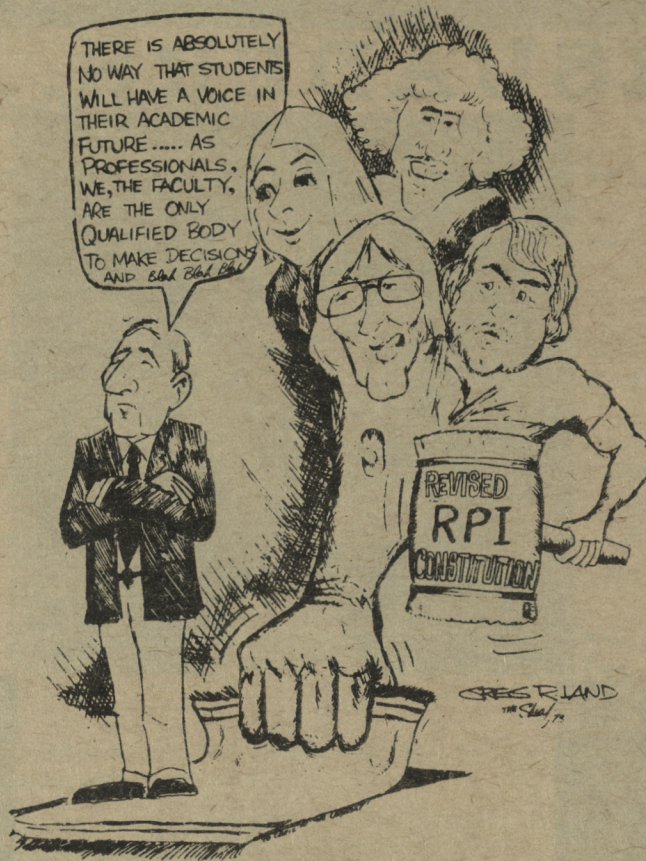
Editorial

The Sound of Silence

There is a general dissatisfaction among students & faculty regarding present educational goals and aims. This dissatisfaction is expressed verbally and non-verbally. The former, who also constitute the minority, are rebelling against an educational system which does not offer what it purports to: promotion of human freedom; capacity for critical and independent thought; minimum utilization of cultural achievement in the further advancement of men and man; etc. In other words, present educational policy, in that it does not facilitate human advancement does, in effect, constitute regression and, thus, oppresses rather than liberates.

The latter group who constitute the majority, are, for the most part, adherents of existing educational policy. They are currently being confronted with a system (their system) which is failing before their eyes and is, consequently, forcing them into an awareness that their efforts are not successful. Slow to accept the demands of reality, these latter individuals are reacting reticently since critical, con-

science awareness has not as yet become manifest. This lack of vision pecu-



liar to the former group, is alleviated only by the moulding effect of demanding

reality. In other words, they see only when forced to. This characteristic, I might add is also peculiar to the herd.

There is a silence - like the quiet before the storm. The storm is to come. The storm will come because the silent in their silence (apathy, cynicism, non-involvement, etc.) will intensify those conditions necessary to facilitate the storm which is necessary to facilitate those conditions sufficient to sustain a liberating educational ethos. It is just a matter of observing events, the outcome of which is inevitable transformation of existing decrepitation.

Having witnessed recent (and past) Senate means for

dealing with contemporary educational problems, the above remarks are re-enforced and begin to take on the character of truth.

Unless concrete reality is the criterion for truth & social action, all action will be thwarted which has as its basis traditional western metaphysics. Our heads are in the clouds - we will thus trip and have a great fall.

Letters to the Editor



UPEI rip-off

Dear Sir:

This week some 1500 UPEI students are resuming classes after the Christmas recess and as a prerequisite to this are paying registration fees.

As a senior student at the university I arrived at the Business Office on Wednesday to pay the fees for the semester which consist of \$55. for each course in which a student is registered. For a full-time student, this means payment of \$275. which is what I thought I owed and what brought me to the Business Office.

Alas, I forgot about the \$10. athletic fee that all students taking more than two courses must pay. After explaining to the clerk that I only had the \$275. & would not have the other

\$10. until I would be paid the following Friday, I was refused permission to register for the term until the fees were paid in full. If I wait until next Friday to pay the extra \$10. I will also be charged a late registration fee of \$5. per day. By that time the \$10. payment will have grown to \$35.

And it seems that there is no way to get around it. Either I pay in full this week or I will be subjected to the late registration fee. All because I was short \$10. for an athletic fee and the \$275. for courses in my hand in cold cash. Of course I could borrow \$10. from someone till payday and make the university officials happy but that is not the issue. For four years as a student at UPEI I have always paid all fees on time and have never been in red with the Business Office, but now for the sake of \$10. for a week I must go out and borrow.

The complete lack of trust and understanding from university officials is a bit staggering in the light of the "special university community" we hear so much

about. But I suppose I could say as a shareholder in that community, my mortgage is about to foreclose. That is the ruling at UPEI where only your number goes through the computer.

This is some indication of the red tape involved in registering for courses at the university. At a time when enrollment at universities - or at least UPEI - is down, the red tape involved should be decreasing. Instead the bureaucrats are continually striving to assume an attitude of cold and impersonal authority, refusing to bend even a little.

As I write this, I'm mad. I've vowed not to borrow the \$10. and not finish off the year, for in all probability next year the fees will be higher.

What's really sad is that I must bow to the red tape or forfeit completion of my senior year, so bow I must. By the way, could you spot me a ten until payday?

Yours truly,

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