

You Need Us . . .

By way of self-promotion, we venture the thought that the most important facet of student activity on our campus is, or should be, the student newspaper. On second thought, we assert it to be so; because with the qualifying "should be" clause included we advance our arguments in support of our assertion without fear of being accused of conceit.

The situation breaks down to that. "Student" activity is intended to exclude lectures and study, and those other actions which we undertake in conjunction with the faculty; and those basic pursuits such as eating, sleeping, and dancing, which are not peculiar to the student as a member of the university body. The student body is concerned in student activity.

There is little of our student activity that slices generously across faculty and age groups within the student body. Most such activity merely recognizes a division of interest, by appealing to or including only a part of a whole interest. The breadth of the appeal which the hockey team, for instance, makes is inconstant, and depends largely on the fortunes of the team from year to year; and a few students are not hockey fans.

The influence which the team exerts in solidifying the student group must oscillate, then; and the influence, in addition, is seasonal.

The need is for an agent which focuses and assimilates the variety of interests making up the student mind. On a campus such as ours, where a dispersed living system and too clearly marked-off faculties constrict the interchange which might occur, the need is more urgent than elsewhere.

The Brunswickan can and should deal with all sides of every type of mind in the student body. If it does not do this at the present time, that should not be made to argue for its abolishment. Instead, those people who are keen enough to recognize its insufficiency should themselves set about correcting it.

The assumption in the above argument is that student solidarity is worth working for. The present editor is convinced that it is. The necessity of a student newspaper to this end has been the chief reason for his work in connection with the Brunswickan.

The question that arises is whether any other small, insignificant part of the student body shares this conviction with him. A new editor must assume the office following this issue.

Are You U-Students?

Why do you think you're a university student? How can you be sure that you are? You may not be.

You attend classes at the University of New Brunswick; or you boast about the number of classes that you cut. These are not solid grounds for assuming that you are a university student. You may be a Forester; or you may flunk your exams miserably when May comes around. Your student status will be questioned in either light. Did you study Freshman latin?

You now wear long trousers (or blue jeans, with one leg rolled up) and get drunk and go to dances on Saturday night; or you've read a number of books, need a haircut, and wear tortoise-shell glasses. There are, however, a number of extra-campus personalities who mimic (or set?) the newest mode or manner that you're copying; and there are shaggy, bookish, tortoise-shell professors with whom you might be confused. That is, you could be something else than a university student. You have not established your identity.

You have friends that will vouch for you. But who will vouch for your friends? Even towns-people, even towns-women have friends.

And if you're intelligent, why are you toying with this question?



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Letters to the Editor

Hints on how to run Paper, extend Apologies; And Meetings are Fun if You Stay 'til Mid-Nite

Students Representative Council, January 21, 1951.

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
Dear Sir,—

Last week the following appeared in large type on page one of the Brunswickan, in reference to the preliminary budget meeting of the S. R. C.: "Attend This Meeting to See How Your Money is Spent". The Editor is by virtue of his position a member of the Students' Representative Council. He did attend the meeting, as also did the C.U.P. Editor, who is a Senior Class Rep. on the Council. The Associate Editor was also present for a considerable portion of the meeting. The first two mentioned above left the meeting after only a very few of the 45 items on the budget had been discussed.

The meeting ended at 11:45 p.m. Shortly after 10 p.m. it was asked from the floor if there was a Brunswickan reporter present. There was not, at least none present admitted to being a reporter of our paper. Was this in keeping with the Brunswickan heading

quoted above? Certainly an S. R. C. meeting of such importance should be worthy of being reported by the Brunswickan. The Brunswickan more or less admitted this by publishing the heading already referred to.

In the Jan. 16 issue a front page story was carried wherein it was reported that an S. R. C. meeting had been called to consider a budget to send the hockey team to Quebec City. No such meeting was ever called, nor was there any intention on the part of the hockey management to submit such a budget. The report apparently having been printed as fact by the Brunswickan before any attempt was made to have the report either confirmed or denied by any member of the S. R. C. Executive or the hockey manager. The Editor was questioned about it at the meeting held on Jan. 10 to consider other matters of business. However, no correction or apology appeared in the following issue.

Sincerely yours,
Ronald C. Stevenson.

Ed's Note: Your points are very poorly delivered, but we include them because they may appear to some to be properly taken. We point out, however:

1. That we in this student democracy, reserve the right to boycott any student meeting which so reviles our sense of logic as to turn us away; that although two senior editors were present at the meeting in question, doing it the deference of attention in opposition to all former experiences with such, it soon became apparent that the gathering was of no greater news significance to the students than a congress of idiots turned out on some lawn.

2. That since apologies were extended to the only persons possibly injured in the "Laval" incident, namely the hockey officials, and since clarification of the situation was expressed in our top-line, front-page story, we felt disposed to neglect either formal apologies or corrections.

We trust that this clears the issue up!

Forget it then. This is mere casuistry. The answer is not important.

What is important, then? You would have to think, of course, to answer this.

Do you find yourself answering "Nothing, anything is important?"

Woman's Privilege . .

The Students' Representative Council, like a woman, reserves the right to change its mind. So significant is this reservation, indeed, that a unanimous vote by the Council in any direction can at best be interpreted as a negative indifference on the subject, which may or may not be replaced with a positive indifference at some later date. Of the many womanly qualities which the Council, owns, such as long-windedness, vanity, etc., this one is the most striking.

On last Wednesday evening, at the preliminary budget meeting (which is a contest in which most members take particular delight, the procedure being just the reverse of a public auction) someone suggested that university teams cancel their exhibition games. For the moment, we will, as the Council would and did, disregard the wisdom of the suggestion. With casual indifference, we note that this action would strike a large amount from column listing expenses, and make the column more appreciably resemble the one listing credits. Since we seem to be attempting to balance these, we approve the move with a loud shout. This constitutes negative indifference.

Two days later, a mob of irate students demands that the move be re-considered. The mob so brow-beats the council with illogical protest, that the members reverse their vote, again with a great show of unanimity. Since no reasoning process accompanies this gesture, it can be termed positive indifference.

Perhaps the Council members are treated too shabbily in this analysis. That the group retains a couple of ace stratagems with which to attack the inflated budget has not been mentioned. At next Wednesday night's meeting, they will hear detailed business reports from both the Brunswickan and the Year Book. We feel sure that the group will find sufficient material in those about which to be indecisive, and hence settle their financial problems.

And failing those, there is always a fund of obsolete prerogatives which must surely answer the problems.

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