



Mugwump Journal

By EDISON STEWART

An open letter to Pierre Trudeau

Dear Pierre,

Things have not gone well. No doubt you are already painfully aware of that. As someone who voted against you on Monday, I'd like to say one or two things.

First, my vote to the NDP was definitely a 'protest vote'. I think it can be called that, anyway. I believe that David Lewis would be a good PM. But, in light of the fact that Lewis winning the election was an impossibility, my vote can only be considered as a protest.

Why the protest? Because I disagree with arrogance, unemployment, and American domination. I do believe in Canada (a bilingual one too, if that means anything to you) but my vote was cast in such a way that I hoped your policies would change a bit.

Like many Canadians, I had no idea that my vote for the NDP (and the votes of people like me) would divide the country so. I had hoped for a Liberal government that had gone through a sobering election, but still escaped with a small majority. What I got (according to results so far) is a Conservative plurality, something which I had never bargained on.

And that's why I'm writing this 'letter'. Hopefully someone in your local Liberal association will cut it out and send it to you. As I understand it, you can either resign, or attempt to govern with the help of the NDP. For the country's sake, choose the later. A Progressive Conservative government under Robert Stanfield would mess this country completely.

A government based solely in English Canada would definitely risk the break-up of Confederation. A government based in French Canada (ie. your party alone) would suffer the same risk. But with the support of the NDP (a party with seats only in English Canada) the problem can indeed be soothed.

A PC government (with the help of the NDP) would still only have support outside Quebec. With a Quebec provincial election in the next year or two, that could be disastrous.

Stanfield picked up conservative Canada's vote. It is one based on the 'English-Backlash' as much as anything else.

Canada must not have a PC government at this time. A cabinet made up of George Hees, Paul Hellyer and Claude Wagner is not in Canada's best interests, nor in yours.

If you haven't already decided on a course of action, let me say this: tempered with the sobering influence of the NDP, I feel your government is the best Canada's political parties have to offer. Hang on to office. In the meantime, begin preparations for an election in February or March.

Canada depends on it.

There's been a rumor circulating that a lot of people who gave blood at the recent blood donor clinic had VD. So we checked and here's what we found out:

Health Centre Nurse Copp checked with the Red Cross in Saint John, who ran our recent Blood Donor Clinic. Not one case of VD has been reported. All of the blood donated has been used already except for some because the people were too young or other such things. Copp said she first heard the rumour the day after the clinic, before the Red Cross had even begun to test any of the blood.

She checked with two or three people in St. John, one of them a Doctor. She has also reported that since the rumour started about 50 people came to her asking for VD tests. She gave them just to satisfy the students.

In her seven years here she has encountered only ONE case—a foreign student who brought it with him from the homeland. That instance was in one of her first years here.

Oh, where do we park???

Prof. Eric Garland of the development office is trying to form a committee to deal with the parking problem on campus. Garland says he wants representation from all concerned. He plans on having three students sit on the committee.

But don't hold your breath waiting for action. The Parking committee is a sub-committee of a sub-committee. That's right, folks. Recommendations from the parking committee have to go to the Campus Planning sub-committee of the Senate's Academic and Campus Planning committee.

So once any recommendation finally makes it through all those committees, it goes to the Senate, and from there to the Board of Governors.

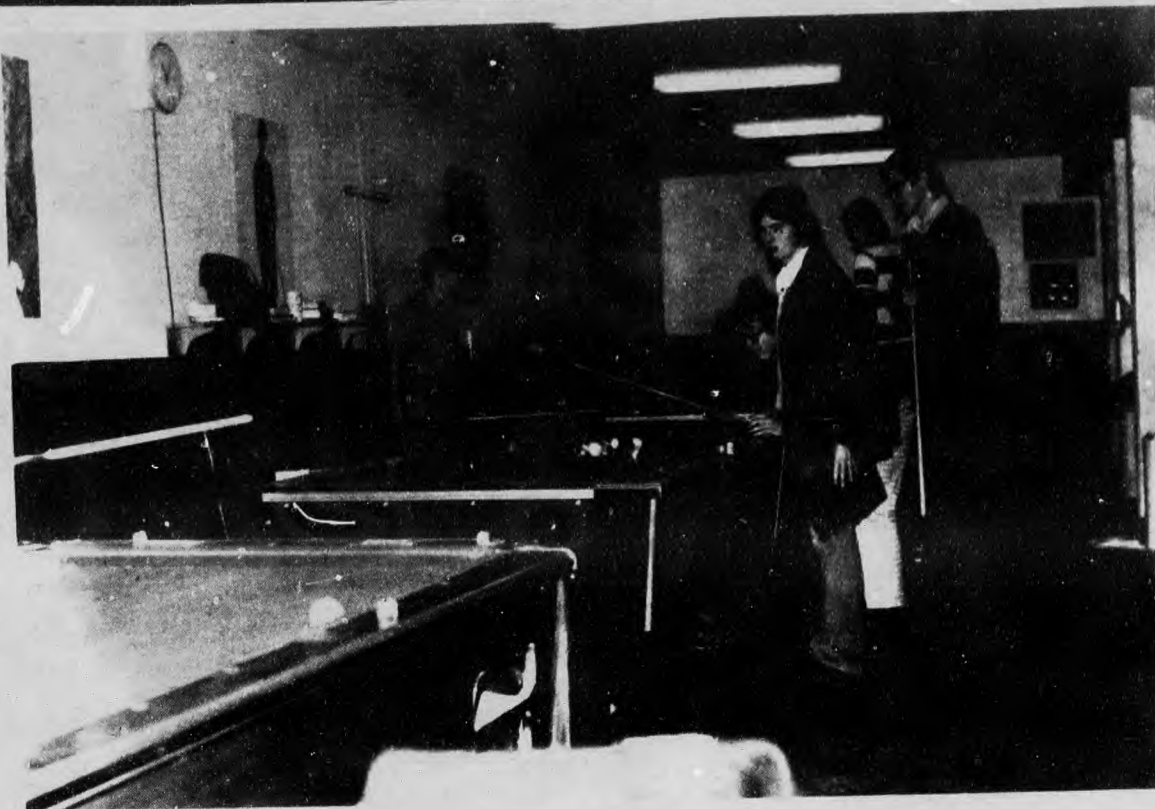


Photo by Bob Boyes

Nothing to do weekends? One fellow from UNB thinks differently. He feels the Games Room in the SUB can fill anyone's dreary weekend with relaxation.

Dear Sir:

Last weeks (sic) the Brunswickan (sic) editorial comment "Nothing to do" certainly was another attempt (sic) by a staff member of the Brunswickan to bolster their image as poor journalistic writers. This desperate (sic) need to fill twenty-plus white pages with black each week results in lies, falsehoods, distortions and mistruths. An evil we all know is camping at the footsteps of every journalist. But, perhaps it is a misnomer to label any staff member of The Brunswickan even

an apprentice in the newspaper business.

No doubt this particular (sic) staff member the honorable editor himself is the type who is bored by "drinking to get drunk with the boys" and sitting in the SUB coffee shop all to (sic) much each weekend gossiping about who did, or didn't do what at last weeks (sic) "drunk in." This writer-editor would do well to avail himself to the educational facilities and academic members at UNB, STU, TC to develop (sic) his own nothingness. Let us

hope the larger majority of student (sic) who come to UNB, STU, and TC come for intellectual stimulation and development (sic) foremost. (sic).

Just in passing let me mention that for those who wish to relax and play on weekends and in between the SUB games room with FREE shuffleboard and ping pong is available, not to mention pool tables and other amusement devices.

Seriously yours,
Michael J. Leyden,
UNB Philosophy grad.

Fuller's talk misled students?

By ALLEN STAIRS

I grant that Buckminster Fuller is, because of his moral concern and his desire to lead people to see the world as it really is, an admirable man. But I also believe that many claims quite central to this talk were extremely misleading, and I also believe that many of his listeners were, in fact, misled.

First, he suggested a teleological argument for the existence of a God who controls the universe. That is, he suggested that since the universe exhibits a vast design, there must be a designer and controller, who will certainly maintain the delicate balance of elements.

However, to say that the universe exhibits a design is really only to say that it exhibits certain regularities, and from this fact, we have no grounds for concluding that these regularities are a result of the work of a designer. The argument may be psychologically convincing, but that is merely a curious fact,

and not a ground for acceptance.

However, to convince us that there is something peculiarly wonderful about the "design" of our universe, Fuller made two particularly misleading observations: First, that the laws do not contradict, and secondly, that more than one principle can be used at the same time.

That the laws of nature do not contradict one another can be decided *a priori*. It follows from the purely logical principle a proposition and its negation cannot be true of the same thing at the same time. Therefore, if we are considering two rival theories, one of which predicts that an event 'A' will not occur, then we can decide in advance, on the basis of logic alone, that it is not the case that both theories are true (although we cannot decide in advance which, if either, is in fact true.)

The laws themselves, however are not *a priori* (ie. necessary), contrary to what Fuller said, for it is possible for them to be false.

That more than one principle can apply to the same state of affairs is, again a matter of logic. If a state of affairs manifests characteristics which fall under the scope of two supposed "principles", then if one of these supposed "principles" does not apply, we declare that it is false, and thus, not really a principle. For instance, if we were to find a piece of copper which conducted heat, but not electricity, then we would say that the "principle" that all copper conducts electricity is, in fact, not a principle at all.

In short, whether or not there be a God, the fact that the universe exhibits regularities should not, of itself, convince anyone to believe that there is.

Finally, Fuller suggested that the fact that man can grasp abstract principles is evidence for the existence of minis as well as brains. Briefly, there are a number of sophisticated accounts which render this claim doubtful, and thus, not the sort of belief that one should easily accept.