

The Trials and Tribulations of a twentysomething

by STAN
LINGS TONE

Those involved in my cult following that has been emerging on campus will have already anticipated the subject of this week's column. If you guessed "Maclean's" magazine, you will be justly rewarded with a free subscription to the X-Press. If you are still in wonderment as to my choice of a subject then you had best move quickly in an attempt to acquire a life and/or go into intensive therapy. How can people exist being so completely uninformed?

Moving on, as I have a 12 noon deadline with the editor, I feel compelled to prepare you for the provocative and cutting edge piece of journalism you are about to encounter. In the forthcoming disclaimer of necessity I will tell you that this is certainly not a commentary discussing the virtues and fine journalistic talents of "Maclean's" writing staff and its research department. It is more of my personal plea to have every single student and faculty member of this campus collectively cancel their subscriptions to this exploitative piece of trash before it infiltrates our society any more than it already has (knowing as I do how many university students put "Maclean's" at the top of those "must have" lists).

I must explain before I delve any further into this topic that I do not in any way hold some sort of animosity towards this magazine beyond the fact that I deplore their publishing of this annual popularity contest. This hatred is not evident on the surface anyway. I cannot go without saying that I find this article to be very discouraging and somewhat insulting, but neither can I share the views of President Eliot by saying I feel the "Maclean's" article to be meaningless. If I felt that way I would hardly be taking valuable time to protest in this manner.

I must be honest in saying that I would probably not be taking such an emotional stance on this issue if I was enrolled at Mt. Allison (I would be celebrating in the streets), but seeing that I am a student of the University of Prince Edward Island, it is somewhat my duty to come to its defence. I am proud to be a student of this university regardless of the fact that it has been relegated to second last position on a ratings guide published by an elitist Upper Canadian Magazine.

I have had many a sleepless night as I tossed and turned imagining the scenario of applying for admission to a graduate school only to be rejected on the basis of one news (using that word liberally) item. Somewhat distressing you say? How very observant of you. With perception such as this you must have

previously attended a mainland university. The career basket as you all know all too well is being quickly filled with messages saying "not hiring this decade" and as if my prospects were not bleak enough, thanks to the dictatorship in Ottawa, I now have this investigative report from "MacLean's" to contend with.

Turmoil thus defines my life.

Of course we can all take pride in knowing that UPEI defeated UCCB (Univ College of Cape Breton) in this battle and that alone is a dramatic improvement in my future. Maybe if UPEI had that 100+ year legacy of some other Canadian schools we might have stood a chance, but it should be taken into consideration that this university as we know it was only founded over twenty years ago in 1969 -- there are students older than the school! Is the name St. Dunstan's beginning to sound appealing? How about Prince of Wales? A historic reputation is what this school needs, not to mention cash, and in due time I am quite confident we can acquire both.

I am very pleased nonetheless to have chosen this university for my undergraduate study and if the truth be known it was not my only choice, but my first choice. It is not a sudden realization that UPEI could use some major corporate sponsorship, but above and beyond that it would be very gratifying to see a strong sense of pride coming from this school. Don't be afraid to say you like UPEI. Nobody will taunt you or throw stones at you. After all, this school has a lot to offer and you know that better than any aristocratic magazine ever will.

Correction:

In this column last week, it was suggested you write hate mail to the Editor of "Goal's" magazine. It should have read "Maclean's". ■

*"Exploitative
piece
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trash"*