

THE BRUNSWICKAN
FROM UP THE HILL

Established 1867
Weekly Journal of the University of New Brunswick
Member of the Canadian University Press
Office: Memorial Student Centre, U.N.B. Campus. Phone 8424
Subscription \$2.00 per year
Opinions expressed not necessarily those of the Students' Representative Council
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VOL. 88 FREDERICTON, N.B. NOVEMBER 30, 1955

Don't Let George Do It

There are two phrases that have become cliches on this campus over the years; they are "Let George do it", and "If you want something done, do it yourself". The time has come for these utterances to disappear. They have given rise to the oft discussed apathy which UNB is supposed to be plagued with. Apathy is a state of mind. People adopt the attitude that they cannot participate in campus affairs because of the pressure of studies or a fear that their abilities would not be appreciated. The former is a valid excuse in some cases; the latter is not. There are many students at this university who have talents which are needed by campus organizations. These people are here and we all know it. The task that constantly faces the organizers of university activities is to find them. Shyness is the biggest fault of the UNB student. He is willing to work, but he must be asked. He NEVER volunteers.

To anyone who has tried to promote anything, or accomplish anything, student wise, on this campus in the last four years this is not a startling revelation. We are talking ourselves into apathy. The time has come to stop. UNB has grown to double its size since 1952 and the work involved in student activities has grown with it. The mighty few who do the slaving to present the dances, pep-rallies, plays, Red 'n Blacks, etc. have not. We are spreading our talent too thin. The burden is becoming too great for many to handle without help. A reverse of the present trend must come or the student body will suffer. The absence of a play by the Drama Society this fall is a sign of the situation which is building up. The individuals needed to produce a play are attending this university but the drama society has not been able to find them, and they have not approached the Drama Society. This may be an isolated case, it may be a sign of a trend. Either way it is not good.

An example in the other direction is the attempt being made to start a Winter Carnival at UNB. The committee chairmen were appointed two weeks ago, already they have formed their administration with able workers. They are being given co-operation by the University authorities, the SRC, and outside interests. The support they will need for ultimate success must come from the student body. The mighty few have come forward again to start the ball rolling. The "Little Joe" is as important in this venture as the "Big Wheel". All the "Wheels" on the campus could not put a Carnival over without the general support of all the student body. This also applies to the Red 'n Black, approaching in the spring. The "Little Red 'n Black" was a hurried job of production and involved but a few because of this. The big brother will need ten times its cast, stage crew, and administration.

Extra curricular activities are as important to your education as your studies. The work is there waiting for you; as little or as much as you want. With student support the activities up the hill can build and grow; without it they will wither and die. Apathy is a state of mind. It is time for the Little Joes to stop accepting what is given them, complaining among themselves when things are not up to snuff, and pitch in. The opportunities are here. Why not enjoy university and get something other than "book learning". Join in; you may even like it.

Sitting On The Fence?

The stand taken by the Students' Representative Council recently, concerning discrepancies as regards the campus police raises a significant point in student government. Is the representative qualified to pass judgment on his fellow student? Can the SRC effectively carry out a policy of self discipline? In the matter mentioned above, the council, after tediously redundant debating, arrived at the startling conclusion that the Police Chief was, in point of fact, responsible. Several motions, incidentally, contributed to the validity of this conclusion; motions which, although brilliantly worded, were unnecessary and out of order. The gentleman in question was appointed by the SRC, and in that capacity was automatically "responsible". However we are digressing from our original point. When the Council found itself faced with Mr. Gardner's responsibility, they were momentarily at a loss as to what to do with it. (A serious quandary, you will agree.) At this point we might emphasize that we are not questioning the gentleman's responsibility, we would be the first to concede it. Finally, after some deliberation, Mr. Gardner was asked to submit a report, stating the disciplinary action he was to take (dismissal) and whom, exactly, he had dismissed.

Mr. Gardner's reply smacked of subversion; he refused. The council were stunned. (An edifying sight.) They gracefully avoided this difficulty, however, by, after careful consideration, recognizing that it would be better to have a little report than none at all. Consequently the Council received a statement roughly along these lines:

"I dismissed them."
Lovingly,
Chiefy.

What more could you ask? It is clear, concise and inclusive. The only drawback to this type of report is that someone might believe that the UNB Police were harbouring space monsters, and were conducting a sort of purge.



"I guess you're out of training... Darling"

Student Discount Service

The SDS scheme, as authorized by the Nineteenth National Conference, is designed to give short-term economic assistance to Canadian students. It operates locally, with a sub-committee of the student council at a member university setting up the scheme finding the merchants and publicizing the programme for the students. The National Secretariat of the Federation provides a "how-to" booklet entitled "A Student Discount Service Programme For You" and it provides technical and promotional material for the use of the committee on the campus. In addition, the National Federation provides NFCUS membership cards for students. These cards have the dual purpose of identifying the student as a member of the Federation, and of identifying him to the merchant as someone who is entitled to a discount under the terms of the contract made between himself and the local student government.

This scheme would seem innocuous, but there has been a public outcry since it was first bruited about. Chambers of Commerce either approvingly or condemn. The Better Business Bureau condemns. Two publications that have come to our attention condemn the scheme — the Calgary Herald and STYLE, a woman's fashion industry publication. Complaint seems to be on two grounds. First, that the scheme provides unfair competition and that it ensures commercial suicide either for those merchants who join it or for those who do not. Secondly, that the students have no right to set themselves up as a 'privileged' class. These criticisms are of sufficient merit to require an answer.

The economic argument, that the scheme is not in the best interests of the merchants, is easily disposed of. A merchant joins the scheme and he loses his ten per cent on some items for four years. But he gains a grateful (and, we hope, high income) customer for the next fifty. This would not seem to be bad business. Or, a merchant refuses to join the scheme. That is his privilege. But he certainly won't go broke by losing his student business — a small fraction of the total business he does. These things are so obvious that there would seem to be only one real reason for the outcry. It would appear that healthy price competition is something to be feared by the merchants' Associations. Our economy would be in a sorry state if one merchant were not allowed to charge a lower price for his goods than another. And yet, this is what this argument would seem to imply.

The second argument that students are setting themselves up as a privileged class, is a little more complex in its implication. We are, in a sense, requesting privileges which the general public does not have in our request for lower prices on certain goods. But this does not make us a privileged class. Instead it makes us just a little less under-privileged. The student earns no money for nine months of the year, and, in his summer earnings, his wages are generally low. Yet, he must support himself for twelve months and, in addition, pay heavily for his tuition. The student gets no own a car; his non-student counterpart does. The student gets no paid vacations; he must spend his money on books. These economic obstacles are in the face of all but the rich and they deter

It would appear that the SRC is afraid to commit themselves on issues of student discipline. In this case a committee formed to implement such action would be little more than useless. Let's take a stand and not continually sit astride the fence, wondering in what direction would be the less antagonism.

B. T.

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many of our young people from going to university. They make of students a definitely under-privileged class in our rich country. What we are asking then is not special privilege but a slightly lighter burden.

So, to the merchants we would say: you have more to gain than to lose from SDS. And to our local committees we would say: don't worry about turning your community against you; give them the facts—and they will be with you.

Peter G. Martin,
President, NFCUS
(from ITEMS)

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