

Editorial

Were we to attempt a character delineation of the student body of this university the adjectives "apathetic" and "ignorant" would undoubtedly highlight such a discussion. In our last editorial we attempted to illustrate that one of the consequences of this condition has been the proliferation of pointless symbolic gestures such as Project Plant-A-Tree. This revelation does not display the possession of a keen insight on our part, for one need not subject the student body on this campus to microscopic scrutiny in order to determine the extent and effects of apathy. However, it does raise an important question. — Why?

Why is student apathy so extensive? Most attempts to raise the issue are greeted by a shrug of the shoulders. It is our contention that part of the problem stems directly from the fact that most UNB students are politically retarded or ignorant. This ignorance is particularly noticable in the areas of recognition of issues, recognition of political power and use of political power.

The fact that students possess political power within the university community particularly with respect to the administration and secondly within society generally, have left UNB students unaffected. Students on this campus possess a 'surf' mentality when it comes to issues involving the exercise of power. Consequently students do not generally consider issues such as curriculum design or the appointment of staff to be of central concern to them. Similarly students do not seem to feel that they have a right to demand decent living accommodations. But who is to blame for this beggarman mentality?

Traditional explanations tend to emphasize the educational and environmental background of stu-

dents, the argument being that students are the product of their society and until their arrival at university they exist and function in the autocratic atmosphere of high schools. Consequently it is not fair to expect such students to suddenly flex their political muscles.

We do not agree. We feel that the primary responsibility for this deplorable condition must be shouldered by the student community itself, or more particularly by those student institutions that were designed specifically to mould and represent the opinions, interests and rights of students.

We freely admit to having been guilty of certain past inadequacies in this area, simultaneously however we serve notice that in future we intend to more intensively illuminate relevant issues for students.

In line with this policy we suggest that an equal measure of responsibility for these appalling conditions must be laid at the feet of our so-called student leaders. Consequently we contend that members of the SRC are guilty of engaging in symbolic sandbox politics.

What Mr. SRC President is the result of your research into student housing?

What steps Mr. SRC President have been taken for students to assume a greater control over the decision-making apparatus of this university?

What action Mr. SRC President has been taken to correct the inadequacies and inequities of the student loan program.

Why Mr. SRC President are SRC meetings held on a Sunday night?

FEEDBACKFEEDBAC FEEDBACKFEEDBACFEEDBACK

Dear Sir:

In the last few issues of the BRUNSWICKAN you have, in my opinion, taken a giant step backwards in your quest for respectability for your paper. I speak specifically of the weekly column 'MUGWUMP JOURNAL' by Edison Stewart. Creating comment by intelligent research and presentation of issues which concern us is very commendable, but when the comment takes the form of irritating misinformation as has

been the case, the purpose is eventually defeated. I am neither a Forester or a Saint Thomas student nor at business end of his jabs, but I can see their objections to the infantile comments of Mr. Stewart. He seems to be more interested in presenting his personality than anything else, inviting comment from the readers, which invariably led to an excuse from Mr. Stewart on the grounds that he was misinformed.

What exactly is he trying

to prove? Surely your staff can research trustworthy items which will lead to student interest and comment without Mr. Stewart's personal campaign for notoriety ruining your paper's credibility. Mr. Stewart, you are achieving nothing by your infantile babble, you had better stick to what you do best, whatever that may be.

name withheld by request

Dear Mr. Editor,

After reading the last few issues of the Bruns, especially the column "Among Ourselves" I felt quite disgusted. To have a student newspaper running a column which is nothing more than poorly written advertisement for a basically backward and illogical religion is quite improper. The mere fact that this column assumes the existence of unproven entities (ie God and Jesus Christ) is enough to justify its either being moved to the literature and poetry page or its being subscripted with the words "This is a free time religious advertisement." However, I think it would be more proper to just remove it. I am sure the space could be filled with something more intellectual without too much difficulty.

Yours truly,
Richard S. Fox

"Yessir! We really showed them this time! Sure, they dropped their bomb but we planted that tree right back at them. They'll think twice before they do that again."— Ever wonder why the States never bothered conquering Canada.

The implications of Amchitka go far beyond the physical dangers presented by the blast. People every where (except Fredericton) said "no" to Amchitka and the powers that be said "Shut up people! We'll drop our bomb if we want to." This is a denial of that good old liberal-democratic principle of governmental responsibility to the people and every good liberal knows that when the popular will is denied, then the people have the right to revolution. We planted a tree instead!

Larry Brayton.

Dear Sir:

We, the members of the Physical Education Society of the University of New Brunswick, would like to support the Engineering Faculty in their proposal for "Hard Cover" yearbooks. We agree to the suggestion of having hard covered books for graduating subscribers at the price of \$5.00 and soft covers for others at \$3.00.

Yours truly,
Randy Nason
President.

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