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Model Parliament

If we can draw your attention away from the Red 'n' Black Revue for a moment we would like to make particular mention of the forth-coming Model Parliament scheduled for the end of the month. This is the second successive parliament to be held at UNB for a number of years. For the participants at least, the 1956-57 parliament was an enjoyable interlude in college life both as a diversion and as an opportunity to learn something of the democratic process. Spectators also found it interesting and there was a faithful, engrossed, if not large audience in attendance for the two day session.

We feel certain we can promise on-lookers and participants alike a lively parliament this year. And incidentally, it is unfortunate that the parliament committee does not make more of an honest effort to explain the workings of the parliament to the students. There is nothing mysterious about it, or at least there shouldn't be. Anyhow, UNB's parliament, coming as it does, not very many weeks before the general election, provides a ready-made platform for political controversy that very well may play an influential part in the election of our next government.

We urge as many students as possible to turn out for this session, held as before in the provincial legislature. It will be valuable and rewarding experience.

Functional . . . Why Not Beautiful?

One afternoon last week we paused longer than usual in our walk from the Arts Building to the Students Centre and looked over the new residences. They are very fine and the workmen are putting them up with astonishing speed. But frankly we are appalled at their outward appearance. It is vain indeed to expect imagination in everyone, but surely one could reasonably hope that architects are among that imaginative minority.

Now, what do you suppose these particular architects had in mind when they designed our new residences? Beauty perhaps, but what happened to it? We don't pretend to know very much about building design and normally we take it pretty much as we find it. But in designing these residences, someone had a chance to improve the outward appearance of our campus which is not enhanced by such architectural monstrosities as "Memorial Hall". Instead they chose to continue, rather than interrupt, the bawdy tradition of architectural errors found all around us.

Could someone please enlighten us? We hope our readers will not do us the injustice of thinking that we are ungrateful for the money or the residence accommodation many Canadians have given us through their contributions. But if we have residences, why couldn't we have had attractive ones?

What Do We Do?

Many students will be in a position to vote on March 31 and we hope this does not frighten them. The right to vote is our inheritance as most of us are aware; the right to vote intelligently is a heavy responsibility which can not be inherited and must not be taken lightly.

Perhaps large numbers of UNB students are unsure of both the issues at stake and of themselves. We should perhaps ask ourselves what is the best way in which to approach an election. This is not an easy task and probably we should not have begun it. At any rate, we can point out a few ways in which we should not meet it. Maybe then something a little more concrete will occur to us.

Right off we are reminded of a little story about Sir Winston Churchill. It appears that a charming young lady, at a public dinner at which Churchill was the principal guest found herself at a loss for conversation and wanting to avoid embarrassment twitted the venerable statesman with:

"In all frankness, Mr. Churchill, I don't think I approve of your politics or your cigar smoking."

"Pray don't disturb yourself madam," replied Churchill, "I don't think you'll come into contact with either of them."

Churchill could well have been speaking to a very great number of young people today, who vote for one party because they don't like the face of the other leader, or something of that sort. We should avoid ridiculous prejudice of this kind and of any other kind. How often have we suspected our colleagues of supporting one party or another because it is the fashion!

We must try to erase from our minds that all too common conviction that politicians are all crooks. Some of them probably are, as some bankers are thieves and some millionaires murderers. But surely they all aren't. This is a rather juvenile appeal, we agree, but it is necessary. Some of us believe only the worst of our elected representatives, although if this is the case why do we always elect them?

Finally, don't allow yourself to be talked into anything against your will. No good will come of it and you will only be labled a dupe.

Approach the election with an open mind. Try, in as much as it is possible, to judge the issues for yourselves, never denying someone the chance to tell you something, but always reserving judgment until you have had time to consider it. Remember that all governments rule only with your consent and this consent should not lightly be given.

NOT CRICKET!

Only recently we heard something about the Winter Carnival which is of vital concern to each and everyone of us. We realize that the Carnival has been over for a few weeks, and it has been tidied away, both in fact and in people's minds. Yet we would be denying our responsibilities if we didn't mention it.

It is simply this. The last night of the show "Around the World in Eighty Minutes" (Saturday) about 150 people were unable to find seats and were turned away. Quite rightly too. However, they were not told that the hall was filled, the ticket taker disappeared, the doors were shut and the show opened. Left standing in the foyer were a large number of people, among them a large segment of Fredericton residents, who had to find out for themselves and leave without so much as a word from any official. This is not the courteous way. It is the irresponsible way.

The carnival is past and there is no point in laying blame on anyone in particular. However we should continually remind ourselves of the responsibility we as students have, both to our selves and to the residents of Fredericton, who contribute no little bit to the carnival.

Vote as you like — BUT VOTE!



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