

# TEACHER EDUCATION

Teacher Education: Perseverance or Professionalism, the book written last year by the U.P.E.I. Committee on Teacher Education has been favourably received among the profession. It was commissioned last year by President Baker to consider, among other things, "the structure, objectives, principles and graduate study for teacher education" at U.P.E.I. The committee travelled to the various teacher education institutions in Canada, assessed and compared their systems with ours, and eventually came up with a model program for teacher education at U.P.E.I. The most outstanding feature of the new program is its five year course of study (to replace the present four year plan) which would include two semesters of internship within the public school system. The first two years of the program are to lay the academic groundwork for the future teacher, and in the following years the emphasis is to be placed on the professional level.

In principle, it seems the Committee's model would be adequately suited to the needs of P.E.I. However, the present orientation of the education faculty leans more towards

perseverance of their profession. The one year Bachelor of Education program is more readily endured than the four year plan simply because it is one year instead of four. I am afraid that unless people's attitudes are drastically changed, notably those of the teaching staff in the department, the model program will succeed only in as far as it adds one more year to the ordeal students must endure to get a B. Ed. at U.P.E.I.

In the introduction to the book one of the President's requests to the Committee is stated as a consideration of the relations of the Faculty of Education to other faculties within the university. The Committee apparently considers this and goes so far as to urge "an upsurge of cooperation" among the other faculties. I will consider the relations among the faculties a bit farther. It is commonly conceded among the students, and I expect among the rest of the faculty that the education department is less demanding and offers a generally inferior education than that of other departments. It is scornfully referred to as a Mickey Mouse course. The education faculty is defensive (perhaps not without cause) and unwittingly

falls prey to the faults of which it is accused. By now the tacit accusations that it is an inferior department that the students' attitude is one of perseverance rather than of professionalism is deserved. To make matters worse, the situation perpetuates itself because defensiveness on the part of the teaching faculty relays itself (as any trained teacher knows) to the students. One education professor, when asked if he could make his course a little more substantial, replied that his students were mostly freshmen and therefore would be unable to handle anything meatier than the Grade 9 level course he was teaching. And, of course any education graduate knows that if you convince the students in the beginning that they can't handle it, well then, they won't be able to.

The education building itself is often called the Little Red Schoolhouse by a number of its students. For the most part, classes are conducted there as they were in high school, allowing for little originality or spontaneity from the potential teachers. Perhaps we are to assume they will become professionals the day they are certified. Even by their own standards, i.e. the blackboard defini-

tion of what a good teacher should be and do, the education professors are not fulfilling their function. This past term one professor was reluctant to answer a student's questions in class because he feared the student was being "flippant". Flippant??? This man obviously has a great deal of respect for the motivation and potential of his student. From flippant to professional is a change in self-image that may take longer than the four months following graduation for the new teacher.

Several concrete improvements within the present program, such as the abolition of one day a week practice teaching, closer liaison with the public schools and with the provincial Department of Education, less rigid course requirements, etc. are necessary, that I am sure the faculty is well aware of, even if the book from the Committee on Teacher Education is never is never opened. But, if any of the Committee's recommendations are to be implemented, may I suggest that first the Education faculty together spend many soul-searching hours studying at least the title of the book, Teacher Education: Perseverance or professionalism. Yes Professor Edmonds has a formidable task ahead of him.

Ann Mc Quaid.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MEETING

On Tuesday 25th January the International Students Association had its first meeting this semester at 9 p.m. in Marion Lounge. The topic for the evening was Australia and the special guests, Professor and Mrs. Evan Douglas gave a talk outlining the life style history, and geography of the continent. Following a film on the major cities of Australia, there was a short discussion on questions which were raised. The next meeting will be scheduled for late February.

The object of this DOT-TO-DOT pictogram is over-common. You'll see when you join the dots to get your complete picture. If you color it, it's suitable for framing and you can hang it in your bedroom next to your favorite Beatle cards that were last issues DOT-TO-DOT mind-fuckers. This one's got a few trickies that maybe we should go over so that you don't wreck it and then have to buy another copy and maybe even be the last one on your block to have one. Well, start at number 1. I guess you all knew that. Where the trickies come is when you get to 29 and find that you can either go to 30 or 30A. Go both ways at once. That's right, and do the same at 43B (to 44B and 44C) and 35 (to 36 and 36A) and anywhere else you think you should. Enough ado, shapren your pencil and get on it!

## SHITFUCK

Sometimes I wonder what I am going to do  
When my youth is over and my manhood is through

A red-headed girl walked past my street  
I asked her in for a cup of tea  
She smiled and said I'll be right in  
but all I want is a glass of gin.  
By Black-Jack.

Cat quote: The easiest thing to do in life is make it hard on yourself.