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That Culture Business

Notwithstanding comments to the contrary printed recently in the columns of this paper, Canadians are privileged to be able to share in one of the world's oldest cultures — the French. There are very few other countries in the world today who can boast of two separate and distinct cultures and languages within their boundaries. All this up-roar about "no Canadian Culture" is perfect nonsense. If English Canadian (an odious distinction) are convinced that their's is a heritage "sans culture", then they should take comfort in, and try to enrich, the French Canadian culture. French Canada is rich in history, tradition and Romance — how many people outside Quebec know that. Not very many, we'll warrant. Canadians are dimly aware that there are two official languages, but how many speak two. And this brings up an important point. There are tens of thousands of Canadians who are bi-lingual. Who are they? For the most part they are natives of the Province of Quebec whose mother tongue is French. It would be over-generous to estimate the bi-lingual English Canadian at 2%. The reason? Indifference. The school systems of this country are as much at fault as anyone else. French and English should be taught concurrently from the earliest grades. They are not. The most value one can hope to get from "school French" is a vague knowledge of grammar. Universities aren't much better.

There is so much raving about Canada's deplorable lack of culture that one begins to wonder if the critics aren't rather glad that Canadians distinguish themselves in this way. Culture is not something which lends itself to the drafting board or the planning table. It is unconsciously nurtured and like good wine, mellows with age. After all, we are a young country. Our future is bright (read the ads) and Canada's glorious days are still in the future. So is a "distinct Canadian culture" in the sense that it is used today.

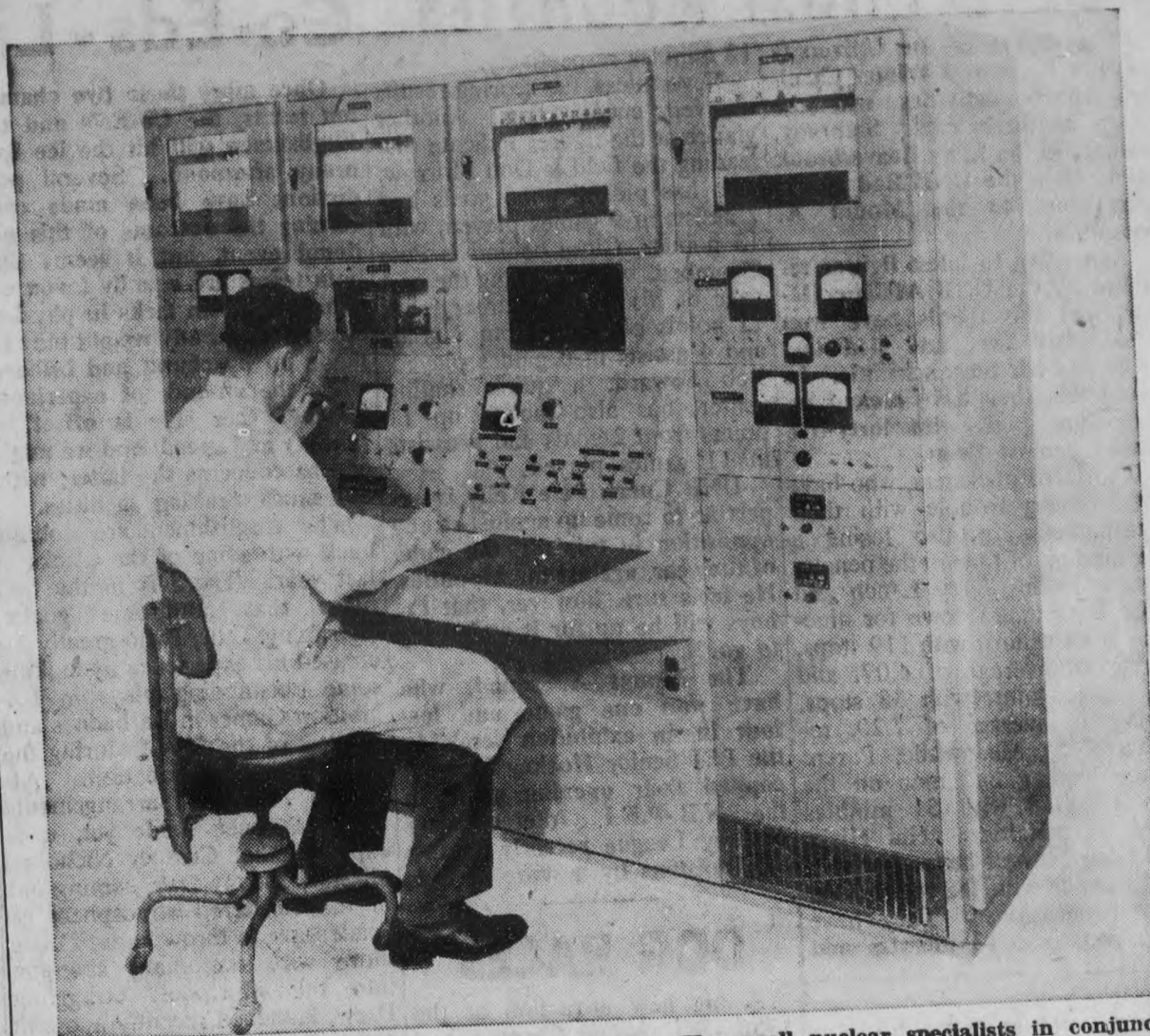
So let these tireless "exponents of culture" remember that Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither is a mature national individuality.

Turn to the Sports Page

This editorial will seem pointless to most of you so we would advise you to skip to the sports page. We are going to discuss "student apathy". Nothing is more profitless for a student newspaper than to remind students that they are indifferent, bland, devoid of any interest in anything other than themselves, and without the courage of their convictions. You would reasonably expect them to leap to their feet, shout defiance to the winds and proceed to show that — — — editor that he's talking through his red n' black toque. Ah, we know better. Nothing disturbs the lethargy of the typical UNB student (a biological distinction). The more you call his attention to his obvious short-comings, the more complacent he gets.

If you took the trouble to read beneath the headlines in the "Brunswickan" you would have discovered that the Students Representative Council took steps which intimately concern you. (two or three weeks ago) They spent \$9,000.00 of your money. We have always been led to believe that nothing so disturbs the average 20th century Canadian as a pain in the pocket book. Well, collectively, UNB students should have suffered quite a pain. But they didn't care. For all you know, that money

(Continued in Columns 4 & 5)



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TURN TO THE SPORTS PAGE

may have been ear-marked to buy a car for the editor of this paper.

Sixteen Dollars of your hard-earned money (or your parent's) is spent by the Student's Council. Do you honestly have any idea what happens to it? If the attitude of UNB students now is any indication of the future citizens of Canada, God help Canada.

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