

LETTERS CONTINUED

(From page 2)

ation by pointing out that all wars are dirty, etc. etc. What he has tried to do is change the meaning of the word. "Dirty" on a picket sign does not refer to the living, or dying, conditions of Bien Hoa, but to the moral and legal aspects of the war itself.

It might be added that non-pacifist objectors to this war no more have to prove that they objected to "Dresden", than does Bell have to show value in his other articles to support his latest.

To Bell's second point. His answer to the argument that "The Americans have no moral right to be in Vietnam" is "What, pray tell, has moral right got to do with international power politics?" Everything, Ed. This "manly" answer, the whine of Real Politik, completely misses the point. If one wants to say that the American position is the moral one, fair enough — that's opinion. But to say that it has nothing to do with morality is to impart an amoral objectivity to human action — and that's lack of perception. All human action occurs within the moral sphere. Whether one supports American, Communist, or autonomous administration in Vietnam, he is making a moral statement. If he claims that morality, a philosophical interpretation of human condition, has nothing to do with the situation, he is deluding only himself. We are in a system cursed with moral dilemma, and all the proponents of Real Politik in the world cannot extricate us

STUDENT COUNCILLOR APPOINTED

Dr. Norman J. Whitney has been appointed student councillor at the University of New Brunswick, succeeding the Rev. Dr. T. J. Watson of Fredericton. Until his retirement last term, Dr. Watson served for a decade as counsellor to University students.

Dr. Whitney is a lecturer in biology at UNB. A native of Langdon, Alberta, he received the bachelor of science degree from the University of Alberta in 1947 and the master of science degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1949. He holds the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Toronto and bachelor of divinity degree from

McGill University in Montreal. Dr. Whitney was first appointed to the UNB faculty in the autumn of 1965.

Dr. Whitney, who has been a lecturer in biology at the University of Toronto and at McGill University, was a plant pathologist at the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station, in Harrow, Ontario from 1952 until 1961. Prior to his position at Harrow, he was a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) from 1946 until 1952.

Dr. Whitney first took up his calling in the ministry in Prince William and this year accepted the ministry of the United Church in Marysville.

from it. Bell concludes with an irrelevant remark about those seeking "treasonous refuge in Canada" (those, one might note, who happened to be born a few miles west of McAdam).

He implies that fatigues and a helmet are a passport out of the world of moral decision. The commanders and the sergeants of the armies of the United States and the National Liberation Front don't believe it.

But those who have never had a friend shipped home do. They continue to attack a labyrinthine problem with ad hominem argument and an adolescent attempt at sophistry.

Steven B. Goldberg
Post Graduate Sociology

CARNIVAL QUEENS' SHOW

The Annual Queens Dinner and Fashion Show will be held in McConnell Hall on January 30th, at 7:00 p.m. The Fashion Show will feature the candidates for Winter Carnival Queen as models. At intermission, the UNB Scottish Country Dancers will perform Canada's Centennial dance, "The Saint John River". The dance, composed by UNB's Pru Edwards, won over more than twenty entries in a national competition.

Tickets for the Dinner and Fashion Show will go on sale Monday, January 23, and cost \$3.00 per person.

CAMERA CLUB

The UNB Camera Club still requires prints of good pictures for their coming exhibition in the Art Centre in Memorial Hall from February 5 to 8.

The minimum size for prints is 8" x 10" in black and white. Any student wishing to exhibit, please contact Don Cameron, Bridges House or James Northcote-Green, MacKenzie House, before January 28.



by
Ed
Bell

"SOME LIKE IT HOT..."

Does respect for the rule of the majority stem from the tradition of the English common law? Is the political instability which plagues continental Europe the legacy of the influences of natural law upon the Roman Civil Code systems of law? This is a hypothesis which was raised in a recent address, and merits some consideration solely on the basis of its originality, if for no better reason.

On the positive side of the argument, there is indeed evidence that the national governments which have drawn their origins from the British system of government have enjoyed a remarkable degree of political stability for a relatively long period of time; the United Kingdom, the ex-Dominions and the United States being the outstanding examples. It is equally true that the countries who have espoused the Roman Civil Code have encountered long periods of political and economic chaos; as illustrated by France, Spain, Italy and perhaps Rome itself. Were there no other governing factors, the thesis could be sustained that democracy thrives best under the English tradition of the rule of law.

On the negative side of the supposition that stability and democracy are the Godchildren of the parliamentary system, there is overwhelming historical and empirical data. It is significant that not one of these nations was ever severely devastated by the contingency of being vanquished in war. Democracy itself, as we know it today, is too new and too diaphanous a concept to analyze with context to the present hypothesis. Indeed, until this century, what is loosely called democracy was in fact the rule of elite classes... and may still be. Even Churchill defined democracy as "dictatorship by consent." As for the idea that natural law breeds a disrespect for the laws of charismatic leaders, since natural law purports to be of a universal nature *per se*, it then follows that the alleged disrespect would not be confined to the bounds of any one political system.

Stability has also been observed outside both systems; notably in Scandinavia, Polynesia and the Orient. Albeit these examples may not have always heeded the desires of their respective majorities, it still establishes the hypothesis as a somewhat hasty generalization. There can be a great deal said for the stability of a benevolent despot such as Attaturk. We could perhaps use a good Mustapha Kemal in our own country at times.

The hypothesis is lent even less credible by our present awareness of the forces of anthropological and sociological phenomena. In the confines of an examination (dread word) as necessarily cursory as is this, there is little room to support the data mentioned, but it might be illuminating to pursue one final buttressing theory for the negative.

It is undisputed that the areas of stability mentioned in the preceding arguments have all been within the moderate climes of this geographical spheroid we call home. Most of the foment and chaos of recorded history has occurred relatively nearer to the equatorial hot belt. Nobody will argue that man, either collectively or individually, is at least influenced by his environment. Thus it may be put forward that our stability is as much the result of our weather as it is of the English common law; which thesis may be sustained as readily as the hypothesis in question. And I for one am not eager to see the Gulf Stream move toward Quebec any faster. My Lord, the defence rests.

It's HAPPENING Again

The Happening has once again opened its doors to the "beat" contingent on campus. The Coffee House, situated in Jones House basement, has been in operation every Saturday night since early last fall.

Several amateur entertainers who attend UNB have made appearances there, and anyone else who wishes to sing, play an instrument, read poetry or do anything within reason next Saturday night is invited to come. Although the entertainment is spontaneous, and participants are not paid, they are admitted free. Those who wish to perform are asked to see Brian Aschah for a timeslot when they arrive.

In addition to amateur entertainment, The Jeckys and the Hydes will perform this coming Saturday night. Admission is 50c a couple and 35c single. Things start swinging at 9:00 p.m. and continue until about 2:00 a.m.

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