

NEWSLETTER

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT *Lakehead College*



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8 JANUARY 1964

VOL. 1, NO. 10

Editorial

With Christmas over for another year, the question of the commercialization of this holiday season is laid to rest once more for another eleven months. There was, however, an article in the Fort William newspaper some time ago with an unusual approach to the subject. It was not so much the article itself though that was worthy of particular attention, but rather an editorial in the local paper which followed it. The first story was about an editorial in the University of Waterloo student newspaper describing Christmas as a pagan festival "where the merchants make a killing and liquor makes people into killers."

The editorial suggests that Socrates as well as Christ died for mankind and that the Greek philosopher's birthday should also be celebrated.

Why is such a fuss made over Christ's birthday, the editorial asks. "He's supposed to be a great man because he died on the cross for us. But Socrates died for the sake of truth which is fundamental to all of us. In other words, he died for us also. Why don't we celebrate his birthday?"

The editorial says "pressure groups" are responsible for not celebrating Socrates' birthday. It adds: "The church is a greater pressure group than the philosophies so the church gets its way." The editorial suggests that at Christmas more people get "conned into going to church," thereby increasing the "number of attending hypocrites." "Whether you care to face the fact or not, Christmas is little more than a pagan festival..."

Two days later an editorial appeared in the local newspaper stating that "a few callow youths, taking courage under the cloak of adulthood provided by acceptance into Canadian universities, keep tilting at subjects with which their childish minds cannot cope."

While I think that there would be few who would agree with the student editorial, I found the suggestion of the local editor that college editorial offices be closed up and "these irresponsible youths forced to postpone expression of their literary 'talents' until they have finished their university education,

hardly worthy of any more consideration than the original article. What better place than university is there to examine questions such as this. Perhaps the local editor would have us all be dogmatists, thinking that our explanation of the world and life is final. What is university for but to examine and gain a better understanding of life and experience, and to come to grips with the dogma laid down before us. But, as usual, radical thinking is immediately condemned.

....Jack Reynolds

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THE FUTURE OF AN ILLUSION

"Modern day Christian religious doctrines carry with them the stamp of the age in which they originated, the ignorant childhood days of the human race. Our religion is based on the illusory belief that there is a supreme 'spiritual being' who loves equally all members of the human race. We should, then, be gratified by the embarrassment and failures of organized religion, for it is really the enemy of mankind."

This is, in part, the view of religion held by Sigmund Freud, the "father" of modern psychoanalysis. In his book The Future of an Illusion he made crystal clear his opposition to, and contempt for, religion.

Today at 12:15 in Room #7, the S.C.M. Lecture Series presents a lecture by Dr. Ruth Kajander (practising psychiatrist in Port Arthur) on Freud's view of religion and its place in culture.

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Arnold Toynbee, as quoted by Daniel Johnson, leader of the opposition in Quebec:

"The two peoples in the world who have the greatest chance of surviving until history comes to an end are the Chinese and the French-Canadians."

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Please take note...

It is imperative that students who wish assistance regarding employment, either permanent or for the summer, register as early as possible. Direct contact to employers to develop employment opportunities will be made by the Student Placement Officer early in February. If his approach is to meet with the desired success, a fairly accurate summary of the demands of students for employment must be known in advance. You can help by registering early.

It is expected that there will be a fairly heavy demand for graduating technologists in Forestry and Engineering for permanent employment. Several companies have indicated their interest and will be visiting the College to interview very soon, after the end of January. It would be appreciated if all graduating students who are interested in permanent positions would contact the Student Placement Officer immediately.

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Odds and Ends

Be sure and read Self-Defense for Cowards by Alice McGrath, Drawings by Chris Jenkyns, Thor Publishing Co., Hollywood, Calif. \$1.75

—With apologies to those who have already "read" this book.

The book consists of a number of drawings describing how the Rational and Resourceful man can avoid being creamed and clobbered (or, better, clobbered and creamed) when confronted by a tough.

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MORE ART FILMS

The S.C.M. Film Society will be active again this term. However, something new will be introduced. Each feature film will be preceded by a French short with no sub-titles. These shorts are produced by such men as Agnes Varda, Marcel L'Herbier, Francois Truffaut and Jean-Luc Godard. The first film will be on January 15th, a week from today, and it is the widely acclaimed The Cranes Are Flying. This Russian film is made available through the U.S.-Soviet Union Cultural Exchange Agreement. On February 12th, another Ingmar Bergman film will be shown—Virgin Spring. On March 4th, we will show (pending confirmation) the French film Last Year at Marienbad.

Then, the last programme on March 25th will feature another French film, Jules et Jim. The last two programmes, we hope, can be shown in the University Centre. There will again be afternoon showings for those unable to attend at night.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

It is felt by some people that Canada is strongly affected by what goes on in the United States (strange idea) and that by looking at developments in the U.S. one will get an idea of what is to come in Canada...maybe. The following extract is taken from The Monthly Review, An Independent Socialist Magazine (exit capitalist readers), Volume 14, #'s 3 and 4.

"The nature and quality of education for educators can be perhaps best assessed by getting an idea of the basis on which the highest educational degrees are conferred. Thus the country's (i.e. U.S.A.) leading school of education, Teachers College of Columbia University, awarded doctorates of education to candidates who presented dissertations on the following topics:

- The Cooperative Selection of School Furniture to Serve the Kindergarten through Third Grade Program in the Garden City School.
- A Guide for Initiating School Camping with Special Reference to Bronxville.
- A Suggested Methodology to Formulate a Composite Ideal Image of the Professional Nurse.
- A History of Competitive Rowing in Colleges and Universities of the United States of America.

At Michigan State University, dissertations submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the highest degree in education included the following:

- An Evaluation of Thirteen Brands of Football Helmets on the Basis of Certain Impact Measures.
- An Investigation of Various Methods Used in Football Helmet Evaluation.
- A Study of the Personality Differences Between a Group of Women Who Had Participated in Sewing Classes in an Adult Education and a Group of Their Friends and Neighbours Who Had Not Participated in Any Adult Education Activities.

The University of North Dakota conferred its highest degree in education for a thesis entitled:

- Selected Major Issues in Teaching First Year Typewriting.

while the weighty purpose of a doctoral study at the University of Indiana was: -To Determine What Influence The Teachers' and Pupils' Use of Laughter and Smiling May Have Upon Teacher Effectiveness.

To show that such things are possible in Canada, a Masters thesis in Physical Education was entitled "Golf Grips", in one Canadian University in 1959.

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