Short Year Coming?

Last week the faculty senate of S.U.N.Y. 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.

Midterms Termined Terminated

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 midterm exams.

Briely, the administration defined the policy thus: Regular classes will be held during midterm week. All examinations will be given during this period. 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, discourses 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 grade quartile. 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 for Dr. Cochran's class has had an in-class essay and a comprehensive quiz "for blood," but he does not consider this a midyear.

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 highest midyear yet ever given to the ninth grade social studies classes." Mrs. McKee plans to have quarter tests.

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

Fine Arts Day in Planning

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

Spanish 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 a parent or guardian.

Spanish Tests Planned

Science Dept.—Mr. Oleniczak and Mrs. Schermerhorn are only giving midyear tests to their classes. 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 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.
To The Editor:

For many years the National Honor Society has brought a series of Lincoln Center programs to Milne. The Honor Society has enjoyed ballets, dramas, an opera, and various musicians, not only to provide entertainment, but to add to and further the 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 and performance areas 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 strict requirement for tickets.

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 a Lincoln Center program. The viewer arrived late due to a traffic hold up and then did their best to set up time. The "chaos" on stage, was, in fact, several helpful students connecting wires and trying to get the desired sound system. The letter went on to state that no one heard Larry Patenet's introduction. If the student had waited long enough to listen, the introduction might have been heard. The letter continued by attacking the sound system of Milne. If the audience had been placed there even further away than to exciting faculty members, they might have understood the program. Besides, the man working the projector mentioned that the "beaching" noises were done on purpose to show those who didn't have the man's help with the sound system.

"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 program who was watching the floor and the stage area. Any performer deserves common courtesy because he attempts, whether on purpose or not, to entertain the public. Courtesy for the interested spectator and for the performer was lacking, as it has been during most of the Lincoln Center programs.

Certainly, as Disgusted suggested, only interested students should have to watch the Lincoln Center program, but that is not the present policy at Milne. What is needed is 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 at 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