

CRIMSON AND WHITE

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THE MILNE SCHOOL, S.U.N.Y., ALBANY, N. Y.

JANUARY 16, 1970

Short Year Coming?

Last week the faculty senate of S.U.N.Y.A. voted to accept a new type of calendar for the coming year. Classes will begin at the university about September 2 and commencement will be at the end of May. The present Christmas vacation will be expanded to a full month, lasting from Dec. 22 through Jan. 18.

As a department of the university, Milne may also adopt this schedule for the coming year pending approval by the faculty and administrators. However, due to state requirements on the minimum number of school days, Milne, if the schedule is adopted, would receive no more than two weeks for the Christmas recess. Most one or two day holidays of the present Milne schedule, would be eliminated altogether.

Seniors Safari

by Carol Morgenstern

One of the most interesting courses offered at Milne is a senior Social Studies class in African Affairs. Taught by Mr. Neiderberger and an occasional method student the class has a relaxed informal atmosphere found in few other courses in the school.

Each student has chosen an independent study topic related to Africa in some way. Some have chosen sociological studies; some, humanities; others, political science.

Two of the most unusual topics are drama and culture. These may sound neither interesting nor unusual, but the interest lies in the treatment of the projects.

JoAna Popolizio thought African drama would be interesting to study, so she found a play by an African and proceeded to produce it. With the help of a dozen other students, she will present "The Trials of Brother Jero," a comedy in five scenes. The play is amusing and also provides an insight into the African artist.

Saralyn Brown has undertaken an equally stimulating project in the form of a mini-meal. Sari will cook various African dishes, including yams, which the class will sample. Of course, they won't get a full meal. Cooking for twenty-four is no picnic, even when the foods are familiar.

These are only two examples of the creative energy Milne students demonstrate, but there are more. For instance, Bob Levitt and Kevin Bartlett have undertaken a study of African music which promises to be interesting.

Another facet of the African class is a tentatively scheduled Black Studies Course, possibly for college credit, conjunction with Albany High. The plans for this course, though apparently still nebulous, might provide black and white students from Milne and Albany High with better understanding and increased sensitivity. Perhaps we might better understand the reasons for the recent violence next door, and the methods to prevent these incidents from recurring.

Next time a guidance questionnaire appears in homeroom to state, "I will, will not (cross out one) take social studies next semester," think twice before you pass up a chance for a Black Studies class.

Informed sources recommend Mr. N.'s next course offering, Youth in Asia, for flunking seniors.

Driving Law Changes

(CSP) The Department of Motor Vehicles has announced that junior operators may now drive unaccompanied between the hours of 5 A.M. and 8 P.M. During the remaining hours, a junior operator must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This applies to all junior operators regardless of when they obtained their licenses.

Previously, junior operators could not drive between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Junior operators still cannot drive in New York City or Nassau County.

Midterms Termed Terminated

by Celia Moore and Adrienne Schapiro

At the end of last week the office of the principal issued a directive to the supervisors. In that memorandum was contained an important announcement concerning midyear exams.

Briefly, the administration defined the policy thus: Regular classes were to be held during midyear week. All examinations will be given during class periods. Two days, a week apart, were allotted to each department for testing purposes to insure that students would not be "overtested" on any one day.

Many students complained of three-day exams planned by many departments for exam week, to the marking committee, which then complained to Mr. Bowler. The memorandum was then issued, which although it does not ban midyears, discourages the giving of such tests.

Material for the exams can be drawn from anything taught since the beginning of this year; however, the tests cannot exceed two periods in length and marks will only be tabulated into the second quarter grade. For all junior high students except seniors, there will be no semester mark. Seniors, however, will receive a semester grade for college transcript purposes.

Seniors' "first semester mark will be computed, giving equal weight to the marks for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. . . . In borderline situations, the supervisor will exercise his professional judgement as to whether the student should receive the next higher or lower mark," states the memorandum. Mr. Bowler elaborated: "Any senior with an 'A' for first quarter, and a 'B' for second quarter would receive an 'A' semester mark."

Some Tests Planned

English Dept.—Mr. Lewis' seniors will have no midyear. His tenth grade will take only a unit test. The juniors supervised by Mr. Weeks will have no midyear. Dr. Cochrane's class have had an in-class essay and a comprehensive quiz "for blood," but he does not consider this a midyear. Mr. Kraus' class will have a test based on second quarter material but requiring understandings gained in the first quarter. Miss Dunn's classes are having quarter tests.

Social Studies Dept.—Mr. Lamanna had planned to give a regular midyear during the three day period, but changed his mind after reading the memo. Mr. Neiderberger said jocosely, "I am declaring war on my students. This will be the toughest midyear ever given to the ninth grade social studies classes." Mrs. McKeefe plans to have quarter tests.

L.C. Waives Fee

Due to many complaints received by Lincoln Center concerning the film program presented at Milne and other schools, the organization has voluntarily agreed to waive all charges.

The program was poorly received at Milne and other schools, and may be dropped by Lincoln Center from next year's program offerings.

Fine Arts Day in Planning

Although Fine Arts Day is still some months away, some students are already beginning their projects for it. The Drama Club is beginning to think in terms of this activity, and of what might be suitable for this year. Some students are hard at work in the shop, working on wood sculptures for the event.

One of the only complaints about this festivity last year was that some students did not have sufficient time to plan for it. This year, with concrete plans already made, and a precedent to follow, this situation should not arise again.

Commencement Date Set

All problems surrounding the scheduling of graduation ceremonies have been cleared up. Commencement Exercises for the Class of 1970 will begin at 6:15 p.m., Friday, June 19, 1970.

Milne Cagers Stand 3-1

Presently, we are second in the Central Hudson Valley League, only one game behind the league leader, Catskill. Beating Heatly and Catskill would give us a clear shot at the CHVL title. In order to beat Catskill though, we will have to contain their very highly publicized "big three"—Latimer, O'Neal, and Hall. These three are doing their share in ripping the CHVL apart.

Cadets Coming

On January 16, Milne will take on crosstown rival, Albany Academy, in Page Gym. Milne's big asset in this game should be the hot shooting of Lou Milstein and our strong rebounding talents. The Cadets have a very quick team and lately have been high scorers. All of these factors point to a very exciting and fast moving game.

JV's Hot

Last Friday night the Milne JV's trounced the Waterford JV's by a score of 48-30. The JV's showed a tenacious defense and excellent ball control in the game.

Latin Dept.—Mr. Graber will be giving quarter exams. Mrs. Wilson will be giving tests for Latin I and Latin II which, though concentrating on the second quarter, will contain material from the past sixteen weeks. Latin IV will have a quarter test. Mrs. Norton's classes will be having midyears.

Spanish Dept.—The Spanish Dept. is still undecided as to whether to give midyears or merely eight week exams.

French Dept.—The French Dept. will only give quarterly exams.

Science Dept.—Mr. Oleniczak and Mrs. Schermerhorn are only giving unit tests to their classes, while Mr. Johnson will give his experimental biology class a midterm. Mr. Pruden has scheduled no end of the semester tests.

Math Dept.—Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Forgette are planning quarter exams and "Bwana" DeLong, who had originally planned to give a three-day midyear, has relented and is merely zonking his students with what he laughably calls a "unit test."

All students should consult their supervisors for the latest information regarding their midyear plans.

Pruden Injured in Crash

Milne Physics and General Science supervisor, Mr. Donald Pruden nearly became the first Milne fatality of 1970, when his car was hit head on by another motorist only a few miles from his home. A third car promptly skidded into the wreck. The supervisor was unconscious for four hours with a concussion after the accident, and had no memory of the accident until they told him at the hospital, but has recovered sufficiently to return to the classroom. He suggests that if it weren't for seatbelts he may never have recovered.

In his usual nonchalant manner, the first problem he assigned to his class upon his return was to compute the vectors of the collision.

YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH

What man once waived aside as some of the necessary, unpleasant by-products of "progress" have now accumulated and regrouped to confront him with a life or death proposition.

Our earth is one ecological unit. What happens in one area of it ultimately affects us all socially and physically. Should the delicate balance of nature become upset to the point where the trend of destruction of our environment becomes irreversible, man, not being an exception to the laws of nature as he once thought he was, shall perish with it. Gas masks could become a reality, the more fortunate part of a reality now beyond the imagination of the vast majority of us. Come to think of it, they are becoming a reality in Tokyo.

Urbanization, industrialization and the world's teeming population have created the ever-increasing problem of disposing of the physical, chemical and biological wastes which pollute whatever they are spilled, dumped or blown into.

Until agricultural, mining, industrial and residential wastes can be disposed of in a safe, non-toxic manner, we will never have clean water, air, or land. From the litter in the streets to the thermal pollution of waters serving as coolants for atomic power plants, this desecration blights each individual. The air and water make man ill. Radiation from atomic power plants, the industrial use of laser and microwave technology, and bomb explosions can have incalculable effects upon us and however many future generations there may be. Noise wheedles away at our sanity. As the classic example of man's "achievement" note his pesticides that are in the food he eats and consequently alter his and future generations' biochemical make-up with what could become the lethal dose. Pesticides also drain off the land into the water killing the small but indispensable oxygen producing organisms living there.

Man possesses the technology needed to eradicate this problem, but what is needed is an end to another of his self-inflicted diseases—apathy. Young people must be encouraged to enter professions concerned with obtaining a better knowledge of ecology (society not having taken the time to broaden its perspective). More money is needed now, and will be needed as knowledge of our vast ecosystem increases. But how do we get this money? Each one of us must become an "eco-activist." Our clamor is already beginning to be felt, but we must penetrate the facade of politics that blankets all enthusiasm at the top. The Republicans have long been supported by the oil, auto and airline industries; the Democrats, the party for economic growth and jobs, are supported by unions, contractors and construction workers. Politicians and industrial leaders have slowly started to rise to the occasion and attempt to resolve their conflicting interests. These men can become our representatives as never before if we persist.

So let the "environmental question" that the '70's poses become the cause of each one of us. The fact that there are commissions against pollution as high as the international level is all very nice, but reform must start "at home." I formally propose to the students and faculty of the Milne School that we set aside one day soon for an "environmental teach-in," similar to the type to sweep across college campuses in early spring. I cannot think of a more useful way to spend a day than to study man's position relative to nature and his fellow man—and what each of us can do to improve it. I am sure that many students, as I am, would be willing to work on a committee to arrange this workshop and obtain faculty support. I know that some faculty members are just as concerned as students. I would hate to think that our Student Council, forever looking for good deeds to do, would not accept this challenge that confronts us all.

—K.S.

Letter Policy

We don't agree with Mr. Yolles that all letters received by the C&W should be printed.

First of all, the vast majority of letters are printed. When letters are withheld it is done out of consideration for our readers.

The letters received have covered relatively few topics. Many of these letters are written in such a way that the stands taken are not supported by evidence or fact of any kind, and would consequently have little value for readers, influencing only the least discriminate. Finally we would say that about one-fourth of our student mail is illegibly scrawled on crumpled paper.

We have handed most letters (expressing opinions that are apparently unsubstantiated or which are extremely illegible and incoherent) back to the writers with written suggestions for improvement so that they might be printed. The response: none.

Evidently these hastily written letters are indicative of the lack of genuine commitment of Milne students to causes, and instead are only gripes, these being synonymous neither in meaning nor effect.

—The Editors

"Dick & Jane"

To the Editor:

I am sorry to say that I found the editorial "Complaint" insulting, snide, and generally speaking, a lot of hot air. **Portnoy's Complaint** was, on the recommendation of the librarians, vetoed by Dr. Fossieck. Using the information that the librarians had rejected the book, the author of the editorial spewed forth with accusations and irrelevant opinions including the snide comment about "the hung-up, guilt-ridden, adult generation."

So, the author had a basically sound grievance, the refusal to purchase **Portnoy's Complaint**, which was merely voiced in a very poor way. Fine! But—What was the point of the rest of the article? Our library is not crammed with the epic sage of "Dick and Jane." The few "Dick and Jane" type books we do have are for some junior high people whose tastes are not that sophisticated yet. Our library is one of the finest school libraries in the state, with a social sciences collection alone of 1,039 books. Putting "Dick and Jane" on the same level as the classics was also ridiculous. Please, write a protest, but not a "Dick and Jane" editorial!

—Adrienne Schapiro

To The Editor:

For many years the National Honor Society has brought a series of Lincoln Center programs to Milne. The Honor Society has engaged ballets, dramas, an opera, and various musicians, not only to provide entertainment, but to add infinitely to the normal high school education by presenting one of today's most neglected subjects—that of the arts.

Very few students are aware of the difficulties we face in bringing these programs to Milne. Not only do the programs cost a great deal of money, involving full time fund raising, but much time and energy must be devoted to ensuring the comfort of the traveling artists. The arrival of a dramatic or operatic group calls for a reception committee, dressing rooms, lighting, stage-hands, people to iron costumes, and someone to run between dressing rooms, stage, and auditorium to attend to the needs of the performers. This preparation can take from half an hour to three hours, and most of the Honor Society cannot view the event they have brought to Milne due to the need for students backstage.

The last issue of the C&W carried many interesting comments, written by a "disgusted" student, concerning the Lincoln Center film program. Disgusted wrote, "The stage was mobbed with people . . . no one doing anything, and the program was twenty minutes late." He obviously doesn't know what snow can do to snarl traffic. The people from Lincoln Center arrived late due to a traffic hold up and then did their best to set up on time. The "chaos" on stage was, in fact, several helpful students connecting wires and working out the desired sound system. The letter went on to state that no one heard Larry Patent's introduction. If the students had quieted long enough to listen, the introduction might have been heard. The letter continued by attacking the sound system of Milne. If the audience had paid more attention to the screen rather than to exiting faculty members, they might have understood the program. Besides that, the man working the projector mentioned that the "belching" noises were done on purpose to show that the scenes had been cut from a movie.

"At 3:00 many people started filing out of the auditorium." Disgusted seemed to believe that these people who rudely interrupted the narration were "smart." Due to this mass exodus, those interested were unable to hear the narrator, who was forced to shout over shuffling feet and talking. Any performer deserves common courtesy because he attempts, whether or not successfully, to entertain the public. Courtesy for the interested spectator and for the performer was lacking, as it has been during most of this year's assemblies. Uninterested students can at least keep silent for the duration of forty minutes in order to allow interested persons to hear.

Certainly, as Disgusted suggested, only interested students should have to watch the Lincoln Center program, but that is not the present policy at Milne. School policy demands a fee supporting the Lincoln Center programs from each student which is paid as part of the student tax. As a point of interest, those students who remained for the entire program and listened to the whole narration were rewarded by a better understanding of the film-making industry.

The NHS is not asking for admiration, merely for a little tolerance and patience from students like Disgusted who only see one-half of a whole story. We realize that there are many faults to be found with the Lincoln Center programs, but letters like Disgusted's serve only to partially destroy efforts made to help the student.

JoAna Popolizo
Secretary, NHS

Happy Hunting!

As all regular riders of United Traction buses will agree, the bus company makes all too liberal use of the statement in fine print at the bottom of each schedule—"This schedule subject to change without further notice."

So, your helpful, friendly, humble, ever-resourceful and slightly devious editors got together and devised a method by which every Milne student with a little energy can catch himself a city bus, if he really wants one.

Begin by building a wooden box approximately 35' x 10' x 10' with no bottom. To this box attach sturdy ropes in such a way that the box can be suspended open end down over the road. Thread another long rope through a pulley attached to a tree branch high above the street, preferably near a bus stop.

Now, draw the box high above the street and secure the rope by tying it around the tree trunk, clear the bus stop of all passengers and hide behind the tree to which the rope is tied. Clearing the stop is most important, for it is a well known fact that any bus driver seeing a crowded bus stop, especially during miserable weather, immediately speeds up and leaves the prospective passengers on the corner choking on his exhaust fumes. If the driver sees the bus stop empty, he will continue unaware, at his usual torpid pace, making him a much easier target. When the bus is directly below the suspended box, cut the rope. If your timing is right, the box will drop over the bus, capturing it.

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