Had You Heard?

From February 4 to 8, there will be held at this university, a University Christian Mission. That fact, in itself, had probably become apparent to close to half the student body. Of the other half, possibly half again were conscious of a subversive Christian element at work on some project or other. Approximate arithmetic, then, indicates that about one quarter of the students here are completely uninformed as to the event.

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The planners for the mission had not discounted such a situation since the inception of the project. Never, of course, had they intended to appear occult to any portion of the student body; but felt that since, in some small sense they were carrying coal to Newcastle, and in another larger one, attempting to sell a product that was, worse than abundant, somewhat distasteful, they would almost certainly meet with, at best, an apathetic disinterest. This reasoning, apparently quite logical, is now seen to have been borne out.

But the logic demands investigation; and while no ill-reflection on the Campus committee comes to light, the conclusions reached do not speak too well for the student upon whom it was based.

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We offer little criticism to those Christians who are sufficiently steeped in their dogma as to reject any influence that might disturb their repose. Because, despite the outward liberality of approach, it appears that one potential result of the mission might be the injection of a parallel positivism (a pragmatic one) into those minds that are deeply affected by our missioners. The replacement of an old prejudice with a novel partiality is hardly a worthy endeavour.

Again, we absolve the virile and even vocal anti-Christian, whose attacks are the very impetus of our mission movement; and in the same breath, the religious bigot, against whom the mission is to some extent opposed. These pay us the deference of interest.

But it was necessary, from the outset, to assume a meeting with an intellectual, or perhaps a religious lethargy. There would be a large number of the students who would divorce themselves from any interest in the mission; who would fail to acknowledge the tribute to their maturity embodied in the concern with their philosophic well-being; who would, consciously or unconsciously, deny a hearing to the several eminent persons who came to our campus in their behalf. This constitutes, for the representative student, an almost shameful admission.

It strikes us that the mission, in its most simple appeal, should sell itself. Have you made a purchase?

* * * * *

Forgery . . A Way Out

Tonight the Students Representative Council will attempt to deal with a budget that shows a deficit of twenty-two hundred dollars. The deficit of course, to speak mildly is rather large. On the face of things, there appear to be two steps which the Council will not take to correct things.

1. They will not increase the levy.
2. They will not, in a number of hours of loose discussion evolve a new concrete program of student activities to conform with the financial resources at their disposal.

But they will deal in some manner with the deficit.

There is a danger implicit in this situation. That danger is that a part of the council will dangle a number of pseudo-solutions before the eyes of the group which is seeking a way out; that the whole body will clutch at these unthinkingly; that the final arrangement will be the suggestion of a smaller, hence less representative group than even the wayward, ruggedly individualistic Council itself.

But perhaps the foregoing is an understatement. The Council will almost certainly settle things this way . . . Or revoke an old convention with a wholly new precedent.

Why not come and see your representative inaction? It has been rumoured that the Council may decide to begin printing its own money; rest assured that if the suggestion is advanced by a member of inscrutable character, the vote will be in the affirmative.

* * * * *

A Pig-Sticker?

An instrument as significant in the history of journalism as is the Magna Carta in the evolution of British emancipation, is Milton's "Areopagitica"; for therewith was born a struggle for liberty of a fourth estate. We know that liberty today in its most advanced state as "freedom of the press", or as some would have it "a flaming sword."

This last metaphor is not improperly taken. Poetic epithet as it may seem, its ambiguity is not inexpressive; for it may at once denote the premature withdrawal of the carving piece from the metal workers forge, or refer to the inadvertent choice of metal, suggesting some such readily oxidizable substance as magnesium in its composition. So that usually, when discussion is called to focus on the "freedom" of the press, either the first or the second interpretation will be seen to fit the situation adequately.

Witness the muck-rakers. When they had run through some leading citizen for the delight of the scandal-loving populace, the maimed one could usually point out a number of imperfections in their blade. That, however, was very seldom a measure sufficient to "turn off the heat" which had been brought to bear.

Again, look at some of the organs of our most radical politlcal advocates. They are oftentimes so flammable as to be nearly explosive.

The most significant features of the situation at its present state of evolution, however, are those fanatical persons who "guard it well". (i. e., guard the liberty well). These are chiefly fighting editors, who continually search about for controversial issues on which to take no sides, by which stratagem it is presumed that they intend to a) sell papers in both camps, b) sell papers in neither camp, or c) simply pour oil on the fire for the news value of the conflagration.

Their opposition stems chiefly from moral parliamentarians who ban the representation of small arms training as comics; or from those demanding people who question their distortions.

Although it promises less than a Joe Louis fight, the battle involving editor and suppressionist never seems to wain. We would take long bets on either side, even at that, if we could figure out at what point either opponent could be presumed to have won.

The Student Realist Has His Own Thoughts on the Present Crisis

(An Editorial in The McGill Daily)

Today's university student is a realist! Unlike his predecessors of 1914 and 1939 he is not enthusiastic about the prospect of war. Yet if the idea of war does not appeal to him it does not shock him. Although he rarely discusses the matter he recognizes clearly and unemotionally the prospect that his own little world may disintegrate almost at a day's notice.

The experience of being born in a depression and growing up in six years of war has given him an insight into the motives of older men which ought to make them careful in their public utterances. Too often they are unaware of this and attempt to convert him to a certain belief with a string of flowery insincerities. Because the student listens politely and does not argue with these men they think they have succeeded. The point is that the student cannot be bothered to discuss values which have no meaning for him.

* * *

He is capable of recognizing the nature and extent of the world crisis which has been developing in the past years and has now almost reached its peak, and he is prepared without question to do what may be required of him.

But because he realises the fundamentals of the crisis he is not prepared to commit himself as the agent of individuals who try to exaggerate or distort reality for their own benefit; nor is he impressed by eminent men who lose their heads and introduce hysteria into the situation when it is their duty to abstract emotionalism.

* * *

There is no point in telling him that "it is a sweet and pleasant thing to die for one's country" because the chances are that he saw many people dying for their countries between 1939 and 1945 and he knows that sudden death is neither sweet nor pleasant. It is horrible.

He has decided, however, that if faced with the choice of possible death and the surrender of values which make life worth living for him he will take the former.

His leaders might do well to note that the choice is not made for "herioc" or romantic purposes but as the result of a rational decision in a situation which he did not create.

Meanwhile, having made the choice a long time ago, he continues his studies as a means of absorbing and ultimately contributing to the enrichment of his own culture.

It is his recognition of the values inherent in that culture which made his choice so easy.

U.R.P. Has Big Plans For Term

University Radio Productions is looking forward to a full year in '51. Weekly broadcasts will go on probably until the end of March and will continue to present a variety of programmes. The next on the agenda, scheduled for 8 p.m., Jan. 17 is a science round-up. Representatives of the departments of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geology and Mathematics at this university wil discuss unsolved problems in their respective fields. In an age when science can make or break the world it is hoped that such a programme will attract a large listening audience.

On Jan. 24 — same time, same station—there will be another U. R. P. programme, we presume, although Bob McGowan was unwilling to commit himself as to the nature of the production. Said he, "It will be a big surprise"—and no doubt it will!

But the major production of the year to be undertaken by U. R. P. comes up on Jan. 31 when Fall of the City, a verse play by Archibald MacLeish, will be presented. Some of the casting has been completed, but there are still a few male and female parts to be filled. Since the play will not be an easy one from the standpoints of acting and production, rehearsals must get underway as soon as possible. All aspiring actors and actresses are urged to try out for roles.

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Summer (1 May - 30 Sept.)	Full Time
Applications will be accepted until 15th January, 1951 from undergraduates in their junior and final years and from graduates.	Applications will be accepted until 15th February, 1951 for employment starting in May.

Application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, or from the University Placement Officer.

Apply to: Director of Research Personnel,
Defence Research Board,
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