



UBC 'caribou' need catching, says clergy

Chaplain 4a

Of the close to 12,000 students who attend the University of B.C., many of them leave the Church outside the gates.

Some 2,700 of the student body have affiliations with the United Church and the problem of keeping these in the fold belongs to Rev. M. J. V. Shaver.

Appointed the first university chaplain for the United Church on campus, he has the largest potential congregation of any church in the city.

But he will be a happy parson if from this Sunday night on at 7:30 p.m. he gets 150

students before him in the chapel at Union College.

"Who's going to tell you their troubles, if they don't know what you look like?" he asks. A great pastoral problem is "visibility."

"If they (the students) don't know what's between your ears, they won't come."

So, if they want to know what's between Mr. Shaver's ears, they'll find out on Sunday night and every Sunday night thereafter until term end.

Sunday at 3 p.m. he will be formally installed as United Church chaplain at the Union College Chapel. Participating will be Rev. T. T. Oliver and Rev. M. W. Stevenson, chairmen of the Presbyteries of Vancouver-Burrard and Vancouver-South, Rev. William Buckingham, chairman of the B.C. Conference Committee on the University Chaplaincy and Dr. N. A. M. McKenzie, president of the University of B.C.

He represents the largest denomination on campus. Anglicans come next. The latter have Rev. James Bishop as chaplain and he preceded Mr. Shaver on the campus.

Mr. Shaver who is a graduate of University of Manitoba and United College had charge of Fort Garry United Church before coming here.

As the first United chaplain at UBC he was "striking across the prairies."

He is searching for the way to help and to get at the students of his denomination.

From registration cards, he has sorted out his students according to geographical areas and churches in those areas have been informed as to their whereabouts.

They in turn can invite the students to attend their churches.

VISITS REWARDING

Visitation of students, he terms rewarding. "They are all thinking kids. It is nearly always a creative encounter."

But in a day, he can't see too many, sometimes five or seven. So, he organized his "talk back service" for Sunday nights. He will preach a short sermon, they may take notes if they wish and then they will retire to another room for discussion.

If ever a student wanted to "talk back to a minister," this is his chance.

What has the chaplain found during his first few months on campus?

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SERIOUS STUDENTS

There are, he believes, a lot of serious Christian students who don't think they are called on to pursue religious activity along with their academic studies, but the lonely student needs to know that the Church cares.

For many students, their Sunday School religion stopped at the age of 12. Their academic education continuing into the university level makes "the Sunday School religion look silly."

All these things Mr. Shaver has found out. His job is a mission. He hopes that time will tell a fuller tale.

He looks on that possible 2,700 "congregation" like the caribou in the north — "they are there, but you have to try to catch them."

If personality and understanding can catch them, Chaplain Shaver undoubtedly