

THE MERLETT

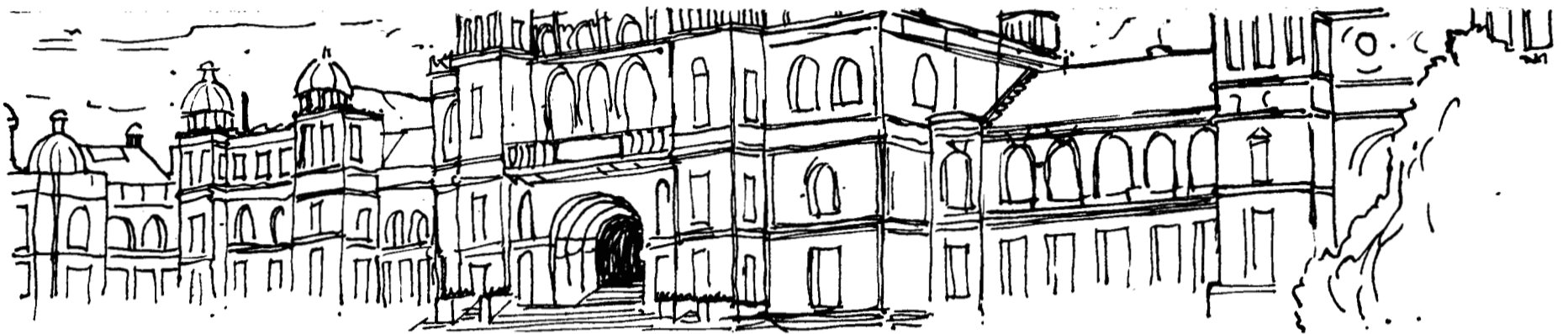
MAGAZINE



Vol. 2

JANUARY 19, 1967

No. 14



JANUARY 27

BCAS ACTIVISM

March For Priority

EDITORIAL By JIM HOFFMAN

About a week from now hundreds of students from all over British Columbia will converge *en masse* on the Parliament Buildings in Victoria. There will be university students from Kelowna and Creston; there will be technical students from the British Columbia Institute of Technology; there will be nurses from local hospitals and from hospitals on the mainland; and there will be a representation of high school students from all over the province.

The students aren't marching for the first time, nor are they presenting their first brief to the provincial government. The buses, the route, the placards and the speeches are all familiar tools from last year's march when student offensives gained increased financial support and a new respectability for students — and the discovery that there is little public sympathy with persons who only knock gently.

This time much in the "student march" will resemble the previous one, except that there will be many new faces and new leaders.

And new thinking. In actions that are clearly the result of activist concern among present academic hierarchies, students will make emphatic to the public and provincial government what they contend needs attention, and, in some cases, alteration.

● EDUCATION IS A RIGHT

Guiding student actions is a major concept, which although many students throughout the province probably don't realize it, is sublimely involved with student activism and inextricably tied to the success of the whole student movement, much of which is purely psychological in nature.

Whether the government takes immediate concrete steps or not, it is hoped that they will at least accept this as a philosophical concept. Half

the fight for education lies in this tenet, since, once accepted, the implications and the responsibilities which flow from it are enormous. It would mean, for example, that the Provincial government, which just cut back drastically on school construction would be morally at fault and clearly at variance with what would be considered to be a high priority, untamperable item in the public domain.

Thus, in a brief to the Minister of Education, the students will ask for:

● EQUALIZATION GRANTS

This, for the students, is the principal weapon for combating facts and figures in a recent AMS survey which told them such things as half the Victoria-Vancouver high school slant to attend university, while only one-fourth of the out-of-town students plan to attend university. And figures which tell them that in a certain school district, 29% of students from families with over \$8,000 income planned to attend, while only 16% of the students from families with under \$5,000 planned to attend. And figures which tell them that 35% of the student at UBC have taken out Canada Student Loans. And figures which tell them that B.C. ranks 5th of all provinces in per capita bursary grants and ranks 10th in per capita scholarship grants. The report which contains these figures concludes that "we are presently educating a financial and sociological elite".

Basically, the students are asking for grants of up to \$600 for students whose homes are beyond a 40-mile radius from a university.

Eligibility for grants, the brief says, should relate to what the student earns, not to parental support. Nor will grants go automatically to all out of town students.

● PROGRESSIVE ABOLITION

With priority on those entering first year, when students, because they have only two months to work and are handicapped by getting out

later than university students, face their most crucial monetary crisis — in addition to having to make "the big decision" about whether to attend university or find a permanent job, fees hopefully will be lowered and/or dropped. "Progressive" implies that abolition will eventually continue to second year fees and keep going upwards.

● TWO YEARS FOR NURSES

Student nurses, who currently regard themselves as "cheap labor" believe that the present three-year nursing program is unnecessary. They cite the recent case where auxiliary help in a hospital was let go and student nurses were given their work. Also, they want legislative recognition as students which would result in their becoming eligible for government scholarships.

● RELEVANCE IN HIGH SCHOOLS

High school students demand that, for one thing, they be allowed to think politically in their schools. At present there is no political arena in the educational system, leading the students to demand courses or places where topicality and relevance to living can be considered. Also, the students want the government to stop using methodology which adversely affects the quality of education, such as the recent cancellation of needed school building projects.

● BROADER PHILOSOPHY

This is the key to this coming week's march and is the main difference from last year's. Behind the march is the BCAS (British Columbia Assembly of Students) which was formed in January of 1966 "to make the machinery of implementation parallel existing political units."

The Assembly, which is comprised of students from universities, technical and high school, is quite concerned that the public realize that the students are not, much as they were previously, just out for a hand-

out, or any immediate government concession. The main concern is that the province accept the fact that education is a matter of the highest priority, not just a luxury for those lucky enough to make it. The government must make, by the terms of equalization, education available for more than just an "elite." This does not mean, as one BCAS member has said, that the government must "dangle a carrot before a person," but that there are too many great discrepancies in an educational system which is blessed with abundance and calls itself democratic.

Hawk's Eye View

Reprinted from Dec. 6 issue of THE LINK, published in Burnaby by the B.C. Institute of Technology

When I was doing my time at UBC, my dear old dad came to visit me one day at my dwelling — a shared room in Acadia Camp. He gazed about my surroundings; the walls of plywood (three green, one yellow), the plumbing running across the ceiling and down one wall, the cracked linoleum floor and the ancient beds and sagging mattresses. "You know," he finally said, "an ironworker wouldn't spend a day in a place like this." My dad had been an ironworker for a long time. He'd been in construction camps all over B.C. and that's what he had to say about the style in which his educated son was living.

I have lost sympathy with the methods of our student leaders. I have no longer any sympathy with individual students who choose to endure their lot rather than better it. I am losing respect for myself because each day I am coerced and haven't got the guts to say to the source of coercion — look friend, I'm a student, not a peon. I came here to learn, not to be put down.

No, I think of myself as the same kind of second-class citizen that every student must consider himself under the present system.

Systems don't change themselves, though. People with guts change them.

Mr. Hoffman, an Arts student at University of Victoria, is editor of the MerleTT Magazine.

**DOUGLAS:***National Credit***BENNETT:***Debt-Free Money*

POLITICS IN B. C. —

'A Pretence of Social Credit'

By CHARLES A. BOWMAN

Major C. H. Douglas, a consulting engineer with a London office in Fig Tree Court, first launched Social Credit on the world in 1919.

Depression had set in after World War I and the Labor party in the British parliament advocated Socialism. The Socialist doctrine, according to Marx, meant taking over the means of production, distribution and exchange, and the abolition of rent, interest and profit.

Socialist intellectuals, G. D. H. Cole and R. H. Tawney, tried to tone down this frank expounding of Socialism. They began writing articles in the London weekly *New Age* in favor of a National Guild movement. In short, the trade unions should become national guilds, designed to restore the control of industries to the artisans as in earlier centuries before the advent of capitalism.

Douglas first ventured into print with an article against Cole and Tawney's plan to circumvent the capitalist system. The editor of the *New Age*, A. R. Orage, gave space to Douglas's adverse criticism of National Guilds. He agreed on the need to do something to end the depression; but argued that so long as private, international interests controlled money power, depression could be brought on under National Guilds as under private ownership.

Hence came the challenge to Douglas to offer something constructive as an alternative to the Socialist remedy. He responded by putting forward the first mention of Social Credit.

Britain produced annually twice as much as it consumed. Any individual who produced twice as much as he consumed could be said to have a substantial measure of real credit. Ergo, the nation had real credit. Measured in money terms, the nation's real credit should be drawn upon to end the state of depression. It could be done by establishing a national bank, with a national credit account: Social Credit.

PEOPLE GET NATIONAL DIVIDENDS

Next came the challenge to Douglas: how would Social Credit be distributed, without inflation? So Douglas, very diffidently, suggested that there could be national dividends distributed to the people in common—as producers and consumers.

Inflation could be prevented by making it possible to sell goods, and such services as railway fares, at reduced prices. The consumer would pay the regular retail price, without impairing the capitalist system; but he would receive a discount credit voucher — which could be deposited, or exchanged for cash, at any bank. The bank would be reimbursed from the national credit account. The three pillars of Social Credit would

Charles A. Bowman, who was for years editor of *THE OTTAWA CITIZEN*, was the confidant of prime ministers and was intimately connected with Canadian political development. He has just published his memoirs in *OTTAWA EDITOR*, Gray's Publishing Company, Sidney. In this article, written especially for the *MARTLET MAGAZINE*, he traces some of the important history of Social Credit and comments on Social Credit parties in Canada today.

thus be: a National Credit Account, a National Dividend and a National Discount. The discount would be regulated annually by the ratio between total national production and total national consumption.

Major C. H. Douglas had no desire to start a political party, or to convert people. He regarded the capitalistic system as one of the greatest human inventions since the dawn of civilization. But, from an engineering point of view, he saw that the valves of finance were inadequate to maintain a steady flow of goods and services from the pool of production to the consumers.

He would have nothing to do with William Aberhart's Social Credit party in Alberta, and asked me to intercede. I had an interview with Aberhart in Calgary, and he protested that he had no intention of leading a political party. He said he intended to carry on as a high school master, and would refuse any nomination to stand as a Social Credit candidate in the forthcoming provincial election . . .

DOUGLAS ACCEPTS OTTAWA INVITATION

Douglas contented himself with writing books on Social Credit, including *Economic Democracy*, *Credit Power and Democracy*, *The Control and Distribution of Production*. In 1923, he accepted an invitation to appear before the Banking and Commerce Committee on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where he gave lucid evidence and answered questions frankly.

He had a yacht-building yard on the Solent, and lived happily in retirement, sailing in the English Channel and up some of Europe's rivers.

He knew that Social Credit could never be set up, without the sanction of international money power, any more than medicare could be established without doctors.

Nothing has been done, or can be done, by any provincial government in Canada to bring in Social Credit. Socred office holders know they are sailing under false colors. In Alberta, Socred political meetings are opened with prayer. In British Columbia, Rev. Philip Arthur Gaglardi has made profitable use of the evangelical art in Socred politics.

When the Conservative leader in B.C., W. A. C. Bennett, hoisted the Socred flag, he deluded the electorate by saying "See what Social Credit

has done for Alberta!" Social Credit has never been applied in Alberta. Oil wells brought prosperity in the nick of time to save that province from bankruptcy.

It will need something less deceptive than the present pretence of Social Credit to keep British Columbia out of bankruptcy. Barnum built up "The Greatest Show on Earth" with freaks, the bearded lady, the dwarf General Tom Thumb . . . and later wrote an autobiography, *Humbugs of the World*, telling how the public likes to be fooled.

BENNETT'S GOVERNMENT LOADS ON LIABILITIES

Barnum made piles of money, but kept within the law. Premier Bennett could probably make more money in private business than in politics — as the government's chief adviser does. But some of the government's operations, cloaked in misleading Socred terms, are loading liabilities on the B.C. taxpayers at a dangerous rate.

The Socred pretence of taking over the B.C. Electric, the Black Ball ferries, and other private enter-

prises with "debt-free money" is falsehood. No Socialist government in Canada ever confiscated private enterprise with such effrontery as Premier Bennett did with B.C. Electric. However, the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority is a profitable public service.

The Peace River power project is a present liability — whatever it may be in later years. The B.C. ferry system is destined to become obsolete within the next ten years.

With the advent of hovercraft, the present Bennett ferries costing millions of dollars, and daily demanding more — will go into the discard. Few people will want to drive, or go by bus, to the present distant ferry landings, when it is possible to board a speedier hovercraft as conveniently as at a bus station.

Already, hovercraft are operating daily across the Strait of Dover and on other British routes. Hovercraft are under construction to carry 350 passengers, or the equivalent rate in passengers and cars. Hovercraft will make four trips between Vancouver Island and the mainland in the time taken by the present ferries to make one trip.

It is little wonder that Premier Bennett is in difficulties with the cost of building ferries of obsolete design. They are destined to go out as surely as the horse and buggy has been displaced by the automobile.

TWO by RICHARD VEE

CONTEST

A long toss with springs
shrieking out
the unsaid anguish
turning in the mind.
The canter feels good on the seat.

TO BE

I bit into an apple
and held life between my teeth,
I shook the branches in the spring
and felt living fall around my head.

I galloped on a horse
and lived in ecstasy and fright.

I skied with delight down long slopes
and knew awareness in the snow.

Then God and I, we did it again
and these all tangled twice over.

AKC
(SC)
LH3
M32
c.2

Science to the Rescue:

The Lavatory Art

By ROBIN JEFFREY

What is needed at our happy little alma mater is a way of giving Science and Arts students some common purpose. And I think I have the answer. It is a noble, inventive project in which Science will be required to assist Art.

It all came to me after the *Tryste* was shot down like a beagle by the Red Baron. Don't mistake me. I was pleased to see the *Tryste* go. It looked likely to smack of immorality before too long, and we want none of that here.

It has been pointed out to me, of course, that the *Martlet Magazine* is also a nefarious sort of publication. But the case here is somewhat different. The *Martlet Magazine* is on newsprint. It is *journalism*. Its contributors don't know gerunds from genitals and don't care. Journalism, as everyone knows, is a nasty business staffed by ribald scribblers. Nobody takes it seriously.

No, the *Tryste* is different. It was dignified by glossy paper. It looked something like *Ladies' Home Journal*. It was the sort of thing our maiden aunt or fair-haired sisters might casually pick up. (They would never sully their hands with newsprint.) So it's just as well the *Tryste* died. Before it had to be executed, I mean.

But to get back to my idea. (I hope all you Science People are still standing by.)

Tryste is dead. But this hasn't got to the root of the problem. It's rather like closing the brothels: that simply doesn't solve the problem. Just as base men with vile passions must have an outlet if our fair-haired sisters and maiden aunts are to be physically safe,

so the young writers and pornographers on campus must be given a safe diversion. Otherwise, another *Tryste* could rear its ugly head at any time. We must make the world safe for maiden aunts and fair-haired sisters.

And I have the answer! But I'm going to need help from you Science People.

Now you all know about the writing on Lavatory Walls. It's quite famous. Edward Albee got the title 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' from a Lavatory Wall. A professor (of Fine Arts, I think it was) recently got the idea for a lecture from a Lavatory Wall. One of my favourite poems — and a sage verse it is — I discovered on a Lavatory Wall.

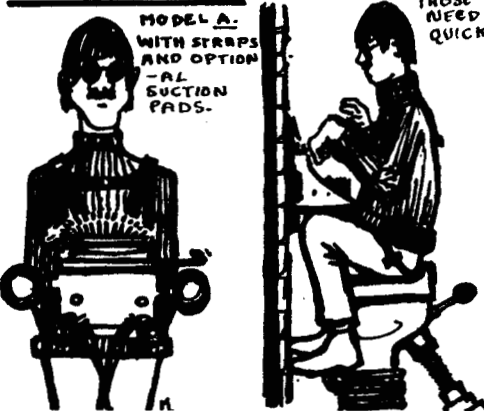
In Britain, where Lavatory Wall writing is something of an Art, the messages goes up every December: "A Merry Christmas to all our readers". The Lavatory Wall, then, has always offered considerable outlet for budding artists.

Thus the solution of our problem is pretty evident, isn't it? Where is the last place in the world we should expect to find our maiden aunts and fair-haired sisters? In the man's lavatory, of course. (I understand this Art Form is not practised to the same extent in women's lavatories. This probably accounts for the absence of any Great Women Writers.)

But there is one drawback — and this is where you Science People come in. Lavatory Wall writing is very tiring. A few lines of poetry written on the perpendicular plane of a Lavatory Wall require considerable exertion. Similarly, a ball-point pen won't write going up hill — as it has to on a Lavatory Wall. Under present working conditions, then, an 80,000-word novel is virtually impossible on a Lavatory Wall.

But you Science People can change all that. I want you to invent a Lavatory Wall Typewriter. It should be portable, relatively inexpensive, and should allow the user to carry it into

ALAVATORY © TYPEWRITER.



MODEL B. WITH ADJUSTABLE SEAT FOR EASE, AND THOSE WHO NEED IT QUICK.

MODEL C. LADIES MODEL. UNFORTUNATELY THE COLOURS WERENT RIGHT, SO THIS LINE HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED

AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT WHAT A LADIES LAV LOOKS LIKE, ANYWAY...M. REALLY.

a lavatory, set it up against a wall, and then bang flowing, immor(t)al prose onto the wall, with the same ease and speed as with an ordinary typewriter.

Now I know you Science People can invent this. After all, you're always telling us that you're the practical ones.

And it will be a grand thing when it's perfected. We'll dismantle and sell all the libraries, and use the money to

build lavatories — millions and millions of them. They're more practical than libraries, anyway. Then every man with literary pretensions will have his own Lavatory Wall to work on and his own Lavatory Wall Typewriter to work with. A union of Science and Art, that's what it will be.

And then we'll all be able to sleep nights. We'll know then that our fair-haired sisters and maiden aunts have nothing to fear but fear itself.

Press CLIPPINGS

ON WAR...

The U.S. authorities publish estimates of casualties inflicted on the Vietcong. Except, from time to time, when the 'wrong' village is destroyed by mistake, nothing is said about civilian casualties. Yet it is known that civilian refugees in the South alone number nearly one million. If a million have been made homeless by the operations, how many have been killed or maimed? America, the strongest and richest nation on earth, new seems engaged in a senseless, full-scale war against the entire Vietnamese people.

—THE NEW STATESMAN

U.S. capitalism has required war production of such magnitude that 77 cents of every 100 spent by the U.S. Government are for military expenditure, and 50 per cent of all economic activity in the United States may depend on military spending. Billions of dollars in contracts are supplied annually to big industry by the military, and the leading military figures are on the boards of directors of the contracted companies. This system of rapacious exploitation is today the main enemy of the well-being of the people of the world.

—BERTRAND RUSSELL

The political leaders of a country provide more than the sum total of its policies. Setting standards of behaviour, they are to a nation much of what parents are to children. The profusion of distortions issuing from President Johnson and his aides needs to be viewed in this context. *Lying is being legitimized as a method of conducting public as well as private business.* Typically, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., historian and one-time Presidential assistant, did not blink an eye



while valuntarily confessing that he had lied when, during the Bay of Pigs invasion, he told a newspaperman the landing force numbered a mere 200-300 men.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

China will survive without admission to the United Nations, but will the United Nations survive? Big and powerful as she is, in this instance China is only a symbol. The United Nations is only one arena. The contest is not between China and the United States. The contest is between imperialism and the human race.

—THE GHANAIAI TIMES

In a Nagasaki hospital twenty years after the atomic explosion a young lady (she was then a baby) has just died of leukemia.

He father died of leukemia two years ago.

Her mother and sister are hospitalized for the same disease.

In Hiroshima and Nagasaki every year dozens of people still die of what, in Japan, is called the atomic disease.

—LE CANARD ENCHAINE

letter

CURTIS

Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to ask Mr. Lynn Curtis for a public statement of the goals and mechanism of the "switch to the left away from the rotting middle class system", as mentioned in the *Martlet Magazine* of Jan. 5.

If Mr. Curtis would oblige us with a brief reply perhaps the circularity of his reasoning would be only a temporary illusion.

—R. E. Cox
3 Arts

Martlet Magazine

Editor
Jim Hoffman

Associate EditorsGuy Stanley
and Martin Segger

ContributingJohn Hanley

ArtMartin Springett

ThinkerBjorn Stavrum

SecretarySteph

Unsolicited material, including articles, poems and short stories, should be clearly addressed to the MARTLET MAGAZINE and either mailed to or left at the Martlet office. Contributions to the anonymous column, CERBERUS, should be signed and consist of about 700 words of topical, political opinion.



PETER'S PROBLEM

By ART GILLAN

Peter is five years old, lives here in Victoria, and next year will enter the first grade. He is not necessarily below average intelligence; in fact, chances are that he will be above. What makes him different from normal children, however, is that he belongs to an unfortunate classification that educators and social workers call "culturally disadvantaged".

Peter is not foreign born; he may well be second generation Canadian.

Mr. Gillan is a fifth-year education student at the University of Victoria and is president of the Education Society.

Because of a language barrier (or corresponding circumstances) Peter has been denied an integrated family life. Communication with his parents, and thereby the adult world, has been minimal. He has learned and developed his language and imagination from his brothers, sisters, and friends, that are generally his own age. As a result his language and verbal skills are at a comparatively low level of development.

Peter's main problem is mainly an underdeveloped ability for abstract thought association and recognition. He will recognize a desk but cannot categorize it as a piece of furniture.

Peter lacks experience . . . he will recognize a desk but cannot categorize it as a piece of furniture. Attempts will be made . . . by the volunteer students . . . to broaden this type of child's field of experience.

A plant might have "one leaf" and a tree, "five hundred leaf." He does not understand that though his father is a "big" man, their house is "bigger." Things are only big and small, "bigger" and "smaller" are meaningless terms. The average child of his age, however, is able to easily conceive all these concepts and use them.

PETER LACKS CHILD EXPERIENCES

Peter's communication dilemma reaches much further into his life than one would perhaps at first imagine. What he lacks, as much as anything else, is experience. Unlike the average child of his age he has never been inside a department store, never visited a park, and certainly never been to a museum. He has no knowledge of the meaning of money, how things grow or are made, and has no conception of history as related to time.

When Peter starts school he will be at a further disadvantage. He will not understand the "not" statement, he will be unable to differentiate between the singular and plural. A more serious problem will appear in his thought process; it will seem 'one way.' He will know what colour red is; he knows what a crayon is, but he cannot tell you "That is a red crayon."

Peter will eventually get over these disadvantages. But this is not the point. His background will retard his early development and progress in the school system. If he is lucky he will only have to repeat one grade, either the first or second. It might not catch up to him until grades five or six. This seemed lack of success in school, however, is the beginnings of a dissolutionment in the system. Naturally he will be forced to seek success elsewhere, and hence the progression to the "drop-out" mentality and stage.

PETER MUST BE PREPARED FOR SYSTEM

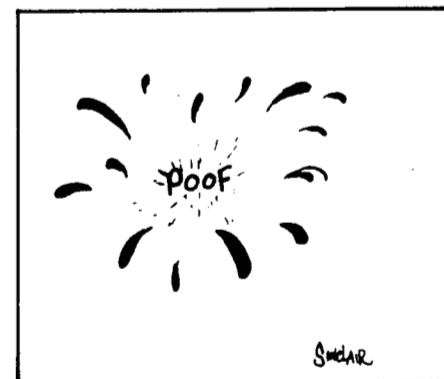
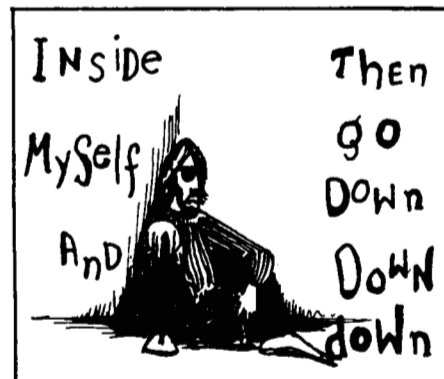
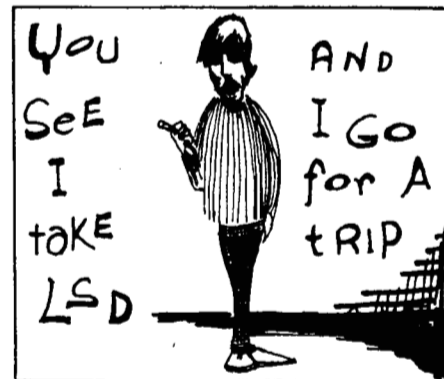
It is evident that here, at a very primary stage, we are concerned with the idea of universal accessibility. If we believe in an equal opportunity for all in our education system then we bear also the responsibility of preparing Peter for the system that is not geared to those like him.

It is highly unlikely that there will be any drastic modification in the system, a large bureaucracy serving so many of which those like our Peter are but a fractional minority. The fact remains, though, that the problem does exist, now!

The EAC, in recognition of this as part of universal accessibility program, has decided to sponsor action in this field. A project, which will be underway as of Saturday the

twenty-first of January, will be initiated with the aid of volunteer students on campus. Attempts will be made to broaden this type of child's field of experience. Each student will take three children on field trips to places of local interest: Parliament buildings, Thunderbird Park, the Maritime Museum; and during these trips attempts will be made to communicate with them, quiz them, and discuss with them, about the things they see. If successful this project might broaden, and be a precedent to a larger scaled effort to equal the opportunity for these children in our educational system.

SINCLAIR:



FOOT-PATHS ON THE MORNING DEW

Random
 ravenings cross this crisp
 on carpet pretty patterns
 frosty a
 field fleeting trace paths through dazzling
 footsteps these diamonds
 be to soon
 stolen by the rapacious rays of shimmering sun

—Laurie James Creak