Cynic-at-large

By NANCY KEMPTON
Brunswickan Staff

The overwhelming attitude of many UNB students regarding the present constitutional crisis appears to be: "Constitution? Is that a new brand of beer or somethin'?" Apathy towards the affairs of Canada warrants grave and definitive action. UNB should form its own separate nation. Rather than concern ourselves with such petty problems as the Alberta-Ottawa oil feud, or the Quebec referendum, UNB as an independent country could focus on more relevant and devastating events such as the lack of parking facilities and the ominous Jones House scandal.

Consider the possibilities inherent in separation. We would be governed by an elite body of intelligent, conscientious, well-trained leaders knows as the Student Representative Council. The SRC would be the ultimate democratic system where little authority is exercised from the top ranks since the executive is unable to form a voting quorum. The name of our national leader, "Perry Who?", would appropriately reflect the overriding national trait of apathy.

The justice system would follow the unquestionable high principles of the new Student Disciplinary Code. Such a system would offer ultimate freedom for every student. We would have the freedom to choose whether or not to attend our own hearings. If we decide to be absent, we do not have to worry about thwarting the efficient functioning of the justice department, as our hearing would proceed without us. How ingenious! One could even be convicted without exerting any effort. This system was obviously modelled to suit the wishes of our apathetic population. The dictates of the SDC would be expertly guarded by the Campus Police. These brave officers of the law, always a friend of the community, could help pedestrians across our dangerous crosswalks. In cases where the law is severely breached, our national executioners, the Board of Governors, would impose death by slow, drawn-out, ineffectual torture. Another popular sentence would be expulsion or exile.

As a nation, UNB would have indentifiable characteristics. Our diet staple would be carbohydrates provided by Beaver (with occasional imports from Luna), and beer. Our major vegetation appears to be grass-the variety seeded in lawns, and the variety sprouting like weed indoors. Our national anthem would be a toss-up between the lyrical "Go, UNB, Go" often heard at football games, or the morenostalgictune "I Was a Virgin in my Freshman Year." We would be a highly respected nation of professionals-expert students. We could bury ourselves in this work and ignore the trivial crises on the global circuit. It is obvious through all the attributes, the nation of UNB would possess, the major goal of its population would be to graduate as quickly as possible!

United Way drive on

UNB's campaign to help the United Way got off to a good start Tuesday with University President James Downey raising the United Way flag on one of the campus flagpoles.

Helping Dr. Downey were Prof. David Townsend who is chairman of the Educational sector in this year's campaign and Dr. Michael Burt, who is helping with the UNB appeal.

In their attempt to keep some 20 worthwhile agencies running, the United Way appeal is using the "running" theme in their campaign. Dr. Burt explained that at UNB all the various groups of employees will unite in their attempt to raise the required number of dollars.

To demonstrate this graphically an event will take place on the MacKay promenade today at 1:15 p.m. Officials from around the campus will participate in what Dr. Burt described as a "three-legged race." Notables such as Vice-Presidents O'Sullivan and Burridge, SRC President Perry Thorbourne, Librarian Gertrude Gunn as well s as representatives from the Support Staff Association, CUPE and the Technicians Assocition will be involved in the race. Premier Hatfield will fire the starting gun and the participants will head for a banner at the end of the promenade which will note the goal for UNB's contribution to the United Way; $27,300.

Mushroom season in full bloom

By PETER F. KUITENBROUWER
Brunswickan Staff

"This time Alice waited patiently until the Caterpillar chose to speak again. In a minute or two the Caterpillar took the hookah out of its mouth and yawned once or twice, and shook itself. Then it got down off the mushroom, and crawled away into the grass, merely remarking as it went, 'One side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter.'

'One side of what? The other side of what?' thought Alice to herself.

'of the mushroom,' said the Caterpillar, just as if she had said it aloud; and in another moment it was out of sight."

Lewis Carroll, Alice Adventures in Wonderland

Most people think of this as just another variation in Carrol's incredible fantasies. The truth, however, is that the popular writer got the idea from Psilocybe semilanceata, or the "Magic Mushroom," which he ate occasionally.

Fall in Fredericton means brightly colored leaves, crisp mornings, fresh vegetables overflowing at Boyce Farmer's market, and storm windows going up.

Another fall symbol the town is getting used to are the mushroom pickers. From the first fall rains to the snowfall, these weekend harvesters speckly the fields, gathering their fruits of delight.

"They're twice as good this year as they were last year," says an unidentified 'shroomer'. "I guess it's because of all the rain we've been getting. It's a lot like western weather."

"The mushrooms love the frost. They love cold, snappy weather," he said, "until the snow falls you can pick them."

"In this area, the mushrooms are cream-colored or sometimes darker brown. "They grow in cow pastures," continued the student. "They're not flimsy or flat-topped. It's a firm mushroom."

But, he warns, "anyone who hasn't picked them before should go out with someone who has, to see what the right ones are."

Hal Hynes, a biology professor at UNB, echos this concern. "We don't know what other kinds of little brown mushrooms are out there," he noted. "Statistically, we've been very lucky: there haven't been any deaths from poisoning.

"I get numerous calls from the hospital. They say 'could you please come here and analyze the contents of this guy's stomach and tell me if it's magic or poisonous mushroom...He is lost and mixed up...He took it from a friend....etc'

Hynes explained that the legal status of the drug is very hazy right now. "It is illegal to be in possession of *psilocybin*, which is the active ingredient in the mushrooms. But the mushroom's legal status is still being debated in the legislature," he said. "It isn't a big priority for the police."

"Recently, a case got thrown out of court by a B.C. judge who said the legislation was too vague. He said one couldn't arrest people for picking mushrooms."

Still Hynes noted that of 54 cases of possession of magic mushrooms tried last year in B.C., all but four led to convictions. The maximum penality for a first offense, he said, is a $1000 fine or six months in jail or both. "The average fine for trafficking is $300," he said.

"We're not prosecuting," says Constable Power of the Fredericton RCMP drug section. "The federal legislature is in the process of having the Food and Drug Act ammended to include Magic Mushrooms."

The recent B.C. case really muddied the waters, he, too, noted. "But there have been cases in the past of people who were prosecuted," the constable said.

The 'shroomer' tried to explain the feeling one gets eating the mushrooms. "It's such a change from the norm," he said. "I wouldn't want to recommend doing them alone. You have to have someone in the same dimension as you are. If you're in the right space, you're just laughing you face off the whole time. It's great."

He said he and other mushroom eaters usually dry the plant, and then eat about 25 of them to get a good high.

"When you're doing them just do a few and wait for the buss. If you like it, do some more."

Like Carroll points out, the mushrooms can make you very tall (or high). But they can also make you very small (down).

"They are a mood enhancer," said Hynes. "Under the right circumstances, they can make you feel really good. They can also be useful in a religious ritual experience. But people mix them with pot and liquor, and they beome disoriented," he said.

Rape: what to do if it happens to you

By JOHN KNECHTEL
Brunswickan Staff

For our dictionaries for the legal system, it is a cold set of words and phrases. For many people it is a distant event, to be, of course, looked upon with some disdain and social conscience, but for a few women on this campus rape is a stark reality, a reality that can be fought, and fought effectively.

"Action by women to get action," is what Susan Clancy of the Rape Crisis Center described as one key to wiping out sexual harassment and assault. Women have to lobby the administration themselves. It is by the force of their numbers and collective voice that the situation will be improved, she said.

To achieve this community effort there has to also be awareness of what has happened on campus, of how to avoid and prevent it, and of how to react in a dangerous situation. The most comprehensive source of this information is the Rape Crisis Center (454-0437).

In addition to providing information on police investigation, medical needs, and legal procedures, the centre gives counselling and support 24 hours a day, and will speak to any group, no matter how small.

There are some very basic principles involved in avoiding and dealing with harassment or assault. The most fundamental and effective of these is to avoid walking alone at night. The men of Neill House offer an escort service, and no friend would be averse to taking a short walk to ensure your safety. Avoid going behind the SUB. In recent years this area has come to be known as "Rape Row" and is thus, for obvious reasons, not the greatest place to be found alone after dark.

Use common sense and remain in control at all times-do not panic. If a threatening situation occurs, run and yell "help"! Remember that your life is your first priority. Carry no weapon which you could not bring yourself to use or are not trained to use. A weapon can be taken away from you and used against you.

Robby Terriss, a Lady Dunn Hall proctor, reflected the views of many of the people actively involved in trying to ameliorate the situation at UNB. "...THEY (women at UNB) have the responsibility to be informed." Information is available from a wide range of sources, but the ultimate test of its usefulness rests with the people it was intended for. Knowledge may be power, but it will lie limp in the gutter if not exploited, if the students of UNB, especially women, do not avail themselves of it.

In another comment Miss Terris said that "Women have the right to walk the campus safely." Fear is not necessary, informed, communal action is. The right to safety rests within the women of UNB. The only question that remains is, are they willing to take up the challenge.?