

Editorial

Another Holy War?

Once again the banner of Puritanism is flying over the bulwarks of the Fredericton Gleaner. The cause for which the Gleaner forces have been rallied this time is censorship, that is, verbal censorship of the Prime Minister of Canada. The parapets of the press are manned by stout and loyal advocates of controlling the PM's language. They propose to repel the enemy (or at least his language) with a frontal attack by the Speaker of the House, or failing this, to entrap him by a pincer-like movement of cabinet and caucus. What foe would carry an attack against such strategy?

But let us leave such Holy War tactics to the Middle Ages and the Gleaner. In a modern society such as ours, is there really such a need for censorship, in any form? Surely not. Regardless of whether Mr. Trudeau said "fuddle-duddle" or "fuck off", neither merits censorship. At the most, our PM is guilty, and I would question this accusation further, of using what for years has been called "slang". Slang is the body of words and expressions frequently used by or intelligible to a rather large portion of the general public, but not accepted as good, formal usage by the majority (1). If one wanted to more effectively place Mr. Trudeau's "slang" term, one need only look under the sub-heading "cant", which is defined as the conversational, familiar idiom used and generally understood only by members of a specific occupation, trade, profession, sect, class, age group, interest

"To speak his thoughts is every freeman's right,

In peace and war, in council and in fight."

- Homer

group, or other sub-group of a culture (2). Surely we shouldn't censor a person for speaking the language of his group. Every member of this nation's younger generation surely knows the meaning of Mr. Trudeau's term, it being a common "cant" term of everyday life for them. Would we then censor a man for speaking the language of any group, even if it be only that of our nation's youth? We should be proud that we possess a Prime Minister who can bridge the generation gap and speak the language of our young people. There is no reason to avoid any useful, explicit word merely because it is labeled "slang" (3). Certainly Canada does not suf-

fer from the malady of "snobbishness" that we will decide the use of words simply on the basis of whether they are "standard" or "slang". First and forever, language is language, an attempt at communication and self-expression (4). It stands clearly then that a word is neither "clean" nor "dirty" in itself or in its usage. Just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so obscenity (verbal) is in the ear of the listener.

(1)-(4) Dictionary of American Slang, Wentworth and Flexner, Thomas Y. Crowell Co. N.Y. 1966 Introduction.

feedback feedback feedback feedback feedback

Dear Sir:

The kitchen of Lady Dunn Hall was the scene of a near-serious accident last Sunday evening. It was about 6 pm when one of the main dishwasher's hot water pipe burst, scalding one of the dish-room employees. Fortunately it was not serious, but it could have been. The pipe had been leaking for most of the day; the immediate supervisor informed, but nothing was done.

In all the time I have been working for Versafood, I have not once witnessed any preventative maintenance being carried out on their equipment. There are gas lines, steam and hot water pipes which should be inspected at least every six months for weak joints and potential leaks. At

present nothing is maintained until it breaks or is almost completely non-operative.

Must we, as Versafood employees, suffer the consequences of such negligence? What will CUPE do to protect its members (working for Versafood?)

One thing is for sure - something must be done and very soon.

A Versafood Employee
(Lady Dunn Hall)

Dear Sir:

The Academic and Campus Planning Committee has recommended to the Senate,

"The establishment of first class communication links between the Fredericton and Saint John campus is urged. For the transmission of information "Telex" communica-

tion is recommended. For travel between the two places the alternatives of a daily mini-bus service and a daily passenger helicopter service are instanced."

Communication between the 2 campuses should be improved; but one has to do this with-in reason. A "Telex" communication would be useful in the transmission information between Fredericton and Saint John.

The mini-bus service maybe the answer to the travel problem. But at the Senate meeting last Feb 16 the cost of such a daily service was not mentioned.

If the Academic and Campus Planning Committee really wants a mini-bus Service. It could have the University print up a card for the travelling professors saying "This is a

Mini-Bus" and at the same time cut cost. By the way what is wrong with the Public Bus System?

As for the Daily passenger helicopter service, the Academic and Campus Planning Committee have dreams of a millionaire and the pocket-book of a Popper. They surely did not mean to recommend such a service before looking into the economic factors. Maybe they think UNB should be the first University in Canada to have a Helicopter Service. I am sure we need more things at UNB than a couple of helicopters.

Student Senators speak-up at the Senate meetings, the Students have a say in these issues.

Tom Evans

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding the ad placed by the administration (Board of Deans) on page 14 of your Feb. 16th issue. It reminded students on this campus that the administration is both capable and supposedly justified in taking legal action against damages to its property.

At any institution there is usually some form of damage to property through misdoings by students. Since the institution itself supposedly exists for the benefit of students, those same students are usually allowed an opportunity to morally and financially issue recompense without the necessity of legal action. Many such cases of the past have been settled informally.

One of the functions of our Student Representative Council is to offer some form of representation to the admin-

istration in such cases. In the perspective of damage against university property, this year our SRC has allowed student offenders little representation in the issuance of informal recompense. The Student Discipline Committee exists to determine responsibility for damage offenses. It is also capable of issuing fines and costs to responsible parties - without the necessity of fingerprinting and the stigmata of criminal record. Things can possibly be settled without the necessity of formal legal paraphernalia.

Why then has the SDC not convened to settle various offenses which exist. Perhaps one reason for the administrations serving the notice of prosecution is because the SDC has been defunct this year. Mr. Poore undoubtedly has some house-cleaning to do. One of the things which should receive immediate attention is the accumulation of cases before our SDC which should be processed - for both the security of the student and the institution (sic?) with which we find ourselves involved.

The notice itself should not be allowed to escape comment. Students as educated members of society are aware of such things as criminal records - fingerprinting, authority, power and totalitarian methodology in enforcing authority. They have had to be successful in a bureaucratic system of education. Needless exercise of power is obvious folly.

The ad said: "For most of you this notice is unnecessary. One reason for it is to protect your interests."

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BRUNSWICKAN

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