

Brunswickan



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SRC ELECTION

Nominations close tomorrow for the annual Students' Representative Council election. Voting takes place on Feb. 25.

There is only a little time left for interested students to file their nomination papers. But for anyone truly wishing to offer for election, the hurry should be no hardship.

Serving on the SRC offers a student a chance to represent the interest of his fellows and to equip himself for later leadership in the community at large. It's a job that should attract the most able students, but far too often the candidates lack the adult qualities so necessary in leaders.

The SRC is no place for narrow minds and narrow interests; no place for mere social-climbers, people who speak not for the students, but only for themselves. The students require representatives who can forgo the short-run profit for long-run gain.

The students have a duty to vote wisely, and to make the election more than a popularity contest. But they cannot name suitable representatives unless well-qualified candidates stand before them.

We hear much nonsense about it not mattering how people vote — as long as they do. Unfortunately more and more people stay away from the polls for a very good reason: they have lost faith in the calibre and intentions of the people who seek office.

We hope that UNB students will not have to make such a decision.

Films On Commonwealth Open To All Students

UNB students and other interested parties have an opportunity to see a series of 13 films on contemporary problems within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The invitation was made this week by Prof. J. K. Chapman, who arranged for the films in conjunction with his classes in Commonwealth history.

The first two films will be shown Monday in the National Film Board theatre in the Federal Building, Queen Street. They are "Ten Days That Shook the Commonwealth: the Suez Affair", and "Portrait of the Family", a survey of nine member countries. Showtime is 7.30 p.m.

Other screenings are scheduled for Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 23, and Apr. 6.

The films produced by the NFB and narrated by Prof. Edgar McInnis of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, were originally shown on television by the CBC. Each is a half-hour long.



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Letters to the Editor

Winter Carnival

Sir: First of all, may I congratulate you . . . on the calmness with which you handled Western's big threat last fall.

There is, however, one thing in your issue for Jan. 30, which has bothered and perplexed me, and that is the stupid and unwarranted criticism of the Winter Carnival Committee.

These anonymous critics are indeed very small and serve no useful purpose except to raise a row. Since I am, in part, responsible for the make-up of the Committee, I would like to defend it, as well as to straighten a few misguided and ignorant minds. These people know not of what they talk, and are unwilling to find out for themselves.

A brief history of the Carnival and the Committee will help to justify these features of life at UNB.

In the fall of 1955 an open meeting was called by Dick Hale, then president of the SRC, and B. F. Macaulay, then business manager of the University, to discuss the possibility and feasibility of organizing a winter carnival. Less than five people showed up.

About a month later two of us volunteered to organize a Winter Carnival Committee with the objective of presenting a Winter Carnival to the University, Fredericton and, indeed, the Maritimes. The SRC accepted our application on the condition that we would be relatively independent with respect to policy and finances. We were not, however, completely independent from the SRC, and this is only natural. At any time the president of the SRC could sit in on the Committees; our finances were open to SRC scrutiny; the appointment of the Committee Chairman had to be ratified by the SRC, and indeed, the Committee owed its existence to the Council. However, if we failed, it was our responsibility, not Council's.

This, then, was an experiment. As to the composition of the Committee, who else could we choose but those people we knew could be depended upon to do a good job? It being impossible for these people to do everything, they in turn chose as assistant chairmen those individuals they knew would do what was expected of them. These people had to be accepted by the majority of the Chairmen. We could, then, not risk asking people we didn't know to serve in these key positions. However, we gave ample opportunity for people to serve on these committees by asking interested individuals to turn out to the many meetings held for this purpose, but no one showed up.

Thus, time being an important factor, the committee chose its own members. We knew from experience that the job was our's and that there was little outside interest. The Committee has carried on in this tradition with the beneficial fact that any of the assistant chairmen could become Chairman and thus give continuity to the Committee. The Committee of any one year elects the Chairman for the coming year, and he is usually a member, but he does not have to be. (It is only common sense that he should be.) This election is then ratified by the SRC, but again that group does not have to accept the Committee's choice. Thus, the students have a say through their SRC representatives.

The Winter Carnival Committee is thus set up and proceeds to formulate and organize plans with much discussion. When the plans are made final, the Committee has provided the opportunity for other people to engage in the Carnival. The Committee is by no means a mystical, political group of egotists. It is an efficient, hard-working group under the auspices of the SRC. The members work for neither fee nor prestige, but only for the satisfaction of a job well done.

Surely, the students do not want to kill the goose that has laid the golden egg. Why don't they get behind the Committee and help it?

There are many ways in which students may help to make the Carnival a success. It is obvious that everyone cannot serve on the Committee. Have UNB students not heard of Parkinson's "co-efficient of inefficiency"? The Com-

mittee provides the students as a group or as individuals the challenge to build the best float or snow sculpture, and to participate in various other events. The success of the Carnival depends, in a great part, on mass participation.

Those who complain tend to do nothing, for if they did something they would not complain. Constructive criticism is a good thing, but trash of the sort I have just read is an undue display of ignorance.

Sincerely,
 BILL RAY

(Editor's Note: Mr. Ray, now a student at the University of Western Ontario, graduated from UNB last May. He was president of the SRC in 1957-8.)

En Masse

Sir: Conformity is inevitable. I read the same newspaper as you do. I form the obvious conclusions I am expected to make when introduced to certain "information". Since it does not matter where we obtain our information, the likelihood of our views differing is not great, and the public opinion is in the hands of the journalists.

The opposition in government, the honored Liberal Party, ceaselessly complains about the government party withholding information about the new budget expenditure. The government was adamant in its strategy, taciturn in matters of importance, and exceedingly loquacious on matters that were not. The journalist can do no more than sit and listen to the prattle of House ceremony. And when he is given the opportunity to write anything at all, it's to report a considerable increase, as a matter of fact, he will say, millions beyond anything yet recorded in the history of Canada, and the Opposition has been helpless to do anything about it. The journalist can, if he wishes, draw out words of alarm — which in a private enterprise economy is dangerous — or write worshipfully of the Conservatives who have been a little less cautious than their party name would lead us to suppose. (Perhaps party names mean nothing at all.)

We conform — we conformed

at the pools, didn't we? And did you not write suggesting, Mr. Editor, in your squashing remarks last time, that we must question the values of society. You agree they are questionable? And do you suggest we resist mass-conformity? I maintain we are passive, impotent, voiceless — birds of a feather that are flocking together — it's more SECURE that way in an age of drugged inertia. We could not lift a hand to stop a war, and none of us could do differently than to enter it if it began.

D. BAZLEY

(Editor's note: Conformity may well be "inevitable", but Mr. Bazley is, we think, quite unlike our other conformist readers. He writes letters to the editor, even if only to protest that it is hopeless to plead for individual judgment of the values and demands of society.

(This time, he also suggests that "we could not lift a hand" to prevent an approaching war. That we would not is probably, though unfortunately, true. But that we could not is, we hope, a much different question.

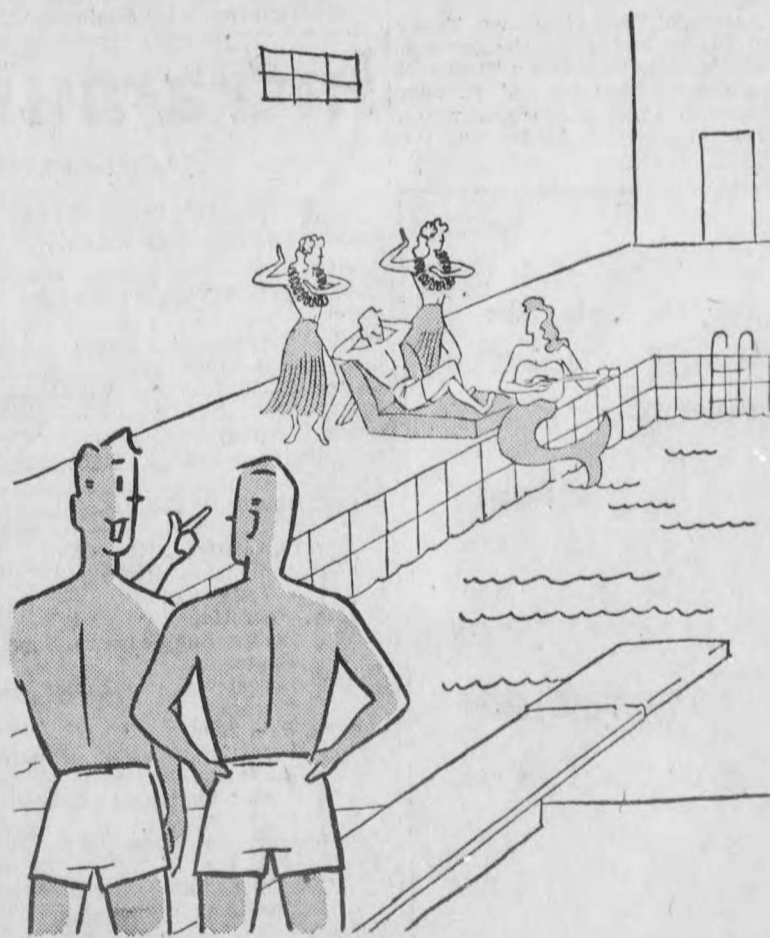
(People tend to accept any system that works: they seem unwilling to demand that it work well. Yet the time is past when such indiscreet acceptance is possible. The unprecedented dangers of an atomic war have ruled it out. People must have sufficient courage not to conform with past history just because that's the way things have always been. They must at least make that individual decision to cry: "no — we've had enough". If they don't, they must someday perish.

(Mr. Bazley suggests that people conform to find security. But is it not security itself that conformity now threatens?

(He also hints that journalists exercise complete control over public opinion. That devil theory is very popular among the defeatist cult, and we personally find it flattering. But it's hardly true, as indicated by the monumental failures of The Daily Express and The Chicago Tribune.

(The journalist's only duty is to present a clear and true picture of

(Continued on page 4)



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