

The Brunswickan

Canada's oldest official student publication

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OPINION...

RAISE THE REFERENDUM

By DAVID S. GORHAM

We are fast approaching an election in this country. Two issues glare out at the unsuspecting voter from the political woods: Meech Lake, the new constitutional arrangement, which emerged from an elite midnight coffee club in the Langevin Block, and the Mulroney-Reagan Trade Deal, born of blarney and branch-plant incantations.

Neither issue will receive a fair hearing in the public halls of debate. Neither issue will have been more than superficially explored by the voters before ballot day. The election could easily hinge on the length of the Prime Minister's speeches or his chin, the staccato stutterings of John Turner and his restless party, or the colour of Ed Broadbent's tie.

The only way to decide either issue would be to hold a referendum on these radical initiatives and nuances of the so-called Free-Trade Deal, or of Meech Lake, will be largely drowned out by the television's portrayal of personality vested in the leaders, or in the negative and often irrelevant mudslinging of the campaigns.

Political mandates are myth. The Prime Minister declared before elected that there would be no trade deal. There was no mention of fundamental constitutional restructuring, save the meaningless platitudes of unity and the rhetoric of Quebec's re-embrace into Confederation.

Any party which attains power in this impending federal election, could quickly turn 180 degrees on vital policy and pursue policies entirely opposite to the ones on which they pledged their political souls. They can count on five long years to distance their promises from reality.

When we vote for our representatives, says American columnist George F. Will, "We decide who decides." The only problem with Will's democratic formula is that the politicians often decide to do the opposite of what people wish, often following the pressures or dictates of powerful elites. The lack of control over our representatives has become not a safeguard for democracy, but more frequently has become a detriment to every citizen's interest. This simple fact is why we should raise the referendum.

Blood and Thunder

The Obvious

Dear Editor:

Thanks once again, for proving to be a total disappointment. This has been the second time in this semester, that I have attempted to place something in your paper and failed to have it appear.

In fact, the most recent attempt was quite important to me (the first was a classified). I had even discussed with a few of the staff whether this particular piece of writing (sic). It was a question whether it should have gone under "Blood and Thunder" or something else. If there is some confusion (sic) about it, why wouldn't someone phone me? There is a reason for having to put ones id number and phone number isn't there?

I am certain that this should be placed under "Blood and Thunder" - that is if you put it in this time!

Thanks for Nothing
 Angry and Frustrated

Dear Editor:

OK, we've heard alot moanin' and groanin' about how the students have been staying away from Campus Entertainment events. Instead of blaming the students for poor attendance, why doesn't CE step back and take a different look at this problem.

Most of these no-name bands have been scheduled in the middle of the week or during mid-terms. I can't speak for everyone, but I'd rather pass my exams than go to see Corky and the Juice Pigs. The Chestnut Club offers the same caliber of bands every week, so if you want to attract more interest on campus, why not cut down on the number of concerts and try to bring in a band that at least some people have heard of. Who the hell are The Randy Peters?

CE says they can't get bands on the weekend and that is why we have them during the

week. Come on now, do you think rock bands take the weekends off?

Every student has a portion of their student fees taken out for the CE, so why not get a couple of good bands that we have heard of, and schedule them on the weekend so more people can attend.

Let's not worry about making a profit on these functions. Why not strive to break even on a great concert and let the no-name bands play at the Chestnut.

Gary Nason

RE: CLASSIFIED ADS

The truth is that we cannot guarantee that Classified Ads will go in the paper. Also it is hard to hold on to all of these ads, as some are written on itsy-bitsy pieces of paper. Others are not fit to be put in the paper. And some are not legible, while others make no sense what so ever.