

Greetings and salutations, everyone! Yes indeed, I'm back again. I have been inspired once again to write this ol' column and I know everyone out there has been eagerly awaiting for my resurrection from the . . . blues.

No, I haven't been myself lately. I returned from the National Canadian University Press Conference [CUP no. 39] in Vancouver early in the month. Upon seeing the first issue, I lost considerable interest in the paper as a whole. It's not the people -- it's the damn institution. Think of all the tradition this place holds. There are so many things that are confusing me at this point in time. I'm not sure I can explain it or not. This is a trying experience for me.

What I think I'm trying to say is this: The environment that I'm in right now does not please me in the least. [And why should you the reader, care?] Well, I think that how I feel is important to you. I am supposed to be a "leader" of sorts. I'm the number one person in this particular organisation, and I get to gamble with approximately \$40,000 of your money. So I feel I should make a report to the students in general. After all, it is YOUR money that "student leaders" spend. And how I feel about this organisation more or less determines how your money gets spent. So here goes!

When I first became editor, I felt for certain that the job would be fun. No argument. It's been great! The people around here are a lot of fun to be with.

The first real thing I did for the Brunswickan was to come up with a good budget. Pretty good. Fair. Not a dollar was wasted. The Brunswickan now enjoys a fairly full production procedure. Actual physical work around here has become simpler. . . thanks to a lot of machinery that we were able to buy due to the generosity of the students.

Yes, we get to spend lots of money. And I would think that that would solve loads of time-consuming work. Ah! If money could simply solve problems. Well, folks, I'm sorry to say that that isn't the case!

This year, this organisation has had more problems that it could possibly handle. The problem is not apathy, or any such thing. The problem is the environment. You know, the one I don't like! That's where the problems start.

The environment [and I don't mean the weather] here calls for very middle-of-the-road attitudes, if not totally reactionary. I'll give you an example: We've had quite a few calls this past week from several people displaying their disgust with a cartoon that appeared in last week's issue. The cartoon strip in question contained a word that many, including myself and the author of the strip, find offensive. That word is "nigger". The reason the author had signed the strip with just an initial was the he simply didn't like it. Not because of the word, but because he simply did not like the thing as a whole. But because of the lack of time to do something different, I decided to go ahead with the strip.

I thought nothing of it. It appeared to me that the author [Bev Hills, by the way, was the author . . . and I'm sure he won't mind my giving the name . . . under the circumstances . . . er . . . environment] had said something very true -- something valid.

The word, people, is not meant to be derogatory towards any race. The word was meant to be derogatory to everyone in this area. We, the students of UNB are niggers. We are all in an "environment" that calls for servitude under the elite. The elite are those who use OUR money to manipulate US.

So this is my statement on the "cartoon strip issue". I state truly and honestly that the strip was not a malicious comment directed to any race, color or creed of people. I am only sorry that people took it out of its intended context. If one would THINK about what was said in the strip, they might realize its meaning. If you're still foggy, I will recommend that you hunt up an article that the Brunswickan ran last academic year, entitled "Student as Nigger". This essay was written over 10 years ago by a man named Jerry Farber. It is as controversial now as it had been then. I would suggest that each and every person even associated with the wheels of education [students, teachers, administrators, etc] read it. Maybe it will do some good.

I realise, as I type this, that I'm running up too much copy. So what I think I'll do is simply cut off here, and hopefully continue in the same vein next week.

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Special thanks to Bev for filling in on this column . . . and just for being around.

Hello, Gene . . . I got your pipe . . . you forgot it in Vancouver. I'll get it to you in February.

Wants explanation

## Staff Funnies not so funny

Dear Editor:

I would like to draw your attention to the section that appeared at the bottom of page 19 of the January 14 issue of the Brunswickan entitled "Staff Funnies by H".

My friends and I came upon that particular section while reading the Brunswickan, and not only were we unable to find the humour, but we could not see the point the writer was trying to "make".

To us, it seemed like somebody was trying to describe a student, but when the description ended with "you too can be a nigger" we were totally baffled.

If I'm not asking for too much, I would like somebody to explain the equating of a student and a "nigger". To my knowledge "nigger" is a derogatory term used

to describe blacks, who for one reason or another, find themselves in the western world.

Thus, I could not understand the use of the term in a newspaper published in this day and age, by the students of the University of

New Brunswick, an institution of higher education.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,  
Felix Gregoire

## Thanks a whole lot

I would like to publicly thank two people. First I'd like to thank the asshole who stole my coat from Jones House Locker on January 7. It wasn't enough that the coat was new, expensive and a present, but there was a walk home late at night in sub-zero weather. You may laugh now but be careful who you tell your funny little story to.

Secondly, I'd like to sincerely thank a young lady by the name

of Lynn who found the coat in a snowbank along the side of the road. She worked hard to clean it up and went out of her way to find the owner. You can't imagine how much this was appreciated!

It is too bad I have to thank her in the same letter as the asshole, because she deserves more than that. Again, thanks to both people in the proper perspective.

Signed,  
Appreciated

## Best not impressed

### Voices concern about vested interests

Dear Editor:

Election time has rolled around again and as usual, there is a slate composed of little more than a bunch of fools who wish to serve their own needs, not those of the students.

Not to say that there are no decent candidates for several positions. Overall, the ballot will be composed of self-serving individuals who wish to gain some measure of importance from being on the SRC.

The last SRC was the first in recent years to have no empty seats. That does not mean that apathy no longer exists on the council. That council was one of the worst that has been in effect over the last four years. It accomplished virtually nothing.

There is one group that says it wishes to serve the students needs, namely the IVCF. The group is probably the most conservative faction on this campus.

The Brunswickan does not mean to be anti-religious but at the same time it is unwilling to put up with a very status quo oriented group, which will allow the administration to get away with unnecessary increases and the like.

Perhaps it has been the individuals on council who belong to the IVCF who have done nothing and it is possible that they do not receive any direction from one of the largest societies on campus. However, one rarely bites the hand that feeds it or in this case that elects it.

There are also other self-serving types on the council. These include

those individuals who are also filling the capacity of executives of other clubs and associations.

Hopefully The Brunswickan will not be singled out as racist for naming the African Society and the Overseas Chinese group. Some of these people are in executive positions on council and it is very evident that they have done little for the remainder of the students.

When election day does come around, you, the electorate should not vote for a person simply because he/she is nice or because

they have a pile of posters plastered all over the campus. The persons running should have their motives and attributes reviewed.

In any democratic society, it is the responsibility of the people to elect, as their representatives, persons who will serve all of that society. If you feel on election day that there are no responsible candidates, do not vote. After all it is an election, not a personality contest.

Respectfully,  
Tom Best

## Challenges M-L'ers

Open Letter To The Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)

Gentlepersons:

I herewith challenge any of you to voice an opinion in this journal about the recent events in the People's Republic of China (i.e. the right-wing shift from Mao's policies and purge of the CCP's left-wing).

I am concerned about the future of the Third World and realize China has a great deal of effect on that future. I have voiced my opinion that Hua Kuo-feng is going directly against Mao's line of balance between left and moderate forces in the Communist Party.

As a democratic socialist I am completely turned off by the "Maoists" of the CPC(M-L) who act more like a fanatical sect akin to

those who carry out inquisitions, purges, pogroms, witch-hunts and other causes of human misery and degradation rather than a progressive force for human liberation. I don't believe an M-L'er has the intellectual spine to voice an opinion on this matter til the "official line" comes from Peking. Mao's greatest achievement was to "leave Lenin and Marx in the library" and analyse his own environment. Mao, I'm sure, would get sick at any Canadian worshipping him.

Human liberation can never be achieved by mindless slogans and narrow minds. Liberation will only come when humankind has evolved to the stage when we are all "our brother's keeper."

In Solidarity with people, not puppets,  
Gerry Laskey

**'The university is composed of faculty, students, books and ideas. In the literal sense, the administration is merely there to make sure the sidewalks are kept clean....'**  
--Berkeley Free Student Movement