

Editorial

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The years of student unrest have passed, but this is not because our discontent has been rectified. We students now express our discontent with the "system" by our non-involvement in the affairs of the "establishment," and our boredom with the events of the world. It's not so much that we no longer care about the war in Vietnam, student power or more relevant courses, its just that we are so bored with the whole thing. The problems facing students now are of more personal concern to us than the problems that so riled the students of a few years ago. Instead of the interesting high-paying jobs that most of us expect after graduation, it looks as if we are going to have to settle with six month projects that are designed mainly for the purpose of keeping us off the welfare list and give inadequate time to accomplish anything in the community.

This situation is a result, in part, from the federal government's mishandling of the economy. At least 1400 families have recently lost their breadwinners to unemployment in the Bathurst area. Most of the workers involved are skilled labour who have never before been out of work. They have grown accustomed to a high standard of living.

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour has called a moratorium on this situation in Bathurst on Sunday, January 16. Paul LaPage, President of the Federation, has asked for student support for this "Day of Concern" saying that the unions give their support to student protests. The support that the unions have asked for is simply for students to participate in the March of Concern in Bathurst at 1:30 p.m. this Sunday and to attend the moratorium afterwards at Le College de Bathurst. Speaking at the moratorium will be Premier Hatfield, Provincial Opposition Leader Robert Higgins, Federal NDP leader, David Lewis, and hopefully Federal Regional Expansion Minister, Jean Marchand, as well as several union leaders from the Bathurst area.

It is essential to the success of the Day of Concern that a large number of people are present to show the

provincial and federal governments that this is a situation they cannot treat lightly. New Brunswickers are concerned that this province consistently has the second highest unemployment rate in Canada, a rate that for the past several years has been at least 3 percent above the national average. The only way this concern will register in the often thick heads of the government is for an impressive number of people to indicate their support for the workers of Bathurst by taking part in the Day of Concern.

This demonstration is in no way similar to the meagre little marches we have seen in Fredericton. This is not an attempt to stop a strong international power from acting as in the recent Amchitka march. This is a demonstration to our own government which will hopefully affect the economic future of New Brunswick. Mr. LaPage is predicting an attendance of 10,000 people. He is confident that the demonstration will bring results. It is modelled after a demonstration in Sydney, Nova Scotia, in 1967 on a similar problem which resulted in the nationalization of the steel company. DOSCO is now producing a profit for the Nova Scotia government. Nationalization is not among the suggestions the Federation of Labour is making to remedy the situation in northern New Brunswick. However a Fredericton committee of union leaders, students and other concerned persons, is advocating. Their views are expressed in the Brunswickan supplement in this issue.

The unemployment situation in Bathurst is explained in the Supplement and the Federation of Labour's suggestion for an end to this situation with a view to making the whole north shore area more productive, is expressed. Whatever one's personal views on the means needed to correct the situation you are urged to support the workers of Bathurst and the N.B. Federation of Labour's Day of Concern in Bathurst. It is obvious that some decisions have to be made and it is equally obvious that the government has to be forced into making them.

Dear Sir:

TO ALL FRESHMEN

You will by now, or very shortly, have received the results of the examinations which you wrote before Christmas. Some of you have done exceptionally well (quite a large number, in fact), many of you have passed everything, and you may or may not be satisfied with this, but apart from offering my congratulations,

this letter is not being addressed to you.

Many of you, however, will have been disappointed, although some may not have been surprised, to find that you have failures. I expect that, as in former years, a few of you will come to me to withdraw from the University.

Before you take such a step, I strongly urge you to consider the matter carefully, and to talk to faculty advisors, or to

the professional counsellors in the counselling service. It may be that you are going about your work in a wrong way, and that you are not using the most effective study methods. It is possible to improve these.

A good many of you will probably readily admit that the main reason for your disappointing marks was that you did not do enough work, and some may feel that it is because you are unable to study

properly.

Over the past few years, I have seen a number of students withdraw in the middle of the year, only to return the following year agreeing that it would have been better if they stayed.

If you need to come to terms with yourself, if you need to learn to discipline yourself, if you need to find out what your real interests are, I suggest that it may be better to do it here and now, and not postpone it in the hope that, through some magical process of maturing, you will be better prepared in a future year. Many students, who started out rather disastrously in their first term at University, have retrieved their position, even before the end of the first year.

It may be that you are in a position now where you cannot possibly hope to salvage every subject. Even then, it would be better to end the year with two or three credits than with none. If you leave now, you are throwing away not only a considerable investment in time and money, but a year of your life, which you may come to regret later. If you stay and partially succeed at least, you may be able to retrieve missing credits through summer sessions and other ways, and graduate with your classmates. Half the year has gone, but the other half remains. If you settle down now to do the best you can, you may end up doing better than your greatest

expectations at the moment.

Many of you know the answer to your problems, but might I suggest to those who never thought about study habits, that the way to study is to set yourself a definite target each day, or each evening. It is a good rule not to set out to work for so many hours, but rather to set out to learn a certain amount of material. Once you feel you have learned it, you can stop with an easy conscience regardless of whether you have spent one hour or three. If you try to work by the clock, you will spend most of the time watching the clock. Do not be put off by the vast amount of work that remains to be done. If you have learned something properly, it will stand you in good stead, and you will be surprised to find that after a period of steady study, things begin to come much more easily to you. Most students can do a great deal with the last few weeks of the term if they have put forward a reasonably steady effort throughout it.

If you have never learned to study, try setting yourself a simple goal each day and keep a record of your progress over the next two or three weeks. Once you develop the habit, you may even find that you come to enjoy it.

Good luck!

D.C. Blue
Registrar

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