

editorial

Three cheers for the engineers!

As traditions waft and wane and fall by the wayside, caused either by the bureaucratic ax or the recent popularity of apathy, UNB becomes increasingly a blank hole in the annals of history.

Yet there appears to be one lone wolf that lives on to titillate the herds of sheep roaming the grasses of campus hill. One remaining tradition that sparks the festuring silence - Engineering Week.

What other brave tradition could possibly inspire a crowd of 3,000 onlookers to view absolutely nothing? Lady Godiva did not make her scheduled ride up the campus hill this year. But the dedication to engineering frivolity many expressed in forfeiting classes and valuable study time was obvious. There appears to be no rational appeal, no particular justification behind the longevity and strength of engineering traditions. There is no specific fund raising or charity objective. Just a desire to have a hell of a lot of ludicrous fun. Perhaps then, that is the only key of the success of the week-long festivities.

Yet, why cannot other university elements inspire such loyalty among their own ranks as the engineers are able to do? What is it about this group that allows them such privileged latitude to guarantee the continuity of a successful tradition?

The winter carnival last year was an excellent example of voluntary withdrawal from student activities. Photographs from years gone by indicate this was once a thriving and bustling event. Snow sculptures were magnificent artistic endeavours. Last year the

snow lay virtually flat and unattended by artists' hands.

The lack of voter turnout for student elections, considered by many to be a necessary tradition is further evidence of apathy. If one is ever foolish enough to work at the polling booths, one will recognize how difficult it is to beg the passing bodies to express interest and vote.

Frosh week still maintains a degree of boisterous enthusiasm. Yet the students involved are fresh out of high school, not yet initiated into the conformity of ostrich behavior. They will soon either join the ranks of care-not-want-nots, or the ranks of those who do wish to be involved but have nothing to vent their talents through.

Yes, the bureaucratic ax

has fallen in most destructive slices. Residence bars have been shut down, ending the various traditional gatherings of card players and joke tellers. The Art Centre lies under a dark cloud of being chopped from the university budget. The football team no longer evokes cheers or moans from the field.

Where is this university heading? Will we be able to stop the regression into a void of inactivity. Let us hope engineering week can instill a growing faith in the necessary rejuvenation of campus tradition and good old-fashioned fun. We do not understand how they do it, but one believes the secret ingredient to their success will continue to flavour campus life for years to come. Three cheers for the engineers!

