

Assigned Readings



I have been noticing with increasing frequency the growing dissatisfaction of students with their assign-

ed readings. Professors (sic) seem to have little or no understanding that each student has more than one course to deal with.

A list is given with or without explicit instruction on how many of the books are to be read, when they are to be read and so on. Students have approached me (especially freshmen) with the complaint that professors (sic) will list many books that must be read for class discussion only to have the book ignored when it's time for a discussion on it! Furthermore, some professors (sic) will list a number of books without having read them themselves; thus, when a student seeks assistance about its context, he is unable to get it!

Joel Hansen suggested before Christmas break that we might benefit from our experiment on "total immer-

sion" where the student would spend one or two semesters involved in one area only; this would facilitate competence in one area rather than mediocrity in five, which is the present set-up.

There is no way a student can operate within the present structure to benefit of qualitative growth and development; at least he can but - "do only what is necessary to get through", which is exactly what he is doing now.

It is obvious that the university (UPEI) is not concerned with personal growth and development; it is only interested in "schooling" (Illich) the student so as to develop a conformist mentality with the intent of better serving the interests of a capitalist society.

Stan Dalton

We forgot about the weather and a great conference

In spite of the stormy weather we experienced last week-end, 160 students, representing 10 universities, came together in rather unique accommodations - the Barn - to participate in a Newman Conference hosted by the students of UPEI.

The theme, "Christians in their Environment", set the pace for a fruitful week-end; one that was packed with lots of university input, sharing, singsong...discussion on how we, as Christians, can come alive to what God wants us to be doing in this world.

Following the Chairman's outline of the agenda for the week-end, Friday evening was spent casually. This provided the students with ample opportunity to get acquainted with those students representing universities other than their own.

The Sat. morning input was given by Mt. St. Vincent Newman group. They said that politics is people. You can't have people without some form of politics. Many questions were raised such as: how tuned in are we to the activities on campus, should there be campus concern, how politically involved are we in our communities, what do we do about injustices in our environment? After the general session we divided into small groups for discussion and later had a question and answer period.

Sat. afternoon, Father Jerry Herrauf, the chaplain at St. Mary's University,

shared with us some thoughts on prayer and on how we can develop our prayer life. Chaplains from other universities contributed to this session which was followed by group discussion.

The session on prayer was preceded by input from St. F.X. University. They talked about problems that were common on their campus in hopes that representatives from other universities could identify with

them. Issues such as premarital sex, abortion, alcohol, drugs, apathy and damage against university property were raised. We came to realize how little we really know about things that go on on our own campus. For example, have you any idea how much money will be spent on beer for the Winter Carnival, not to mention Pig 'N' Whistles?? We're not saying there's anything wrong with that, still, it's good to know what's going on.

Mary Boyd, the chairman of the Social Action Committee, really related to the theme of the conference when she outlined concrete examples of what we as Christians can do right here, right now. Miss Boyd suggested solutions to many issues that were raised throughout the week-end and the conference delegates acknowledged her challenge to become socially active by a standing ovation. Input from St. Mary's followed her talk.

The conference was highlighted Sat. evening when the delegates came together

and shared in a celebration of the Eucharist. Fr. Joe Higgins, the National Chaplain for Newman Centers was the chief celebrant. Mass was followed by a film "To Ride a Turquoise Pony" and then an interesting comedy hour with a message, "The Amazing Grace Show", sponsored by the UNB Newman Club.

The UPEI Newman Club would like to say a special thanks to all who made the conference a success, in particular, Ted and the cooking staff. The meals were really great and the delegates from the other universities asked us to be sure to relay the message. After all, the first thing we complain about usually is the food. I think that we who attended the conference are united in saying "even our mothers couldn't have done better!"

Also, thank you to the members of the faculty along with students who expressed an interest in Newman. We really appreciate your support and ask you for your advice or suggestions - things you'd like to see in the Newman Club. If you are interested in getting involved in the Newman Club - Welcome! We don't even have

membership fees! Yet! If you'd like to find out more about Newman contact Fr. Tingley at Student Services and he can tell you about it and about other students who are involved.

Debbie Peters