

FEATURE: UPEI Student Laments

"TOO MANY JOY RIDERS ON ACADEMIC BAND WAGON"

By G. H. Bobb

The university is an institution in which the primary purpose of both faculty and students should be responsible inquiry, asking all possible questions as to what has been done wisely, what has been done foolishly, and what the answers to these imply for the future.

With this in mind, let us look at our "New University" and see if it is equipped to attain these lofty goals.

I must confess that it is too early for me to really come up with any just judgment as to the direction taken by this university, for the machinery has just been put into motion. Even President Nixon was given a surfboard by his daughter so he can surf smoothly on the turbulent waters of US foreign and domestic seas, so why should not UPEI be given a fair chance? As a matter of fact, all and sundry are cognizant of the fact that Professor Baker has tried his best, bearing in mind the limited amount of time he had to perform this "Himalayan" task in bringing the two universities

together into a functioning unit in time for the opening of college this fall.

But one is inclined to question oneself seriously as to whether Professor Baker and the other well intentioned people who are trying to make this institution into something of which we all should be proud, are not really building a house upon sand. So that when the rains come down, and when the floods come up, the whole structure would come tumbling down. I wonder if they are not wasting valuable time in view of the fact that they harbor atrophied joy-riders on the university bandwagon, especially among the faculty.

To illustrate my point, I will draw from my own experience. My first disenchantment with the university faculty began in this manner. After coming to the conclusion that Music 100 would be too exacting a course for me, I decided to drop it, (although I did not inform Mr. Tersteeg like a responsible student should). I then decided to replace it by a course which was related to my field of concentration. I therefore decided to sit in on Sociology 200 which, coincidentally, deals with "social problems".

I arrived on time, took my place at the rear of the class room and awaited the arrival of the professor. He was late — but isn't everyone late sometimes? On reflection, though, isn't this one of the things that is objectionable to Professor Baker, who says: "—there has been a decline in faculty responsibility by a few people, in things like keeping appointments, the normal courtesies of keeping lectures," and so on. Nevertheless, the professor was late. After his arrival, with the dogmatism of a high priest, the great sermon began.

Within 20 minutes (to use a conservative estimate), the members of the congregation were so overcome, so mystified by an awe of the situation that knowing of the all-pervading presence of the super-natural, an observer would think that the majority of the congregation was literally drugged to sleep. The sermon, I believe, was on the evils of "Social Problems". To my mind it was nothing more than an indulgence in dishonest rationalization, vacuous, chivalrous cliches which hoped to satisfy some narrow goal. This made me think that some people are prepared to indulge in the luxury

of splitting hairs while Rome burns. In short, the sermon could be safely described as "Mr. — says nothing at great length".

Nevertheless, "not a drum was heard" while the class proceeded unimpeded for any one who wasn't sleeping was too tired to ask a question. I, on the other hand, tried desperately to understand the mass confusion of ideas and the half-truths that were aimed at me; and on approaching the saturation point of bewilderment, I tried to pose a question. After raising my hand for several minutes, it dawned on me that I was the object of the meanest, most contemptuous look ever accorded me — and the sermon went on uninterrupted and was finally ended on the same unenthusiastic note where it began.

After leaving the classroom I discussed my experience with several members of the student community and what they stated confirmed my view that we are faced with deep-rooted "Social Problems" which to all intents and purposes occupy a very influential and very responsible position in this institution. Some students mentioned that the material given in this class must have been prepared a decade ago; this I doubt, for no intelligent individual would be so dishonest to himself and to this university in the face of such a rapidly changing world.

Some students said that the only good thing about this class is that everyone is assured of a pass at the time of reckoning; this I also doubt; some students are more vocal than others, against this trend, I suspect, from fear of victimization, or from the conviction that it would be an unpopular thing to do.

This whole trend can, in Professor Baker's words "—lead to the tyranny of the student by the individual faculty member". This is therefore totally reprehensible and should be discouraged in the most unambiguous terms. It is my fond hope, therefore, that the powers that be will focus some discussions on this area of grave concern, which, in turn, can bring tangible results in the form of immediate and practical action. Today we are where we were yesterday precisely through our inability to do some day-to-day housecleaning; because we have failed to match words with action.

Council Nominations Open Oct. 24

Nominations for the new University of Prince Edward Island Student Union Council will open Friday, October 24; 9:00 a.m.

The new council, when elected, will take over the duties of the Interim Council which was formed earlier to pilot the unification of the old SDU and PWC Councils into a new UPEI Student's Union.

Nominations for the new permanent council positions are open for: Student Union President, Internal Vice-President, External Vice-President, Vice-President Comptroller, and Treasurer.

Representative positions open are: Freshman Arts, Sophomore Arts, Junior Arts, Senior Arts; Freshman Science, Sophomore Science, Junior Science, Senior Science; Freshman Business, Sophomore Business, Junior or Senior Business; one one Education and one Engineering.

Nominations for these positions will close on Friday, October 30 at 5:00 p.m. Nomination forms may be obtained from Paul Poirier, Ombudsman, Student Union Building, Downtown Campus, or at Memorial Hall, Room 1-2, Malpeque Campus. Office hours are posted.

Treasure Van Will Appear on Campus

Treasure Van, that exotic, bazaar-like display of foreign goods, will arrive on campus Monday, October 27.

This year, many new articles will go on display when Treasure Van opens for business at the Downtown Campus at 2:00 p.m. on Monday. Hours of business will be 2:00-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Monday, and 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon; from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., and from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Tuesday to Friday. The public, as well as students has been invited to attend.

The following is a general invitation from Gilles Gaudet, Treasure Van Organizer:
Dear Friend:

Treasure Van comes to Charlottetown once again but this time under the sponsorship of the new university of Prince Edward Island.

This display of exotic items has been an event cherished by people of good taste throughout the year here in Charlottetown and this year they shall be further spoiled as new articles shall be introduced in the sale.

Treasure Van will open for business on the Downtown Campus Gymnasium Oct. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Hours on Monday will be 2-5 p.m. in the afternoon and 7-9 in the evening. Hours on Tuesday to Friday will be 9-12 in the morning, 2-5 in the afternoon and 7-9 in the evening.

This will be a splendid opportunity for you to buy gifts or add to the beauty of your home. Even if you don't plan to buy, do come and look around. Bring your family and your friends along with you. You are sure to enjoy Treasure Van.

University Colours Are Chosen

Only 528 students turned out Friday, Oct. 17th to the polls to decide on a name for the University of Prince Edward Island's Varsity teams and to indicate a students' choice for new university colours.

It was decided at an open general meeting chaired by Paul Poirier, on Thursday previous, to use this method of choosing both name and colours. Poirier reports that only 50 students attended the meeting.

Poirier said that possibly 1,536 students could have taken part in the decision-making.

A plurality of 222 votes gave the name **Panthers** to UPEI's Varsity teams. The students' choice of colors for the University was green and white; the vote being a plurality of 242.

Color choice must be passed by the Board of Governors, as they will form a part of the official University seal and crest. The name **Panthers** is, however, the official Varsity team name.

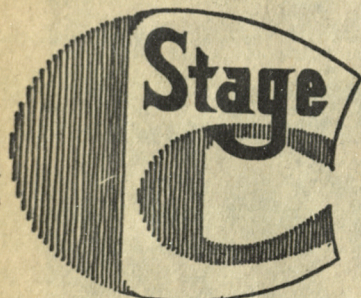
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Friday - Saturday, Oct. 24, 25 — 8:30 P.M.

Matinee Friday, Oct. 24 — 3:00 P.M.

Tickets — \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50

CONFEDERATION CENTRE