

EDITORIAL

R. Hutchins
Editor-in-Chief

The Price of Indifference

"Indifference may not wreck a man's life at any one turn, but it will destroy him with a kind of dry-rot in the long run..." These words were spoken by Bliss Carmen, a renowned Maritimer, writer, and poet. It is, through using these words, that I will begin this week's editorial.

A majority of students in our modern age are walking case histories of indifference; cynical, apathetic, and ultimately non-contributive, they bide time in our institutions of higher learning, motivated solely by a higher plane beyond university. But, what of those individuals who are contributive within our small community, members of the Student Council, the Brunswickan, CHSR, and countless organizations and clubs; where do they draw motivation and dedication from?

We are at a cross-roads in time, when volunteerism, the central philosophy that runs all student organizations, is being threatened. A recent rash of resignations on student council is a small but valuable indicator of a growing disillusionment within our university's clubs and organizations. Beyond the major time commitments involved in running volunteer groups, there is the added consideration of academic pressures, financial destitution and a shrinking body of support from fellow students. Taking all of these factors into consideration, it is obvious some changes are necessary if we are to continue our long tradition of strong clubs and organizations.

One key element that must be considered beyond all others is, of course, financial problems. Many students maintain part-time jobs that help supplement the high cost of student living; a volunteer has no such option. Since their time commitments are unpaid hours, they face added financial pressures, and ultimately hardship. What is happening in many of our organizations is an increase in man-hours from fewer and fewer individuals, indicating a lack of support and time given by others. If this continues, so too will the rash of resignations.

It is obvious that the free-time generations of the 1960's and 70's have all but disappeared. Today's students face a much tougher job market to crack, and thus are less willing to sacrifice academics for a volunteer position. It is, however, imperative that we strengthen our volunteer ideals if a quality life is to be continued at U.N.B.

Our University as an institution of higher learning has not made any sincere efforts to ease the burdens suffered by student volunteers. Honoraria for many key positions is a pittance sum considering the responsibilities entailed. As well, breaks on tuition are given to some, but far too few considering the dedication of time needed to run many groups. A small example of this lack of support can be found within the Brunswickan. The managing editor is by far the most demanding position on the Bruns; it entails year-in and year-out at least a 25-hour work week, and is ultimately the heart and soul of an efficient student newspaper. In return for this time and effort the managing editor receives an honoraria of \$200 per term and no break on tuition. If translated into a man-hours contribution by the university, this would mean roughly 25 cents per hour.

Although "volunteerism" means giving freely of your time, when major responsibilities are entailed is it worth failing out of university for, or starving yourself because there is no time for a part-time job? These considerations are obviously affecting the ultimate commitments of those involved. I have prepared a list of considerations that would help to ease some of the undue hardships faced by those who are giving of their time:

- 1) For those active in "running" volunteer groups and organizations, a three-credit hour credit to be given by the University as a bonus for "community involvement"; this would ease ever so slightly the time burden on students and help to show their involvement where it counts on their transcripts.
- 2) A complete overhaul of the honoraria system to better reflect the time commitments entailed in key positions. This would include an expanded number of breaks on tuition and higher financial incentives.
- 3) An increased sense of volunteerism on our campus is of primary concern; more students must contribute to ease the burdens suffered presently by the few.
- 4) A stronger encouragement from faculty and the administration as to the merits of volunteerism and a commitment to strong faculty clubs and organizations.
- 5) As a final point, since student volunteers for the most part work for students, a percentage of the costs entailed in increased honoraria should come from student council and our S.R.C. fees.

BOO!
BOO!
BOOO!
BOO!

by Calum Johnston
MANAGING EDITOR

MUGWUMP JOURNAL



I would like to use this opportunity to point out that last week's front page article on UNB Divestment was done because of the Brunswickan's concern over the possibility of UNB investing in companies dealing with South Africa. The opinions expressed by Timothy Lethbridge and other members of UNB's Board of Governors are not the opinions of either the Brunswickan or Pamela Johnson. Opinions expressed by someone interviewed in an article cannot in turn be attributed to the writer or the paper.

Are you concerned about wooded areas? Trees? Deer? On Tuesday, October 15, at 7:30pm there is a Fredericton City Council meeting and on the agenda is the possible rezoning of the Atkinson property. For those of you who don't know the property I'm talking about, it's the large fenced-in area on the corner of Montgomery and Regent that was recently sold and presumably, the new owner is hoping to make it more profitable. It's all forested and, at last report, there were deer on the property too. The re-zoning of this land would not only kill numerous trees (foresters, are you reading this?), and leave many deer and squirrels without a home, but making it into land for commercial use will lower the property values of the surrounding residential area.

If anyone is at all interested in keeping this property non-commercial they should attend the council meeting and speak their minds. I myself would much rather drive or walk by a park, a wooded area, or even suburban homes than another mini-mall that's half empty.

While I was in Montréal, I went to the McGill Daily offices on the McGill campus. Their campus is much like UNB's, only with more buildings, less trees, and alot less red brick. It was Friday afternoon and most people had finished their classes. On the fields were games of football, rugby, and baseball being played. Hundreds of students were lying on the sidelines, sitting under trees reading, or in a small group talking away about their plans for the weekend. Sound like UNB? Also, there were numerous opened cases of beer beside the groups of people on the fields, and under the trees. Heaven forbid open cases and bottles of 5% volume alcohol being consumed right before my eyes. Quickly, I began a closer investigation. Upon nearing the baseball players I saw a familiar face, Mario Dumas, a friend from Chateauguay Regional High School in Ormstown, I re-introduced myself and we talked for awhile. I asked him where the Daily offices were and as he turned to point in the direction I was to go, my hand leapt out, grabbed a beer, and I shouted "Thanks!" as I ambled off towards the Union Center which housed the Daily's offices. I did it. I had a beer in my possession, an open beer, and was about to consume it openly on campus. Slowly, hesitantly, I raised the bottle to my lips. The amber glass shone with reflected sunlight. "Aaaah." Wow. No lightning struck. The world is still there. My spine hasn't curved and my mind isn't warped (at least no more than normal).

I know the laws concerning alcohol are against this kind of practice in New Brunswick and that many prominent people frown upon it, too. I'm not trying to say that UNB should have the same laws, but I think the New Brunswick laws are too repressive or "conservative". Of course, no laws concerning campus alcohol consumption should be changed until the students themselves show that they could handle a little more responsibility, but as it stands now, there's no real chance that they will change the legislation, so most students don't give it a thought. There's nothing wrong with social drinking and I think if it can be opened up, or rather brought out into the open more instead of closed away the responsibility will also come into the open. I've noticed that anything one can't have is immediately desired and many times abused, but once freely gained is rarely even used.

End of sermon, until next week at least.