

No new overalls, no work

By J. DAVID MILLER

BRITISH LEYLAND, described as a company making and selling motor vehicles, issued rather scruffy overalls to six vehicle inspectors at the Rover plant because it was short of the usual white cloth variety.

The six men went on strike and 40 other inspectors in white overalls came out.

The strike lasted a day and caused 3,600 other workers to be laid off. Production of the Rover 3500, widely proclaimed as the car of the year, and other models, was stopped. The loss in retail terms was 1,600,000 pounds.

British Leyland is a company which was compelled by its financial circumstances to ask the Government to pay its wages! The estimated loss to the company of the sale of the cars in 1977 was in the area of 45 million pounds.

All of this is true. None of it is said ironically. It is all happening in this country, and this week's strike concerned overalls!

The above item appeared in the Scottish Daily Express when I was writing these articles. I didn't really pay that much notice to it — because you see items like it every day. What does this mean to me — a Canadian — I mean I don't really live here. It means two or three things.

For the first few months you don't worry at all about much — you're overcome with the new sights and sounds.

The first thing that affects you is the strikes — they are euphemistically called "industrial actions" here. I guess the one that affected me the most was the electricity workers illegal "industrial action" in the fall. You looked in the morning paper to see if your district was in for a power cut that day. A game almost — they sated it high, medium or low. So right in the middle of your supper, or on a train trip somewhere, or when you planned to study the power went off. Because some fool didn't like the colour of his overalls somewhere in a poor station. Some 250 people — mostly old people and children died as a direct result of these power cuts.

As hard as it is to believe people actually died on the operating tables in hospitals. Children trying to light candles burned houses down.

Since September there have been (1) national bread strike (3 weeks), power strike (2 1/2 weeks), elevator repairmen's strike (3 months), firemen's strike (2 months), umpteen British Leyland strikes, etc. etc. ad infinitum.

All in all some 10 million man days were lost in the U.K. in 1977. About 2 1/2 times (proportionally) Canada's record (which is worse than the US record).

Again — what does this mean? It means, that you can't depend on anything, you have to line-up to buy bread (as often as not) and numerous other inconveniences

which are nothing in themselves but together they are intolerable; by our standards.

Still, it would probably be alright except the English — of all classes — make Americans look like pikers in their assurance that there's is the best country in the world.

They constantly put down America. "America wouldn't let Concorde into New York because it was jealous of the plane" (!) "Star Wars" (a big hit in America & Canada) is "childish, immature, fascist and typical of the American need for escapism" (what are the "Carry on Movies?") Canada as well doesn't escape "Trudeau mentioning in a hypothetical sense that he would put troops into Quebec should there be civil disobedience was called (by the Times) "Childish and typical of an immature politics". Most English think that their prices are lower and their standard of living and medical care are higher than ours.

I mean that seriously, even well educated (but untravelled) Britons think that. In fact it was stated recently that the standard of living in the U.K. would be, in the year 2000, equal to that of North America's 1976 standard of living!

The so-called medicare system is saddled with too many administrators and clerks. As absurd as it seems in Wales recently a doctor was refused his standard fee (\$10) for saving a life! It seems that the man was

continued on page 17

You're paying for the SUB

By JOHN MCEVOY

Unknown to most UNB and STU students, (15) fifteen dollars of their annual student union fee never reaches their SRC. That many is siphoned off by their universities in accordance with agreements with the SRC's so that the mortgage on the SUB can be paid off. That mortgage was taken out at the time of the construction of the SUB at a floating interest rate above the prime rate. Thus in times of inflation when the prime rate is high, the annual levy is directed more to payment of interest on the loan than the principal amount itself. It is for this reason that now, almost ten years after the opening of the SUB, approximately \$280,000 remains to be paid on principal.

It must be stressed that the fifteen dollar levy is directed only toward the mortgage. The SUB must operate out of its own generated revenues. This fact has been and will remain the source of the key issue facing the SUB — where to draw the balance between commercial use of the building (in order to generate revenue) and noncommercial student utilization.

The SUB is after all a building; only a structure. It can become only what those who use it, want it to become. It can remain as a building on campus or become, as it should be, the building on campus for students. No one area of the building is so sacrosanct that its existence as a user of space should not be periodically reviewed. This is in fact what the SUB Board of Directors is doing at the present time.

Before continuing, it may be prudent to introduce the SUB Board. This body composed of six UNB students, three STU students two representatives appointed by

the Board of Governors and sundry other nonvoting members, meets approximately twice a month in order to fulfill its mandate as responsible administrators of the building. The day to day operations are under the control of SUB Director Howard Goldberg, in liaison with the chairperson of the Board.

Reverting back to the problem of utilizing a major bone of contention has been the UNB-STU balance which has been attempted to be maintained. Always the argument falls back on the fifteen dollar levy for which many Saint Thomas students feel that they don't get value and for which many UNB students feel STU gets more than its fair share. The root of the issue is that at the SUB, the seat of STU student government is somewhat isolated from STU students, most of whom frequent the STU cafeteria between classes and for meals. Also, apathy has hit STU activities (as well as UNB).

Thus space allocated to such STU organizations as the Aquinian (Newspaper) is not utilized to full advantage. In this light measures must be taken to correct the nonuse. Remember the SUB is what you want it to be. The SUB Board wants it to hum with activity.

If STU students utilized their space to best advantage, there would be no problem. The Board may even have to consider increasing STU space if such becomes warranted. This principle that active organizations will be allowed to grow in place of inactive ones, is illustrated by the growth of CHSR — a bampus organization serving all students and the Brunswickan which in reality is also bampus. However there are limits to growth of these giants such that other organizations who need space will not suffer.

The SUB faces other problems. Continued on page 17

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The Brunswickan

TRAVEL TALK

by Brenda Johnston

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1978 NEW MCAT

Registration materials are now available in the Dean of Science Office and the Registrar's Office.

The 1978 New MCAT dates are April 15 and September 30.

The Spring post mark registration deadlines are March 20 for candidates testing in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico; and March 13 for those testing in foreign countries.