

The Brunswickan

THE WEEKLY NEWS AND LITERARY JOURNAL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
Est. 1880

Member, Canadian University Press

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Vol. 66 Fredericton, N. B., November 15, 1946 No. 8

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STAGE OF THE CAMPUS

The students of the University of New Brunswick cast anxious eyes on the calendar this week. Examinations, those cruel and candid gauges of performance, were not far off. Extracurricular activities became less important, text-books were found and dusted off, class attendance began to improve, and large quantities of midnight oil were stored in student dormitories and rooming houses. The heat was on.

As in most universities across Canada, students were still groping for that old feeling — "college spirit." Rasped one professor, "What's all this talk about college spirit? Let's forget it and get to work." In practice, the suggestion might be a good one; the students of U. N. B. had been knocking themselves out in their frantic pursuit of an elusive intangible.

U. N. B.'s rugby team never did get out of low gear and took two solid thumpings from arch rival Mt. A. It seemed the boom in education had resulted in a bust in athletics. There were many who offered their solutions; some wanted to kill the game and adopt American or Canadian football. Others thought rugby had not been given a fair try, and would make sure it was given one "next year."

One good reason for the athletic apathy was the student veteran. The average vet found little time for intermural sports, for some reason felt unable to learn the college yells and cheer at th games, or even feel downhearted when his team lost. The busiest, most harassed student on the campus was the married vet. While the single student struggled with the ordinary course, the married man carried tougher, more practical courses. Among them were economics, household and otherwise, carpentry, interior decorating, child psychology, and kindred others. All these made heavy demands upon his time-table, kept him three chapters behind in his academic work. For many, the question of survival in the scholastic battle was a moot one.

More than ever before, the undergraduate organizations were controlled by a mere handful. Ateyo presided over lengthy council meetings with a grim determination to maintain some semblance of student government over the sprawling, overlapping, committee-laden campus. The Flying Club venture had been grounded in a fog of indecision. But if the students wanted it, Tyrell and Prescott would take their pleas to the Senate. Some believed the two pioneers would go to the Privy Council, if need be.

The restless yearlings at Alexander College kept the pot boiling under Earl Lawson and his committee. So heavy were the demands on Alex leader Lawson that he confessed a furtive desire for a little time for his course in Engineering. But Alex was growing, and so far, their student government's tough policy was getting results.

Across Canada, undergraduates were flirting with politics, and the flirtation was becoming serious. U. N. B.'s 9,000 undergrads debated over the wisdom of allowing their undergraduate L. L. P. Society to invite Comrade Tim Buck over for a campus speech. The Ubysey thought it much ado, since Tim Buck would come only if the university authorities let him. At Mc-

Letters To The Editor

Editor-in-Chief,
The Brunswickan.

U. N. B. — ENGLISH RUGBY —
SOME SUGGESTIONS

Dear Sir:—

The Football Season at U. N. B. this year has been over for some time and nothing is to be accomplished by trying to explain why we were unsuccessful. Any comments made herewith are not put forward with the intention of blaming anyone for anything. However, a summary of various ideas and suggestions heard on and off the campus are offered in a spirit of constructive criticism.

Intercollegiate football has a greater appeal to graduates and former students than any other college sport. To win the Maritime intercollegiate football championship, and the McCurdy Cup would do more for college spirit and alumni and alumnae interest than to excel in all other sports. In spite of well planned and whole hearted efforts on the part of the officers of various student organizations to arouse interest, spontaneous and heart felt support was lacking this year; it just wasn't there.

The following definite suggestions are made with the hope of arousing interest which will lead to a championship team next year.

1. Appoint a strong faculty and student committee NOW to play for next year.
2. Order three complete sets of uniforms of contrasting design, using scarlet and black of course.

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NOW, so that when practices are called next fall, distinguishing uniforms will be available. Since scarlet with black border is the official U. N. B. color design, it is suggested that a scarlet sweater with black markings, such as the champion team of '37 wore, be used by the Varsity squad. Mt. A. put it over us this year in the matter of showmanship, and showmanship is important. Our team's appearance on the field here was not impressive.

3. Clean up and paint the fence, bleachers, club house, and grand stand at college field. Cut a gate to let cars and spectators out when the games are over, at the north end of the field.

4. Make efforts to renew a real intercollegiate league to ensure more than one home game. Get Acadia, Dalhousie, and St. Francis Xavier here; all if possible, one at least. The present home-and-home system kills any hope of arousing interest. With larger student body swelling funds and buses available

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Gill and Dalhousie, student dances were halted by the long arm of one Caesar Petrillo, who wouldn't let students dance unless the fiddler paid his dues. At U. N. B., an Economics professor took the hour off, let his class hold a debate on the question of public and private ownership. Wrote one U. N. B. student in "True Democracy", "Let us not be deceived. . . Free enterprise is the law of the individual beast in the jungle." Quipped a young Conservative, "I'm going to start my own paper called 'Real Democracy'." Meanwhile, a professor wanted a definition of "freedom". So far he has had no answer.

Today's undergraduates were half-mature, half-cynical, and half-hearted about many traditional college functions. They were smart, but far from wise. It remained to be seen which would be the final direction of the U. N. B. student in the year 1946. Like Leacock's famous rider, they were riding off in all directions.

Maybe one traditional college function, the midyear exams, would make a world of difference to the most different kind of collegians in U. N. B. history. The period of trial might prove a great leverer.

for charter, the cost and time should not prohibit a larger league.

5. If there is to be only one or two home games, do not hold them on holiday week-ends when so many students are away.

6. Plan the schedule to give teams a chance to get in physical condition and to learn the game. The English Rugby being played is killing spectator interest because the game is not being played well due partly to the short practice period. Long delays due to injuries should be avoided by playing the game according to rules, that is, no delay for injuries.

7. Return to Union rules. This year's efforts to play League rules

were convincing enough. No referee could judge those offsidings fairly; the spectators know the Union rules and prefer them.

8. Start playing practice games on the first and second turn out. Perhaps this isn't the proper way from a physical education point of view, but it is necessary if full turn outs are to be obtained.

9. Advice of old players and coaches should be sought and heeded.

10. The A. A. A. suggestions were good. A college band, even a hobo band, is better than any public address system at a football game.

(Sng'd) Campus Observer,
(Name withheld by request)

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