

LITTLE TIMBER

By ANDY FLEMING

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

As we enter both a new year and a new term it might be well to look over what has happened on the campus during the past year and the past term. We have seen many controversies arise over such problems as student passes for the faculty, the ban on dancing in the gymnasium, split of gate receipts with the university which is closely linked with the confusion over the seating policy in the gymnasium at sports functions and also with the ever present argument over what sports equipment the university should pay for and what expenses should be met by the SRC. The setting up of the Restraint Committee, a somewhat simple request on the part of the university authorities and the municipal police, turned out to be a very complex matter resulting in almost open defiance of the SRC on the part of the committee.

These are by no means all the problems which were handled by the SRC but are some of the major ones and certainly the problems which have not been completely solved as we enter the new year. There is no

doubt that the first obstacle we must overcome is the lack of liaison and co-operation between the university and the student body. Both are to blame, but we are only concerned with how the student body may help in achieving a better degree of co-operation. At present we appear to be hindering the cause in that we are continually at odds with the authorities—sometimes over trivial points and at other times over more complex issues. The fact that we have had no President for a period of over three months naturally has some bearing on this problem. Sure the student body could be an aid to the university administration as well as the Senate.

Let us now look at our own government. In past weeks at SRC meetings personal animosity has been allowed to creep into our debating and thus cloud over the issues and influence the decisions. Needless argument and bickering lengthen the meetings. Representatives lose sight of their duties and the only end in view is to get the business over as quickly as possible in order to get home. This is inevitable in a large council and open discussion of existing problems is in

complete accordance with our democratic principles. However in almost every government there is a cabinet or executive which gets on with the job of governing. This body of men is guided and kept in touch with public opinion by the larger council. Our SRC meetings are poorly attended by not only the student body but also very often by the representatives themselves. Class meetings which are supposed to inform the class representatives of campus opinion and ideas are almost non-existent. Thus our SRC meetings are not guided by genuine campus opinion nor are they small and compact enough to allow business to be handled and policies laid down with a minimum amount of delay and maximum efficiency.

We then might be wise to consider remedies to our problems in this new year recapitulation of student affairs. Should we not try to set up a new type of student government along the lines of an executive council consisting of a representative from each faculty and chairmanship by the President of the SRC. Society and Association meetings could be held monthly to inform the executives of student opinion. This is a big job and would require much work from a student body such as ours should facilitate the change-over.

It would appear it is time that the university with its enlarged physical training staff should take over the main responsibility of organizing, financing and supervising all sports, aided by the students both as participants and managers. At present the SRC holds some purse strings and the university others with the result that the physical department and the managers can never be sure of where they stand. This confusion results in a higher student levy than is necessary and creates problems over student passes and seating arrangements, etc.

Thirdly we must face the problem of the use of the gymnasium and make representation to the Senate if need be for a change in the present policy. Two points I think will be agreed on by the majority of the student body, first, that up until this summer the gymnasium was abused and mismanaged, and secondly that we now have a beautiful gymnasium. However what we must decide is whether it is worthwhile foregoing all the other uses to which the gym might be put in order to preserve this beauty. Is it a monument or a useful building which should be operated to give maximum enjoyment to the student body and service to the university, taking into consideration operating and maintenance costs? Should we allow the Senate ruling to stand unchallenged, or should we advocate the use of the gym in moderation for

activities other than sports? There is no doubt that the present ban has caused disappointment and hard feelings amongst many students. We are no longer able to accommodate as many spectators for basketball games. Our formal dances can no longer be held on our own campus and it looks as if graduating exercises will be held on a very reduced scale at a time when the graduating classes are becoming larger. The new rink was to have been the remedy to all these problems but present negotiations would indicate that we are no longer to have a UNB Rink. Now we must decide on this problem which was brought up last term but allowed to lie dormant in view of the facilities which would be available in our new rink which was promised to us at that time.

It is not suggested that we present an ultimatum to the Senate because as has already been pointed out by the Chairman of Deans we have no right to change any decision which that governing body hands down. However it is hoped that should any decision be reached by the student body and recommendations presented to the Senate that these ladies and gentlemen would consider the opinion of the 1,200 students they govern and either point out the error of our ways or take to counsel our views and thoughts.

Let us therefore in 1948 think about our problems, discuss them and if after this some action is merited take the necessary steps. This we might do in an endeavour to become more concerned with the world around us because as we go forth into life as graduates many of us are bound to find that it shall be necessary not only to care for the material part of life but also to take an active part in the leadership of the community in which we work and live. UNB is our present community!

NEW SCORE BOARD FOR GYMNASIUM

During the Christmas vacation the new basketball scoreboard and time clock was installed in the Gymnasium.

Doug Cooke has been appointed official operator of this apparatus, which will be a speedier and more accurate method of scoring and particularly valuable to spectators who will be able to follow the amount of playing time on the electric clocks, which are the official time. An automatic siren will signal the end of each half.

Journalism Lecture.

There will be a Journalism Lecture with emphasis on good news reporting given by Professor Gordon Wood of the English Department in the Philosophy Lecture Room (Arts Bldg, Second Floor) Friday night, January 16, at 7:30 P. M. All members of the Brunswickan staff are requested to attend, and any other students interested.

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