

Sociology explained

By FELIX KOFIE
Brunswickan Staff

For many first year students, or even other students who have to take sociology as an elective, the course is nothing other than a bore. The truth remains that most of these students have little knowledge of what sociology has to offer them as individuals, and the society they live in. My effort at this juncture, as a dedicated student of sociology, is to explain, to the best of my knowledge, what sociology is. I would define sociology as one branch of the social sciences that studies society. Society is made up of cultures of various sorts and thus the behavior, norms and values of people in each culture vary. However, since society is dynamic, it is subject to change. The advancement of science and technology, as well as human development, bring changes to our cultural institutions. Nevertheless, society seems to maintain and balance itself to prevent chaos and anarchy, through socialization -- the process by which cultural values are acquired or inherited from one generation to another. Society therefore is a process which seems to take on a 'personality' of its own. What sociology aims at then, is the study of how society is made possible, wherever people are present,

irrespective of their race, colour, age, sex, values and beliefs.

Sociological studies become complex as the sociologist goes beyond the mere observation of human groups. Human society can be compared to a colony of termites in an ant hill. The colony embodies the social structure and also the system which makes the colony viable. Sociology studies what makes our social structure and social system; why that particular social structure and system prevail; who are the makers of the social structures; and by what means the social structures are established. Sociology, in my view, is a critical social science which seeks to know, (if possible) and to understand, the components or the cross-section of society. Sociology is therefore split into specific sections to make sociological studies possible. Today, sociology studies crime, work and leisure, women, groups, inter-personal relations, politics, education, population, to mention but few. Each of these studies is unique but overlaps the others because of you and I -- us, as people.

Sociology, then, tells us about ourselves and the world we live in. As people, we are social beings who communicate and interact in any social setting, be it in the church, school, board

meetings, gambling, or shopping. However, in every social setting we react differently in accordance with our previous socialization and the constraints it places upon us. For example, a visitor would ask for the location of the washroom, instead of urinating behind a car, and the young African lad would bow to the tribal village Chief instead of turning his back on him. Sociology tells us that we have inherited social norms and values which make us do things that are expected of us (although some people do deviate). These social values and norms, therefore, serve as our 'natural police' or 'controllers' which make us behave and act by institution. However, some of our social values and norms and our consequent behaviours might not be accepted in other societies because there they would appear bizarre. For instance, the sign of hitch-hiking -- a pointing thumb -- is well understood and accepted in Canada, but in Ghana, West Africa, thumbing is a symbol of an outright insult. Sociology tells us that because we have our own cultural norms and values which we cherish, we therefore tend to judge people of other cultures in relation to our own. Our preconceived ideas and misconceptions are due to the fact that we know little about the world we live in. We live in a society and a world of our own making -- a process which was before us and now will be after us.

forestry news

By GIZZ

Well, I'm back again. First of all, I think I must apologize for not writing a column last week. I was very perturbed at the *Brunswickan* for not helping to publicize the Woodmen's Competition and the Hammerfest. Add to that the accidents and editor's privilege which managed to hack all of my previous submissions. I'd had enough. However, Arthur and I have mellowed out.

But let's get back to some real forestry news. The 17th annual Woodmen's Competition went off without a flaw this year; tons of thanks going out to Carla Rufields. Even the weather was excellent. UNB "A" walked away with top honours, winning the fell and twitch, swede saw, cross cut saw, splitting, and log decking events, for a total of 1230.5 points. University of Maine "A", and MacDonald College "A" were second and third respectively, followed by UNB. "B" who came fourth. The UNB Women's team placed 14th overall.

Hammerfest was a great success; everyone survived - at least we didn't find any dead bodies when we cleaned up. There were the usual fire walkers and tree climbers. Oh well, something to do.

Shawn, Rick, Johnny and Brian cooked some excellent chili for Sunday afternoon, and my main man, Brent, was there with some refreshments.

Tuesday's Great Debate was very well attended, thanks to Dr. Baskerville, the panelists and all those who came out.

Faculty night was a good time, despite the poor student turnout. What can we do when our profs load us down with midterms? (i.e. Powell's Woodtech, Plant's Economics, etc.)

It sure was nice to see all the foresters and their dates dressed up for the Bushman's Ball. Rita and Brent were awarded Doe and Bull of the woods for top female and male scores. We'd like to thank Monsignor Boyd Centre and the Hawks for a fine evening.

Derek Quann and 4th year deserve a hand for the Hallowe'en Pub in the SUB cafeteria which rounded out Forestry Week quite well.

Thanks to everyone for their participation in a very successful Forestry Week '82.

Campus Recruitment

Week of November 8th:

Monday, November 8, 1982:

Maritime Tel and Tel will be interviewing preselected candidates.

Mitel Corp. - Application for deadline for graduates in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Noranda - Application deadline for Chemical (Metallurgical), Electrical, Mechanical Engineering and Mining Graduates.

Wednesday, November 10, 1982:

Peter Kiewit will be interviewing preselected candidates.

Friday, November 12, 1982:

Chevron Standard will be interviewing preselected candidates.

Digital Equipment will be interviewing preselected candidates.

AMOCO will be interviewing preselected candidates for Geophysics.

For further details on the above, please contact: The Canada Employment Centre on Campus, Room 3, Annex B.

Campus was quiet

By DAVID MOGILEVSKY
Brunswickan Staff

The students of UNB should be congratulated on their excellent behavior on Hallowe'en. For the past ten years, there has been less and less damage on the campus and this year was no exception. This Hallowe'en was excellent for the security department.

One reason why this year was especially quiet was because October 31 was on a Sunday. There were extra-security officers and ten cam-

pus policemen on duty that night. This is the usual practice for Hallowe'en. Even though there was a lot of traffic on the campus that night no accidents were reported.



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Business has wine and cheese

By BRENDA LANIGAN

The Business Society sponsored a Wine and Cheese Social on October 28 in Room 26 of the Student Union Building. Approximately 60 persons attended including 15 professors, and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

The wine and cheese, provided by the Business Society, was met with great approval especially by one professor who ought to know that wine is made by squeezing grapes, not empty plastic bags.

The Business Society plans future events along this line and encourages students to attend.