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THE BEAUTY IS BORED

CURRICULUM CHANGES HIGHLIGHT OPENING

By STEPHEN LANGEVIN

The opening of the academic year at St. Dunstan's was highlighted by sweeping changes in the curriculum unprecedented in the recent history of this institution.

Perhaps the most striking change was the channeling of candidates for the Arts degree into either a Major or a General program. When queried as to the reason for this move, the president of St. Dunstan's, Rt. Rev. G. A. Macdonald, told the Red and White that the idea was to give those intent on doing post-graduate work an adequate backing in their major fields, while at the same time avoiding needless specialization for those students who show neither the inclination nor the ability to study for a Master's degree or a doctorate.

Not so striking, but, nonetheless, even more welcome, are the recent changes in the Theology requirements. Those who were forced to suffer through one, two, or even three years of the Religion courses formerly offered at this institution will know what this written means when he says that they were often more of a nuisance than a benefit. As attempted moral formation (or reformation), they were tardy, re-warmed leftovers from high school. The texts were often no more than over-grown catechisms; one had only to memorize selected portions the night before the exam to obtain a passing mark. As a study, the courses were biased and provincial, and were taught seemingly under the impression that those who took them were staunch, mute, unquestioning Catholics in no need of being convinced of anything, least of all of the infallibility of a Church whose very theolo-

gians often fail to agree on vital matters. In short, not only would no other college or university in North America have dreamed of accepting these courses for credit; but, to compound the obnoxious situation, no man in the world capable of any degree of independent thought would even have recognized them as courses.

But now, at last, we have something to sink our teeth into. In the words of Monsignor Macdonald, the science of Theology at St. Dunstan's has been raised to the level of a study, with all the prestige and importance normally accorded any other science. This is only one example of the revised thinking of our faculty and administration. When our Spiritual Director, Rev. James Kelly, opens the year by calling upon the students to question every facet of their environment, religion included; and when Rev. Dr. Thomas MacLellan makes a point, in the first class of Theology 4, of impressing on the students that faith is not a matter merely of blind assent, but of intellectual acceptance; then one cannot help but believe that at long last this university is on its way, no longer to a superficial Religion, but to an essential Theology.

In addition, an Arts Program otherwise already excellent has been given yet another boost. As the head of our English department, Dr. Grendan O'Grady, explained it: what with St. Dunstan's requiring 24 credits for a B.A., four more than most other institutions in Canada, it was widely, though incorrectly, suspected that unless we had exceptionally bright students, not only our Religion program but our other courses as well were perhaps a trifle weak,

Alberta Leaves CUS

OTTAWA (CUP) — The 170,000-member Canadian Union of Students Monday lost one of its strongest members, when the University of Alberta students' council voted to withdraw immediately from the association.

A telegram informing CUS President Doug Ward of Edmonton's decision to leave the organization was received today (Tuesday, Sept. 20) in Ottawa.

Edmonton council president Branny Schepanovich has for several months criticized CUP for overextending itself in its activities, and at the 20th CUS Congress earlier this month threatened to pull his university delegation out of CUS.

The sudden pull-out drew an expression of "disappointment" from Ward, who said he would personally encourage and assist the Edmonton campus in any future move back to the CUS fold.

"I am glad that Branny has had the strength of his convictions," the CUS president said. "Alberta traditionally has been one of the strongest members of CUS..."

Schepanovich's opposition to CUS policy, particularly in the area of international affairs, extends back to the day when he was elected council president—March 4.

Earlier this summer he sent a circular to all council presidents warning them against "overextension."

The circular questioned the CUS national executive's right to make policy statements on world issues while at the same time claiming to represent the opinion of all Canadian students. It urged delegations to the 30th Congress to consider restricting CUS to activities which only directly involve university and other post-secondary students in Canada.

When his proposals failed to receive support of this month's Congress, Schepanovich threatened to pull out of CUS.

"We can do without CUS," Schepanovich was quoted as saying in Edmonton last March, "but the question is, can CUS do without us?"

CUS chief Ward, however, expressed little concern Tuesday about the financial implications of Edmonton's withdrawal.

Edmonton's 11,000 - student enrolment would have added an estimated \$7,000 to CUS coffers this year, but the five-cent per capita fee increase approved at this year's Congress will more than cancel this out.

Ward said CUS will probably embark on a fund-raising campaign to raise money for its depleted budget, and denied there will be any cutbacks in CUS projects this year.

"It means we're going to have to work harder..." he said. "It will be a smaller and a tighter union now."

Asked what effect the withdrawal will have on the \$280,000 cultural and athletic festival scheduled for next March on the University of Alberta and University of Calgary campuses, Ward said:

"I have no comment on this. I don't know what other councils will have to say, and I wouldn't want to prejudice their opinions."

The festival, called Second Century Week, has received backing from CUS and financial support from the Centennial Commission and Alberta government, as well as from private individuals and companies.

With Edmonton's absence from CUS membership rolls, the organization has 43 members, representing about 160,000 students in Canadian post-secondary institutions.

TWO PAPERS JOIN CUP

OTTAWA (CUP) — Two Maritime student newspapers have joined the Canadian University Press as associate members for the coming year.

They are The Picaro, published by students at Mount St. Vincent University, and The St. Mary's Journal, produced at St. Mary's College. Both institutions are located in Halifax, N.S.

CUP's membership now includes 43 campus newspapers—12 associate and 31 full members.

WEATHER

Tomorrow will be sunny with whole bunches of clouds. Light winds of 40 knots are expected. Another fine day.

BRILLIANT MINDS MEET HERE

At the thirtieth annual CUS congress held in Halifax from Sept. 3-9 it was decided that St. Dunstan's would host the next AAS Congress.

Now to those newcomers on campus CUS means Canadian Union of Students which is a national organization of Students' Councils. The students become members of CUS through their students' council. At present there are 140,000 members of CUS in Canada. The students councils are responsible for establishing CUS committees on each campus to carry out the work of CUS. The executive of CUS is a national secretariat. It is composed of a national president and vice-president elected by the congress and a number of associated secretaries appointed by the president, a comptroller and clerical staff complete the picture.

The Secretariat is responsible for most of the affairs of CUS. It carries out the program laid down by the previous congress.

Because CUS is an association of students' councils and not CUS committees it is the

councils that are responsible for CUS. But because the amount of work involved in administering CUS projects is more than the councils are able to handle a CUS committee is established on each campus. The committee is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it by the Secretariat or by the council.

The decision making body of CUS is the National congress held annually. Most of the time in the congress is spent in three commissions. All topics to be discussed are subdivided into three categories, University Affairs, Canadian Affairs and International Affairs. These commissions meet separately but at the same time for three or four days. It is here that most of the discussion takes place. In the last few days of the congress the plenary session is held where motions are presented by the commissions.

The motions passed are written about almost every phase of student life and the world community. They deal with subjects ranging from the education, birth control, the CYC, to Viet Nam and South Africa. The motions often reflect the belief in "Total Involvement" for students.

Getting back to AAS, this Association of Atlantic Students was formed several years ago by the Atlantic Universities. AAS has a membership of twelve Universities and Colleges, it was established to deal with problems that solely the concern of the Maritimes. It has meetings twice a year. Voting is one vote per school. The main value so far as AAS has been an exchange of ideas.

A TRIBUTE

Those of us who knew Mark Handrahan personally, or only as a member of the St. Dunstan's community, still cannot believe that he is dead. We accept with perplexity that ruling of the Divine Law, which would call our young friend.

But again, this should not seem so very tragic for, the same law to which Mark had to comply, rules also that a life of eighteen years may be just as complete and rewarding as a life of eighty years. The supreme test is that we run the race well be it short, like Marks, or longer and more complex.

While none of us dare judge a friend, all of us could observe. In chapel, in the arena, or in the classroom, Mark played his role well. The warm smile and sincere voice are characteristics of a friend we will soon not forget.

To Mark's family—our sympathy—and an extra prayer that, following his example, we may all become stronger runners, and soon join him at the finish line.



DOUG RICHARD

CABINET MINISTER SUPPORTS \$ \$ ABOLITION

HALIFAX (CUP) — The abolition of tuition fees could be the next step toward achieving universal accessibility to Canadian post-secondary institutions, a federal cabinet minister told the 30th Canadian Union of Students Congress here Sept. 3.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen, minister of national health and welfare, said the removal of tuition fees "would leave student aid programs to concentrate on those other financial areas which deter capable young men and women from seeking higher education."

But the minister emphasized tuition fees are only a part of the cost of a university education, and their removal would still leave substantial financial hurdles for the aspiring graduate.

"Personally, I am not at all convinced that the arguments

against the removal of tuition fees are all that valid."

Noting a "great deal of mythology" surrounds the benefits obtained by students who work their way through university, Mr. MacEachen said such a system involves "a lot of heart-break, discouragement and disappointment; cutting corners on studies, interrupted careers—and how many, with the urge and brains, but not the cash, have had to cut short their studies after one or two years?"

He added: "The program proposed by Professor Bladen—requiring payments from those who can afford it, more aid for those who can't—is a starting point. But I would add it is becoming increasingly obvious that governments, federal and provincial, must sit down with the universities and map out a master plan for higher education in Canada, in-

cluding the question of abolishing tuition fees."

The federal and provincial governments are scheduled to meet in mid-October to discuss the problems of financing higher education—a field in which constitutional jurisdiction rests with the provincial government.

"The federal government and the provinces will come to this meeting with a common objective—to ensure that every Canadian capable of benefitting from higher education is able to get it," Mr. MacEachen promised.

He pointed to the government's \$10 a month youth allowances program, student loan plan, proposed \$3 increase in per capita grants to universities from \$2 to \$5, and the proposed \$40 million bursary-scholarship plan as examples of assistance and encouragement to higher education in Canada.