THE BRUNSWICKAN · FROM UP THE HILL

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Let's Help . . .

Recently, Lord Beaverbrook announced the successful completion of his public appeal for funds for the new Men's Residence. The people of New Brunswick have joined with many of their fellow Canadians in other provinces to provide the students of UNB with a residence of which we can all be proud. We are certain that we reflect student opinion, when we express our heart-felt thanks.

Yet, isn't it strange that the burden for such a campaign should fall upon our Chancellor and the university authorities only? It does appear a bit odd that we, as students, did not take a more active part, whether through publicity, administrative aid, or financial support. After all, the facilities this money is meant to provide are for our use, and for our successors.

There are several ways we can contribute to the future of the University of New Brunswick; ways, which are within our means. To take one example. During the course of the school year, several productions are staged by students which enjoy enthusiastic popularity, both by the university and the city. Is it not conceivable that the "Red 'n Black Revue", for instance, could go on tour through New Brunswick centres, using the funds collected for university expansion? This would not involve an excess of extra work for those concerned, and could prove so successful, that the extra effort would be gratifying. The tour could be so arranged as not to conflict with the busiest part of the college year; in October, for example.

A similar group, the Drama Society, would surely be able to perform the same function. If one adds the band and choral society, it will be obvious that this plan has considerable possibilities.

The tours would have the added advantage in that they would publicize, more effectively than anything else perhaps, the provincial university in Fredericton. It is only proper that in this important period of expansion, those who stand to gain most by an improved university — the students — should help.

* * *

A Realistic Step . . .

Now that the new Students Council is in office, we would like to propose a measure which, we believe, would drastically simplify student administration at UNB. It is very simple, frighteningly so. Yet one which apparently finds chilly recention in the hearts of UNB students.

An increase in student fees.

To be effective, this increase would have to be substantial—in the region of ten dollars—but it would be effective. Students at UNB enjoy one of the lowest student fee rates in the country. This is very laudable, if student organization can function under such conditions. As much as we would like to believe we can, it is painfully apparent that we can not. Each year, various societies apply for increased budgets. They are turned down. It is not clear whether the council thinks that they do not need the money, or simply that they know they do not have it. We heartily hope it is the latter. But at times, the reasons cited for the refusal are very strange indeed.

It must be very hard to work with an insufficient budget. Hard indeed! The SRC should not be forced to direct its activities with this considerable handicap. The students of UNB must realize that to receive adequate organizational facilities, they must pay for them.

The new Council would be taking a realistic step if it recommended an increase in student fees.

* * *

Badly Needed Survey

The proposed student income survey outlined by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and scheduled for next week at UNB is a much appreciated step. Not only will it provide Canadian students with an opportunity to see the general situation of student finance in the country, but will substantiate the many demands universities and individuals are making, financially for higher education. All facets of student income will come under study and the results compiled in Ottawa. Thus, after years of waiting and wondering, the general public will be able to ascertain for themselves the true picture. In some cases the picture will not be a pretty one. We should know! In some other cases, the picture will be considerably better, and we will be encouraged in that.

The results of this survey might prompt the government, or other interested institutions to take action in the aid of higher education. We sincerely hope so. It is apparent to those who attend universities, whether as students or professors that conditions exist that should be cleared up. Whether they will, depends to a large measure on the outcome of this survey.

It is to be hoped that all students concerned will co-operate in every way possible with the officiators, in order to make this as successful as possible.

* * *

Editorials Of No Interest If Editor Expresses No Opinion

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
Dear Mr. Toole:

You have said that constructive criticism is accepted gladly. Fine, I have some to offer. I suggest that the Engineers' column, Foresters' column, or any other column have precedence over your present editorials. The former would hold interest for some while your editorials, I doubt, furnish much interest for anyone with the exception of yourself.

In Mr. Paton's letter to you, published in the March 8 issue, he stated that perhaps he might need clarification. This could easily have been given him. Later he asked the question; "Could this difficulty have been space?" and still later he offers a suggestion. For some odd reason you felt compelled to write a lengthy and uncalled for editorial on this letter, elaborating to some extent on the Brunswickan's policy, your views, and suggestions made on the basis of some ungrounded remark which you had heard. Surely his letter could have been answered shortly and civilly without the biased blast that many of us Engineers feel we have been dealt. You have made an issue out of nothing and now you stand upon your self-made pedestal maintaining with righteous indignation your attitude of having been wronged.

You said in that editorial of March 8 that you have heard Engineers proudly exclaim that they know nothing of politics or literature. You may have, Mr. Toole, but in my association with Engineers and engineering students over the past four years, I have certainly heard no similar statement. Whether you misconceive, yourself, I do not know, but many, I believe, accept the false illusion that all Engineers are illiterate. I doubt if any of us suffer any despondency when it is remarked: "Oh, they can write, can they?"

Due to studies and often other compulsory activities it is necessary for the student to limit his activities to such an extent that they will not interfere with the work which must be done. Where the Artsman might choose the Drama Club, or Debating Club, both somewhat related to his studies and training, the Engineer might prefer the Radio Club or some other organization which coincides with both his desires and his abilities.

You say it is one of the anomalies of U.N.B. that students are interested only in information which falls within their immediate fields. Certainly it is not anomalous when a student, skilled in football and interested in student affairs, thus plays football and takes an active part in the student government instead of trying to become a skilled actor of the Drama Society. This is definitely not abnormal, but while at University, a necessity. The representation of our faculty in most of the organizations and activities on this campus not only prove our interests in activities foreign to our immediate field but also, in many cases, the desire to broaden those interests. True, the student engineer may lack that knowledge of literature and Art's subjects which time has allowed him no opportunity to gain, but it is also true that most have the interest and many overcome this literary absence after graduation.

You go on to suggest a broadsheet to be distributed among the Engineers by the Engineering Society if we are only interested in subjects relating to our own field. I hope you realize by now that we do have other interests. Most of us I would say, appreciate and admire the work you and your staff are doing in giving to us, twice weekly, a fairly wide coverage of student events, and we also understand why at times it may be necessary to omit the Engineering column, but when you say it will be printed **provided** it attains a nice balance between strictly engineering interests and general interests, we disagree. Regardless if it is 100% engineering material, I think few students of any faculty would complain. It is a small column but a means of conveying news of engineering interest to the Engineer. Few Engineers would object to an article written for any other faculty if the contents pertained strictly to that faculty and if the general interest in it was nil. And, Mr. Toole, extracurricular activities also include such things as varsity sports, intramural sports, service training, or even an evening at the movies. Thus, "The way things are now" . . . the engineer is just as active as any other faculty in extracurricular activities and therefore, according to a statement of your own, you should perhaps understand our quest.

It would be commendable if "some" students in "some" faculties would show a bit of interest in Engineering. It is interesting to know and appreciate a few basic engineering principles. I too have heard students exclaim their ignorance of Engineering and who certainly displayed no effort to remedy this—Nothing to boast off, either. Get the picture?

It puzzles me to know how you can feel so free to cast your perky opinions in our paper and then expect only constructive criticism in return. Do you believe the Engineers incapable of using the English language and so retaliating?

You also state in your Editorial of March 8 that it is a misconception that every man and his dog be entitled to express his opinions in this paper, yet you seldom miss an opportunity of conveying to us your own, however out of place they may be at times.

You have heard the expression: "He who pays the piper, picks the tune." Is it not the S.R.C. thus the students, who support the publications of the Brunswickan and also donate to the Editor a sum for his contributions and time? Then is it not fitting that the student be able to speak through his paper? Is it wrong that the Engineer or any other student ask for a short column of faculty news regardless of interest to anyone else? We fully realize that an editorial should give the opinion of the paper, but these editorials also should be written with an eye to student interest, importance, and pertinency, and should also lend an ear to student opinion.

You will notice the words "You said" have appeared quite frequently. Correct, Mr. J. B. Toole. You have said too much.

Blair Gallagher, Engin. '58

Editor's Note: *The preceding letter was prefixed by what I can only term a warning, to the effect that the contents of the letter might cause me to discard it. On the contrary, I am delighted with it. It provided some pretty stimulating reading. I can only hope that the writer does remove his "literary absence" after graduation.*

WHO'S ON FIRST?

The New York Times recently ran a news story in which the prime minister of Canada was reported to be "Louise St. Laurent."

WATCH OUT!

Today is not Safe-Driving Day.

Player's Please



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THE HARVEY STUDIOS