mugwump journal

By MIKE MACKINNON

This weekend UNB Red Raiders play host to the CIAU men's regional basketball championships. The centre spread in this week's issue provides an insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the four teams involved. I hope that we will see a good turnout at the games.

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I guess party politics has really hit UNB. First we had the Student Party, who have been around for well over a year. This year saw the beginning of the Tupperware Party, a group who are trying to put humour back into campus politics. The latest political group to join the forray is the Anarchist Society, a group who don't really seem to have much purpose except to "screw the system before it screws us." A commendable attitude.

The existence of these parties should make the next general elections, whenever we have them, very interesting. One has to hope that the wishes of the students will not be lost in party details.

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Once again we have to postpone the showing of M*A*S*H. We ordered the film from the proper company but they had leased it earlier to a group in Cornerbrook, Nfld. Of course the only way to send the film back was to put it on a plane. Unfortunately, EPA's pilots are still on strike so the film is still sitting at the airport in Cornerbrook. We have been guaranteed, however, the film will be here by next weekend. So now we will be showing M*A*S*H on March 20th. This weekend instead we are presenting FUNHOUSE, a horror film, the setting of which is a funhouse at a circus.

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I would like to congratulate the SRC on all they accomplished at last Monday's meeting. At first I thought my ears were deceiving me when I heard some form of singing near the meeting's end. Perhaps they were auditioning individual councillors to provide us with some additional entertainment.

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Well the year is slowly drawing to a close, we can all see a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. With the end of the year drawing near so is our final issue. March 25th is when we will be publishing our final issue. The Friday after that is Good Friday and the next is the last day before exams. This makes it a little difficult to work on an issue.

The final issue will have the spoof in it so anyone who has any humourous story they would like to see printed drop them by the office. We would be more than happy to include them.

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The big controversy right now is the Payolas/Bopcats concert this Wednesday. This is the first entertainment our ten dollars has brought in. On top of this we have to pay an additional $7.50, making the grand total $17.50 a ticket. This may not be the case if CSL is able to bring in more groups before the end of the year. If they do manage to accomplish this then students will be getting a fair deal. If however, their plans fall through, the students of UNB will have been taken. Let's hope things work out.

soundoff

A great place to live

Dear Editor,

When I came to New Brunswick four years ago I envisioned the Maritimes to be poverty stricken and backward compared to the Montreal I grew up in. Oh how my feelings have changed! It is amazing to see how journalists in Quebec and Ontario put so much emphasis on "standard or living" and "umemployment statistics" when conjuring up the image of the Maritime provinces. The real truth of the matter is I believe the Maritimes has the highest "quality" of living in Canada. The rural, small town living has given the Maritimes a sense of pride and community not evident in any of Canada's Metropolitan areas. Agreed, the lack of industrialization and financial investment has retarded the economic growth of the Maritimes but it has also enabled the inhabitants to pull closer together and live a more wholesome, invigorating life. I find most Maritimers I meet have a stronger sense of family than I am accustomed to and a better understanding of the good life and the environment they live in.

Living in the big city has its motivating factors, a better chance for employment, a wider range of entertainment and, most importantly, a vertical social mobility; but it also is a breeding ground for stress, crime and dehumanization. Therefore, I believe the concept "standard of living" is misleading.

A young executive living in a 2 bedroom apartment in downtown Montreal may have 2 cars and financial stability but what quality of life does he have? He must deal with traffic jams, pollution and high blood pressure whereas a wood cutter from the Miramichi while dealing with lower pay and one car is able to come home from work and go hunting, fishing or walking 500 yards from his home. He knows who his neighbours are and is more homogenious with his environment. To me the important statistic is intangible and inexplicable, it is the bottom line in life and that is "who is happier?" Does money and the big city make you more happy than camaraderie and community? If I had never come here I know I would have survived and lived relatively happy in Montreal but the Maritime experience has taught me that you do not need the stressful environment of the city to be fulfilled. Happiness is more important than success and in general I find Maritimers happier and qualitative as opposed to quantitative. I am not condemning the city since most university graduates will end up there but I do believe Maritimers who do end up in cities will have a better sense of what's important in life and will be the first to knock on their neighbours door to say hello!

The final point I would like to make is that Maritimers should be proud of their area and the rest of Canada should look to the east as an example of community and "quality" living instead of Canada's lowly unemployment capital. I am proud to live in Fredericton and know if the time comes I will find it difficult to leave.

R. Hutchins
Arts IV

Information page is a right

Dear Editor,

As a regular reader of your newspaper, The Brunswickan, I have noticed how poor it has been lately. Not only has it been used as a vehicle for your personal vendettas against specific individuals on campus: especially Bosnitch and some other members of the SRC: but also you have allowed your staff to distort the facts of deliberations of the SRC. A case in point, in the last issue your reporter on the SRC failed to correclty state the number of motions passed, talk less of his negligence to mention the installation of more campus lighting. Furthermore, he also failed to inform the students about the commitment to provide more bus shelters, and to report on the election of deputy returning officers. We, the students, have every right to be informed about what goes on at the SRC and as such we need an Information Page. It is a deserved democratic right of the UNB students and it is time your paper stopped fighting this right.

Remi Ogunkeye

Bruns is a blemish

Dear Editor-in Chief:

It is public knowledge that the Brunswickan is an SRC funded venture. I have to ask why it spends so much valuable column space on the slander of the Student Party.

With the budget you presently have, the paper should be something more than the blemish that it presently is on the University. The Brunswickan is beginning to closely resemble the National Lampoon.

More column space should be used for ACCURATE reporting on the SRC meetings themselves and not on the trivial satire presently being portrayed as investigative reporting.

I can still remember when the Brunswickan was a NEWS paper.

Chris J. Vautour

Editor's Note: The deadline for Letters to the Editor is now Tuesday at 5 pm. All submissions must be printed or typed, double spaced and properly signed with ID number. Names will be witheld on request.