

Bissel is progressive liberal

A review by Gary Zatzman
brunswickan staff

THE STRENGTH OF THE UNIVERSITY, by Claude Bissell, (Toronto: U. of Toronto Press, 1968) . . pp xii, 251.

To not-yet-fully-reconstructed old-style wishy-washy liberal humanists like myself, U. of T. president Claude Bissell sounds eminently sane, common-sensical, and — goddammit — oh-so-LIBERAL!! It's all a bore and we've heard it all before. It's awfully tempting to agree with him, but I can't. Conditions are fundamentally sound, Bissell reassures us. Student radicals are a nice addition to the general scenery on campus. Administrations are basically nice-guys. Faculty status has risen in both the universities and society-at-large. Things are getting better, by slow degrees. Reform, he tells us, is still possible within the system, so hang loose and don't sweat it.

Students can afford to be "angular" (one-sided) 'cause they're young and middle-age will round them out into dumplings anyway. The university has a commitment to society — can't be an ivory tower all the time.

Professionalism can be seen as a blight to the humanities, but the two can be integrated. As long as we're aware of the danger of professionalism taking over the university we can work to keep things in balance and under control. Universities should patronize the arts more extensively than they are presently doing. Reform of university government is all very well and fine in its place, KIDS, but let's not be too hasty to overthrow everything for the sake of principles.

Business is not a bad demon once we universities learn to co-operate with it. The university has a place in criticizing and reshaping moral values of the community — that's nice.

Academic freedom isn't anything to worry about, really: the individual always has the freedom to be free in a university setting, and sometimes the institution just has to learn to come to terms with individual freedoms, and vice-versa.

Bissell is basically a genteel, liberal-progressive reformer. He's got the idealism of the reformer, that is, but he is held in check by what I feel to

be an overly-strong sense of the pragmatic and/or the politic. The detachment of the scholar (Bissell holds a Ph.D. in English literature) is ever-present in the tone of his writing. Bissell is such a Nice Guy — you just can't get angry with him. This is the most exasperating thing about the whole book. He says nothing that could possibly be construed as controversial (except, perhaps, by the most arch-reactionary); everything is "safe", nothing crosses "the line".

Wake up, plee-e-e-ze, Dr. Bissell!! You're somnambulating to a frightening degree. You use McLuhan to back up your arguments without realizing that you've fallen into the trap that he has warned us against falling into. Something much greater than simply your calm, cool, collected attitude is needed to solve the problems, you have delineated. I don't claim to know the solution(s); I do know that your approach holds little or no hope for solutions whatsoever; it lacks applicability.

Wake up first, then write another book!!!

Unintentional satire dept Is this the solution to the university's problem?

REPRINTED FROM THE OBSERVER

Question — What IS wrong with Canadian university students? Answer — nothing that a little more work couldn't cure!

And with that emphatic statement, Wallace F. McCain, vice president of the McCain enterprises with head office in Florenceville, New Brunswick, summed up the university student problems of today!

In a statement to The Observer, when asked for his comments on the matter, Mr. McCain replied, firstly, that "99 per cent of the trouble is with arts students" and, secondly, "very few engineering students seem to get into trouble at university."

In explanation of his contention in this matter, the Florenceville businessman pointed out that "arts students spend about 15 hours a week in the classroom, while engineering students spend about 37 hours a week working at classes. Imagine kids working 15 hours a week . . . all the universities need to do is get these kids off their chairs, give 'em 40 hours a week in the classroom — and you'll see a great many of the student problems disappear."

FBI reports on SDS

WASHINGTON (CUPI) — University administrators would do well to cut off activist students' bathroom privileges, according to a Federal Bureau of Investigation report released Tuesday (Oct. 1).

The annual report says the New Left was "talking about sabotage, violence and forcible destruction of key facilities" such as plumbing, communications systems and draft board offices.

Part of the FBI's concern

with plumbing lies in the Youth International Party's threat to put LSD into city water supplies.

The report was critical of Students for a Democratic Society—"A forerunner in this nihilistic movement—leading the New Left from passive dissent to active resistance in student uprisings at Columbia University and elsewhere."

No ID policy yet, SRC committee to meet with admin

by Dave Jonah
brunswickan staff

The ID-card issue should be settled soon.

The ID-card liaison committee set up by the SRC to establish uses for the card hasn't met yet because the administrative representative, university personnel director Brigadier Knight has been away for two weeks.

When he returns the three SRC members on the committee will meet with him and between them they'll hash out official uses for the ID card.

These uses will be passed on to another SRC liaison committee working with security police. Between the two committees, SRC and the administration will present policies to the SRC for approval concerning the powers of the security police in demanding ID cards and jurisdiction on campus.

SRC members on the ID card committee are Terry Payan, David Walker and Jay Patel. SRC president Dave Cox is chairing the security police committee.

Vice-president administration Macaulay was involved in convocation and wasn't available for comment on the committees.

Payan said the ID card committee should have a report for the SRC next week.

Cox and other committee members gave assurances that a workable policy could be quickly established.

Two weeks ago SRC set official policy for the ID cards. The policy said ID cards should not be used oppressively or in familiar situations. It said the cards could be used for administrative efficiency.

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An economics graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Roger began a three-month London Life training course in the summer of 1966. Within a year he had established himself as an exceptional life insurance underwriter. To learn more about a career in life insurance sales, see your placement officer. Or write to the Personnel Department, London Life Insurance Co., London, Ontario.

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