

FEATURE PAGE

A PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT LOOKS AT UNB

(From a Senior Essay for Psychology)
By BILL HINE

Frustrations played a major part in causing the war just ended, and the war ended caused many of the frustrations with which the student body of the University of New Brunswick has to contend. For, believe me, the student body of UNB suffers from both frustration and maladjustment at this particular time. The search for college spirit has been a fruitless quest, meetings are scarcely attended at all, campus clubs are feeble in strength and insignificant in number when considered in proportion to the total student body.

There are several interfering factors with the harmony and cohesion of the student body. One is the range in age. We cannot expect married veterans to run about sporting red and black pennants and ribbons, nor can we expect them to throw any large part of their free time into extra-curricular activities. We cannot expect high school youngsters to effervesce with enthusiasm when their older classmates take college life dead seriously without recourse to collegiate play. But these are trifles in comparison with the major interference. Gentlemen, the major interference at UNB is women. There is either a) too many women at UNB or b) too few women at UNB. College spirit will be found when a) women are banned from the campus or b) women balance the men in numbers. Because of various social attitudes inherent in the student body at UNB, college spirit is frustrated, and students find many of their interests off the campus.

At a recent meeting of the Arts Society seven members turned up. Why did these seven turn up? Were the others all studying?

Of the 1,400 students at UNB less than 20 are in the debating society. It is not because the debaters are superior and that therefore others feel ineligible, nor is it that they are necessarily the most interested in debating that their numbers are so small. In the same way, the most imaginative and vigorous writers are not contributing to THE BRUNSWICKAN. THE BRUNSWICKAN suggests some 27 clubs clutter the campus and asks are they worthy of a separate existence?

The U-Y Club is functioning with a widening range of services and activities and an ever increasing rate of membership. There is no frustrating force, no interference, no women.

Similarly the Vets' Club has a unity and group spirit.

The SCM glides along as an enjoyable social gathering. About 50 frequent their sessions, many of whom are Teachers' College youngsters. However it does glide and does exist chiefly because there are as many girls as there are boys. Yet, when this group presented a discussion panel last year, only their president and the three speakers appeared on the scene and it wasn't that THE CAPITOL was particularly worthwhile that night.

The few of us who have witnessed any of the UNB football games have seen the expression of college spirit at its nadir. The cheer leaders, about eight boys and eight girls cheer frantically and eloquently in true collegiate style in support of their team. The boys in the bleachers smile sympathetically. They think: aren't they cute, but isn't it all so futile. For only the cheer leaders cheer.

When we come to any of the UNB dances, we find high attendance and enthusiasm. . . . until it is time to go home. Then those girls and those boys who must go home alone sense an interference, a frustration. Most often that experience is a feeling that they are being socially criticized for not going home with a partner. They tend to make themselves inconspicuous, they get home as fast as possible. Though Freud would undoubtedly place sex the chief reason, I don't hesitate to place the social attitude as the direct cause of frustration in this instance.

(Continued in Column 4 and 5).

Canadian Universities

A CUP FEATURE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

With the greatest registration in our history (6,700 including summer session, Calgary and Banff branches) the University of Alberta is operating with accommodations and staff twice those of pre-war times. Our faculties include: medicine, law, dentistry, education, applied science, arts and science, pharmacy, nursing, commerce, household economics and agriculture.

The great student increase is shown by the number of temporary buildings, mainly in the form of Quonset huts, which are being used as classrooms. Recently opened was

ing and another is under completion. A large foundation seen on the campus is that of the library-to-be, the original excavation of which — it says here—was begun by one of our profs who dropped a quarter on the grass. An impressive three-unit Students' Union Building is on blueprints and with the aid of a Provincial loan to be accepted by student vote (we hope) construction of the social unit should commence this year.

Resident life is enjoyed, or at least felt, by about four hundred and thirty (430) students in the three residences. Many more stay in the

affiliated colleges, St. Stephens and St. Josephs. But the majority of out-of-town students have attic rooms, or restaurant meals or landladies to contend with. An ultra-modern Nurses' Home is a new addition and a well-known spot of the campus. As in the Cafeteria, where about 1,200 meals are served daily. Twenty urns of coffee are consumed before ten o'clock every morning by students relaxing from gruelling eight o'clock classes.

Our proud boast is an extra-curricular activity to suit any interest, from cameras to co-eds. The Literary Association is comprised of the keenly supported Dramatic Society, which sponsors the interyear and interservice plays, technical crews and clubs; an excellent Ballet Club; debating and public-speaking clubs; the Radio Directorate; poli-sci. and social service clubs and the International Relations Clubs. Under the Musical Association we have a one hundred and thirty (130) voice Mixed Chorus, a fifty (50) piece symphony orchestra and a Varsity band. Faculty and school clubs usually enjoy 100 per cent membership. They provide much of the social life with annual banquets and formals. Staunchly supported on the campus are the SCM, IVCF, and Newman Club. The Wauneta tribe is composed of all the women of U. of A.

There is plenty of scope for budding journalists on the staff of the bi-weekly newspaper, "The Gateway." Our year book, the "Evergreen and Gold," has long been recognized as one of the best on the continent. Something new this term, is a quarterly magazine, "Stet," made up solely of contributions. For the enlightenment of the student mind, we have a daily sheet "Alarm," a handbook and constitution, and most invaluable of all, the phone directory!

Athletics at U. of A., never unimportant, are now of prime interest to most students as a result of enthusiastic participants and good coaches, who, under the direction of the University Athletic Board, brought home a satisfying number of trophies last year. "Big time" football came to U. of A. in the fall with the Golden Bears tangling with Montana School of Mines, Montana State Normal, U. of Toronto and Saskatchewan. Hockey, basketball, volleyball and badminton are popular interfac competition. Soccer is the newest sports of the campus. Annual tournaments and meets are held in swimming, tennis, track and golf. Wrestling, boxing, tumbling, archery, fencing and riflery enthusiasts find satisfying competition here. The Varsity Rink is a frequented spot this winter with instructors around to give skating lessons to all who want them. The huge membership of the Outdoor Club indicates the number of skiing and tobogganing fans on the campus. (Another attraction of the Club could be the cabin with its fireplace and hot coffee awaiting returning sportsmen!)

Half of Varsity's fallst social calendar has now been chalked off. Frosh Introduction Week with its snake dance snarling up Edmonton's traffic. . . football parade and the Alumni Homecoming. . . I.R.C.'s presentation of columnist Dorothy Thompson. . . class proms and house dance. . . Waunetas' Waw-Waw Week-end when the men ran for safety and all professors were escorted on Truck dates (on class

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(Continued from Column 1 and 2)

Similar social attitudes have caused interference or frustration with regards to college spirit at UNB. The student body is mentally maladjusted and unhealthy. An important attitude prevalent at this time is that one should attend as few meetings as possible. This is directly the fault of the Co-Eds. If there were no Co-Eds, meetings would be well attended and interest high, as does occur at U-Y meetings, or if there were more women, attendance would increase correspondingly as our SCM example shows SCM meetings at Mount Allison have registered close to a thousand, and average 150.

One should attend as few meetings as possible. One has more important things to do, that is, either one is studying or is socially engaged. To attend a meeting is to admit not having a social engagement. Lucky Mr. Spencer of THE GAIETY, for most of us rationalize by going to his theatre. We ignore all meetings, despite the urgency of appeals by presidents and posters. The interference is the proportion of women to men. A mixed meeting tends to become a social group in college circles and as such is doomed to failure at UNB. Let us look closer.

The meeting groups on the campus are small. They are run by the self-sacrificing "mighty minority," who gallantly give of their time to maintain what organization does exist. Why are they mighty? They are mighty because their plans have the opposition of a disorganized and an un-united student body, or else no opposition at all. Why are they a minority? Because the group of leaders who do attend have by the fact of their being leaders, proven themselves successful on the campus. They are a group of boys and girls who know one another, and form a social group. When others do attend they learn: 1) that these "leaders" are the successful personalities of the campus 2) that these "successful personalities" have taken control and are keeping control of the few women present, which is made easy for them by the fact that they already know them, and that because the meeting is not labelled a social one, introductions are eliminated 3) that the women are quite elated to receive the attention of these leaders 4) that the meeting is basically a social one, though not officially recognized as such 5) that to be present and not to be within the leading circle is to be an outsider, and an unsuccessful campus personality. Rather than be in this undesired position, it is more comfortable to rationalize, and not be present. One can point out for instance the lack of purpose of the Arts Society. Careful observation would show that the basic purpose of the Arts Society is a social function.

This code prevades the UNB campus. At football the cheer leaders cheer, the mighty minority again with the "successful personalities" participating. Instead of creating college spirit, they make a we-they distinction which increases the gulf. Buying uniforms for these few girls will not change a social attitude, nor will a college band or newspaper. More girls in the university would create the we-spirit that exists in other mixed universities, or no girls would destroy the we-spirit that exists at UNB. UNB is frustrated because there is no majority, but the unfortunate condition of the "mighty minority."

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