

FEBRUARY

HERE AT STONY BROOK - Monday, Feb. 7, 1983

THEME UP AND OUT

This program is called "Here at Stony Brook" and today's subject is the American system of education. Should children be entering first grade at age 4? Age 5? Age 6? Should they be graduating from high school and entering college at age 18? Age 17? Age 16?

Hi, everybody. This is Al Oickle. I'm with the Office here of University News Services at the State University of New York/at Stony Brook. Today, we will be talking with three educators and professionals here at Stony Brook about a plan under study by New York's state commissioner of education. Gordon Ambach, the commissioner, has touched off a torrent of praise and criticism ~~with~~ by disclosing that he is studying a revolutionary plan ~~to~~ to enroll students in school a year earlier ~~at~~ at age 4; and to graduate them after the 11th grade. Before our panel begins its discussion, we will listen to some thoughts about education from some well-known thinkers of the past. First will be the words of Lester Ward. // Historian Henry Steele Commager has described sociologist Ward as "one of the creative spirits of 20th century America." Here's what ~~he~~ ~~said~~ ~~about~~ ~~education~~ --

~~VOICE OF WARD: XXXXX~~

VOICE OF WARD: "The great demand of the world is knowledge. The great problem is the equalization ~~of~~ ~~intelligence~~, to put all knowledge in possession of every human being...Intelligence, heretofore a growth, is destined to become a manufacture...The origination and distribution of knowledge can no longer be left to chance and to nature. They are to be systematized and erected into true arts."

AFO: So ~~said~~ sociologist Lester Ward. Six decades later, Marshall McLuhan was to find weakness in this "manufacture" of education. The famed

MORE

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Stony Brook's elevation of football to Division III was not unexpected, Dr. Marburger noted. A year ago, the President's Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics recommended: "Football and lacrosse should be examined carefully now for possible elevation to intercollegiate status." The decision to elevate lacrosse from club status to Division III was announced last spring and Stony Brook's lacrosse team will play a Division III schedule in spring 1983.

Dr. Marburger said a year ago: "It is clearly time to develop a stronger intercollegiate athletic program, a program more appropriate to the size and stature of a university like Stony Brook."

He said in announcing the elevation of football: "Sports is one of a small number of interests that can be shared by all members of the University campus, its alumni and its public. As such, it strengthens our sense of community and the loyalty we maintain to that community and its goals. Like basketball, football is a major sport that will play an important part in Stony Brook's future."

Football, which compiled a 52-27-1 won-lost-tied record over the past decade at Stony Brook, has been one of four club sports supported by Polity, the undergraduate student government, through student fees. The others are men's ice hockey and two teams for both men and women, cycling and horseback riding.

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author of the book, "The Medium Is the Massage," was the director of the Center for Culture and Technology at the University of Toronto.

Here is what he wrote in 1967 about education:

VOICE OF McLuhan: "Today's television child is bewildered when he enters the 19th century environment that still characterizes the educational establishment where information is scarce but ordered and structured by fragmented, classified patterns, subjects and schedules. It is naturally an environment much like any factory set-up with its inventories and assembly lines...Growing up---that is our new work, and it is total. Mere instruction will not suffice."

AFO: And that is how Marshall McLuhan looked at what sociologist Ward had characterized as "the factory of learning."

Well, it's time to hear from our panel. Commissioner Ambach said he is looking at a plan that would enroll students in kindergarten at age 4 and in Grade 1 at age five. Dr. David Lichtenstein is on the Social Sciences faculty and ~~director of the~~ coordinator of ~~the~~ Child Care and Family Studies programs, ^{works at SB.} Professor Lichtenstein, are kids ready for Grade 1 at age 5?

Dr. Barbara Baskin is director of special education, here at Stony Brook. Through a program that she administers, high school children come to the University to take college-level classes. Professor Baskin, are 16-year-olds prepared for college?

The Office of Admissions at Stony Brook through its counselors visits scores of high schools, and meets thousands of high school students, each year. Daniel Frisbie is director of admissions, here at Stony Brook.

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Mr. Frisbie, how do you react to ~~Commissioner~~ Commissioner Ambach's study?

GENERAL DISCUSSION -

REASONS

Can the present system be changed easily?

Discuss ~~pre-school~~ ^{un-suitable} primary, middle, high school plan

What about Simon's Rock plan (10-4)?

Discuss social preparedness.

Are community colleges a natural transitional level for a new 12-2-4 setup, giving diploma, associate degree, bachelor/master's?

Final go-round: What advice for Comm. ~~A~~ Ambach?

28:00

AFO WRAPUP

We have been discussing a plan under study

by New York's state commissioner of education. Commissioner Ambach has

emphasized that this is not a proposal; that ~~it~~ ^{it} is an idea open for

discussion. To be implemented, any change would require the approval

of the state Board of Regents and possibly even the state Legislature.

The plan, in ~~Commissioner~~ ^A Ambach's words, "would be a very bold change."

I leave you as ~~we~~ ^A began, with a quotation. It was ~~Carlyle~~ ^A Carlyle who said,

"Reform, like charity, must begin at home." Ponder that, if you will.

THEME UP AND UNDER:

28:30

Next week, on Here at Stony Brook, we will be

talking with Professor Howardena Pindell of the Department of ~~Art~~ ^A Art about

what may possibly be the most ambitious exhibition ever planned for the

Art Gallery, here at Stony Brook. We also will be talking with Professor

Shakaripur Sridhar of the Linguistics Program about ~~how~~ how the English

language is being changed by non-native speakers as their numbers exceed

the number of native speakers, the first time that has ever happened.

Until then, this is ~~is~~ ^A Dickle. So long, everybody.

THANK UP + OUT

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