

Brunswickan



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Voluntary Illiteracy

Next to the task of overcoming the tremendous shortage of food, probably the most pressing problem in the world today is the existence of widespread illiteracy.

In many nations, 90 per cent of the population cannot read or write. For the world as a whole, UNESCO estimates that more than half the people lack these vital skills.

However, much effort is being made to increase literacy, and there is wide agreement that lasting economic and social progress is greatly dependent on the communication of information.

Furthermore, one of the most encouraging features of this basic struggle is the obvious willingness of the peoples of the so-called backward nations to make a sincere effort to overcome their handicap.

In plain fact, the ignorant want to learn

Yet, here in Canada, we face a different, and in many ways, a more dangerous problem.

Most Canadians have the required technical skills of reading and writing. But they make little use of them.

A recent Gallup Poll brings the situation into sharp focus. It shows that:

- (1) nearly one of every three Canadians has not read a book in more than a year, and
- (2) more than two out of three are not reading a book at the present time.

However the sad story does not end here.

Although Canada has the world's second highest standard of living, she ranks only 14th in the number of bookshops per capita.

Furthermore, our libraries offer little relief, for though the country has a population of 17 million souls, only about 10 million books are currently available for lending. In addition only about 60 per cent of the population is served by libraries.

Of all the English-speaking nations, only the United States shows a more pronounced willingness to read books.

Surely, we can take little comfort from being merely the junior partner in a tacit alliance for ignorance.

The fact remains that we are contributing too much toward establishing history's most ignoble precedent, the first recorded case of "voluntary illiteracy". For as UNESCO has learned, people who refuse to read soon lose the ability.

Is that to be our gift to posterity?

Campus Calendar by Sheila Caughey

To prevent duplication of meeting times and places and to ensure a listing in THE BRUNSWICKAN, please report all campus events to SHEILA CAUGHEY, campus coordinator, at the Maggie Jean Chestnut House (Phone GRanite 5-9091).

THIS LIST COVERS TODAY THROUGH MONDAY

CONVERSAZIONE: Lady Beaverbrook Gym, Friday, starting at 9.30 p.m., with music by The Collegians.

FORESTRY ELECTIONS: Friday (for the following positions: Forestry Association Executive, Winner of the Hadley-Videto Memorial Prize, Editor of the Forestry Year Book for 1960).

BOWDOIN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB: Concert, Memorial Hall, Sunday, 8.15 p.m.

CANTERBURY CLUB: Meeting, Cathedral Hall, Sunday, 8.15 p.m. (Last meeting of the year.)

CHESS CLUB: Meeting, Oak Room, Students' Centre, Monday, 7 p.m.

FORESTRY ASSOCIATION: Meeting, Reading Room, Forestry and Geology Building, Monday, 7.30 p.m.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC: Ping Pong Room, Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium, Monday, 6 to 8 p.m.

SPECIAL EASTER CHAPEL SERVICE: Chapel, Arts Building, Monday, 8.30 p.m. (Sponsored by various campus religious organizations).

Letters to the Editor

Legal Liquor

Sir: If it has been said once, it has been said a thousand times—when are we going to get sane liquor laws in New Brunswick?

I could repeat the complaints put forward by Mr. Wardell, but these complaints—that the present law is bad for the tourists, induces bootlegging, promotes "behind-the-barn" drinking—are now stale clichés, monotonously repeated to deaf ears.

I don't intend to come up with any sparkling new complaints, as I feel the ones now being bandied around are sufficient.

However, I would like to relate the matter to college students, and make a few pertinent suggestions.

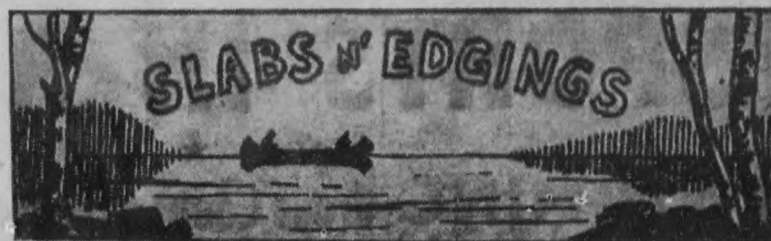
My first suggestion is that the legal age for purchasing liquor be lowered to eighteen.

This would legalize the activities of most college students in New Brunswick. Surely, a college student at eighteen is just as responsible (or irresponsible) as a college student of twenty-one or a businessman of thirty-five.

I would advocate that all college students be allowed to drink if they choose to, but, since a line must be drawn somewhere, eighteen is the best age.

Secondly, if the laws are changed, the SRC should obtain permission to set up a bar in the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium for the Fall Formal and the Con.

This would eliminate the guzzling in the parking lot and in the washrooms. It would be a most pleasant addition to the formals and would keep down the drunkenness, as it would then not be necessary to "down the bottle" before you are caught.



Gary Saunders and Fred McDougall

Since this is the last *Slabs 'n' Edgings* of the year, (and if all goes well this spring the last *Slabs 'n' Edgings* to appear under our authorship) we would like to express our gratitude to those who inspired our column over the year. We owe special thanks to:

Joseph Flathorn—for allowing us to print his bibliography.
Prince John—for his investigation into county forestry policies.
The Chestnut Tree—for sheltering village blacksmiths in the years gone by.

People—for watching so much television.
Noises—for sounding so much like the hit parade.

Job seekers—for inspiring thoughts of the South Sea Islands.
Tower Four—for burning down.

The Spruce Budworm—for letting up on its attack.
The Fauna Up the Hill—for fitting so nicely into a key.

Russian encyclopedias—for their unbiased definitions and write-ups.

The forestry profession—for having growing pains in its development.

King Henry—for dropping the Bow and Arrow.
An old lady—for not knowing the meaning of the word "silver-culture".

Our thanks are also due to the editors of *The Brunswickan*, who put up with our last minute rushes to meet the deadline, and to the Forestry Association for placing their confidence in us. Also, all the best to next year's authors.

Waiting For A Phone?

From JUDY FRAIN

VANCOUVER—Twenty of the students from the University of British Columbia squeezed into a telephone booth here this week, and they lived to tell the tale.

They also laid a joint claim to the world's record for squatting in a 'phone booth.

The stunt was arranged by staff members of *The Ubysey*, the campus newspaper. It was sparked by a press clipping which told of how 17 students of North Staffordshire University, Keele, England, had jammed into a booth to surpass the previous mark established by Manchester University.

THE COMMONWEALTH TODAY: Film Series, National Film Board Theatre, Federal Building, Queen Street, Monday, 7.30 p.m.

Donaldson Elected Film Society Head

FILM SOCIETY HEAD
At the recent annual meeting of the UNB Film Society, Prof. Allan R. Donaldson, of the Department of English, was elected president of the group. Others elected to office were vice-president, Tim Arnold; secretary, Zeta Rosenberg; treasurer, John Findlay.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that continuation of two series of films would not be economically feasible next season, and that a single program of at least 12 features should be presented.

The meeting concluded with the showing of the Swedish wildlife film, *The Great Adventure*.

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