

Actions louder than words

Editor:

In reference to the article in the Brunswickan issue Jan. 24, by Dan Gregory entitled, "We're planning a revolution," it would appear that the author is advocating the type of society in which B.F. Skinner, a world famous behavioural psychologist expounds in his novel "Walden Two."

Based on Walden or Life in the Woods by Henry David Thoreau, 19C. mystic and transcendentalist, Skinner describes a society in which the members have chosen to live a simple type of life away from contemporary society and in so doing have rebelled against the materialistic values of modern society.

In Walden Two the members live in a world as Mr. Gregory states "where every man can be creative whether it be as an

artist or as a mechanic or farmer. "Provided the members do their minimum four hours of work a day to produce the basic fundamental needs to ensure the continued existence of the community, they are free to do their "thing."

Basically, this is what everybody wants, however, it's relatively easy for the armchair philosopher to dream up this hypothetical theory of the "good life" and try to pawn it off to his contemporaries as the "ideal solution" to our troubled world. But if only people were willing and ready to opt out or "cop out" as current jargon would have it, we might be able to see this type of world materialize.

Unfortunately actions speak louder than thoughts or words and most people are inclined to choose the latter.

Bob Lozier
arts 3

Excuse letter to youth

Editor:

I guess this is an excuse letter to the Youth that technically I am a part of but that really I am not. Because I am a part of the Establishment. I'm going to get my credits, get out, get married, sit in an office all day, drink beer and watch football all weekend, and try and raise the 2.4 times a week average for sexual intercourse, maybe sometimes all night.

Sorry about that, Youth who are carrying placards, taking over admin buildings and

doing all of the other things that Youth are accused of, whether they do them or not, but that just isn't my thing.

And it won't be yours for long. Before you're thirty, for some as late as thirty-five, you'll have joined too. That's fact. If you don't join, you don't eat, they'll put you on welfare; and what's more Establishment than welfare.

I'm here before you cause I simply happen to have seen the dark earlier.

David Peppin
arts 2

THE BIG BUST IS COMING!!!

Letters to the Editor

Address letters to Editor, the Brunswickan, UNB. Letters should be brief and to the point. The Brunswickan reserves the right to shorten letters. Type them (double-spaced, 60 characters to the line), if possible. Include name, faculty, year and telephone. Pseudonyms will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

Am I reading too much into your ads?

Editor:

Last Friday's Brunswickan ad requesting applications for the position of university president caught me off guard for a few seconds. I almost took it seriously. I was assured that this was not the case on reading the suggested qualifications.

In societies undergoing continual change, it is conceivable that universities may tend to become, in a dialectical sense, one of the agents of the social dynamic. Comparatively speaking, however, New Brunswick bears no relation to such a society, and while UNB is bound to look a bit more and more (however slowly) like one of the agents of whatever social change there is in New Brunswick, it is also bound to retain, if not tend to vigorously reassert, its ancient respectability as a symbol of colonial stagnation and insularity-of-outlook. The role of UNB and its highest functionary (and his immediate subordinates) in the social context of largely pre-industrial New Brunswick has nothing to do with the university's role in industrial society as implicitly proposed in the "advertisement" (and as explicitly proposed by unthinking, non-analytical quasi-radicals.) The ludicrousness of the ad, therefore, arises, NOT out of the crudely-obvious, pathetically-blatant, ironic intent of its author(s), but rather out of the fact that UNB is not to NB what The (categorical) University is to advanced industrial societies.

Further manifestation of this same denial of any, if not all, analytical rigour on the part of an undisciplined and probably thoroughly incompetent mentality can be found in the use of a black border around the ad, a format usually reserved for obituaries. Presumably, the ad's author (s) are trying to deliver

us (albeit implicitly) a eulogy upon what might-have-been.

That is to say, UNB's presidency MIGHT HAVE BEEN a job requiring "foresight", "flexibility", educational experience and broad training, as well as "youthfulness" and an interest in actualising "democratic beliefs" into "democratic" fact but that's all gone. Well! ... ha ha ha-how cute, how ironic—and how goddam typically effete of the New Left liberal garbage-mouthing. The author (s) of the ad is/are mourning the death of something that HAS NEVER EXISTED. The thought behind that eulogy emanates from the sort of brain that would be wiped out by tumor of the big toe.

Lest the ad's author (s) try to weasel out of "fessing up" for his syllabus of errors by claiming that I'm reading too much into black borders and particular statements, allow me to counter, in advance of that argument, that these phenomena are to be found on the page "sans explication" and therefore wide open to interpretation. While I am willing to allow that some ambiguity is the essence of irony, I should hasten to add that ambiguity compounded of contradiction tends to neutral-

ize irony, at least for a relatively-thoughtful reader.

Hopefully, therefore, nobody has either yet reflected or intends to reflect on (ie. THINK ABOUT) the inanity of this attempt by the Brunswickan to be ironic under the guise of an "advertisement". If anybody has wasted any thought on the advertisement, they'll probably have found it not only meaningless, but trivial as well.

Assumptions, irrelevant to the existential nature of UNB and New Brunswick society transformed an otherwise mildly half-amusing piece into something that was, in the words of Talleyrand, "worse than a crime, a mistake".

The Brunswickan, it would appear, was (and presumably still is) looking for, not a president, but a precedent. Their hopes are, at best, ill-founded and, at worst, illusory. Be that as it may, the writer would appreciate a reply. Just be thankful folks, that I didn't ask for an apology—or—worse—a retraction.

Gary Zatzman
arts 4

Where's ol' whatsisname?

Editor:

What has happened to Prof Strax? Does nobody care anymore? Perhaps nobody dares to care: those who did have been purged, and the purging goes on...

What has happened to the democratic dream? Nothing, as it still remains... a dream.

Reality, as this poem suggests, is never beautiful:

*An honest man in a land of thieves
Is like a peony in a weed-filled garden:
The same soil cannot nourish them both.
But it is seldom the weeds that wither.*

(A translated Chinese poem)

L. Lee
science 2

VIEWPOINT

what do you think of unb students?



percey urquhart
farmer

"O.K., I guess. I have a boy there."



mrs. urquhart

"Some just go there for want of something better to do. They don't want to work."



irving christie
parts man

"UNB brings people from all over the world to Fredericton. This helps our friendly relations."



murray allen
insurance adjustor

"They bring a lot of employment to the town. I'm pleased that the majority of students backed the administration the Strax."

howard t. coyle
nbicb

"They're a pretty good bunch of fellows. You can't judge them all by the Strax case."



susan dick

"I like St. Thomas students better."



don roberts
merchant

"We like them, they've never caused us any trouble. They buy a lot of copies of Playboy."



john conney
plumber

"This is kind of a complicated question—but I guess they're one hundred percent."

