

Monkey business at forum

By JOHN HAMILTON
Brunswickan Staff

Students gathering in the SUB Blue Lounge Wednesday to observe the presidential forum were in for a surprise when a mysterious visitor showed up wearing a gorilla mask and ape-like gloves.

Although presidential candidate Kevin Ratcliff was present at the forum, Eugene Chown, the other candidate for the position, did not appear to be in attendance.

The disguised candidate was overheard identifying himself to a group of girls as Eugene Chown, although he would not confirm this with forum organizers from *The Brunswickan* and CHSR.

The "ape" refused to remove the mask and passed out bananas to students and members of the campus media.

Gordon Loane, managing editor of the *Brunswickan*, said that he, editor-in-chief Bob Macmillan and CHSR director Vaughn Fulford jointly decided to cancel the public debate because of the strong possibility of a hoax. Loane also said he thought the whole thing was just a publicity stunt and that if Chown, or his impersonator, wanted to make a mockery of serious business, the campus media would have no part in it.

Chown later showed up at the *Brunswickan* office and confirmed that it was, indeed, he who was in the monkey suit.



Engineering Week in high gear

For those who have been able to take advantage of it, Engineering Week has been under way for three days now, commencing with the opening ceremonies this past Tuesday. Many thanks to guest speaker, Mr. Burt Stairs.

Today at 10 a.m. the Sixth Annual "Great Canadian Coaster Derby" takes place. The circuit begins at the Aitken Centre and ends by Jones House. Don't miss the thrills and spills.

At 12:30 p.m. 'The Big Sting' will take place, a great chance to get in good with your profs. Pies will be auctioned off (with the proceeds going to the United Way), and then you get to dispose of the pie by eating it, or chucking it at one of the professors who have so graciously donated their bodies to this worthwhile cause. Don't miss out on the action, be there at 12:30 p.m., main entrance of Head Hall.

Commencing at 3:30 p.m. the judging of the Brewing Contest will take place, followed by the annual Engineering Chug-Off all at the Chapman Field Parking Lot.

This evening at 9 p.m. the social event of the year takes place: the Engineering Ball. This year it will be held in the Monsignor Boyd Centre, with music by The Thomists.

Saturday at 9:30 a.m. the "Ya Gotta Regatta" occurs. See Up-

coming for details.

For those of us who fancy themselves good drivers and navigators, the Woodlot Beer Rally begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at the SUB Parking Lot and at 5 p.m. there will be a warmup at the Woodlot for the pub tonight.

Winding up the festivities is "The Big Bash!" EUS Pub in the SUB Ballroom featuring live entertainment with TRACK. Everyone is welcome so come on down.

Downey installed

The UNIVERSITY OF New Brunswick's 26th Fall Convocation was highlighted yesterday with the installation of James Downey as UNB's 14th president, a celebratory ode by Canadian poet George Johnston, and the awarding of close to 260 degrees and 100 academic prizes. The event took place at the Aitken University Centre.

Participating in the traditional installation ceremony was Lieutenant-Governor Hedard Robichaud Premier Richard Hatfield, and Colin B. Mackay, president emeritus of UNB. The newly-installed president will receive the customary greetings from representatives of the students, faculty, Saint John campus, UNB administration and staff, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

Once gowned in academic robes donated by the Associated Alumni, Dr. Downey gave a combined installation and graduation address, followed by the awarding of prizes and degrees.

The ceremony was introduced and closed by the well-known sounds of the Royal Canadian Regiment Band, and included a musical interlude by another well-known local ensemble, the folk music duo of Mark Lulham on flute and Steve Peacock on guitar. Both are alumni of UNB.

The ceremony was followed by a tea for graduates, prize recipients and their families in the ballroom of the Student Union Building.

Another view of 'shrooms

By J. DAVID MILLER M.Sc.
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Many people have become interested in mushrooms in recent years. Some are interested in them for their aesthetic value, some for food and some for their mind-affecting chemicals. For those interested in their beauty little danger exists, although there is at least one mushroom found in New Brunswick which can cause a toxic reaction merely by excessive handling.

For those who want to eat them for whatever reason, it is very important that some period of study be undertaken with a knowledgeable person or as a part of a local mushroom club's activities, so that you really do know what you are looking for. The popular handbook gives keys to only the more common species. For example, one genus found in New Brunswick has at least 80 representatives, and the popular key list 8 species. Thus the temptation exists to fit the fungus you have in your hand to one in the book, which may be quite wrong.

There are many factors which determine mushroom toxicity, not the least of which is your own physiology and health. Some mushrooms are not toxic in themselves, but contain chemicals which can cause severe reactions when taken in conjunction with other drugs, including alcohol. One mushroom found around here is normally edible, but if it has been frozen in frost, it becomes toxic. It is impossible to distinguish between the two states externally. Even edible mushrooms can occasionally produce toxic through growth on unusual substrates, infection by another fungus (not always detectable) and viral infection. In some of the so-called magic mushrooms there are chemicals which speed you

up so much you die, and some which slow you down so much you die. The fact that you don't is the result of the contest between the two.

Mushroom poisoning has a range of effects from vomiting to death, but usually involves appalling suffering. A typical case of mushroom poisoning happened to three very experienced naturalists a couple of summers ago. They picked three mushrooms which were five to six inches high. Using three well-established keys they determined that the mushrooms were edible. They sliced them up and put them in a pizza.

The pizza was consumed at 8 p.m. By 11 p.m., the female in the group was feeling very ill and started to vomit. The two males were still alright. Within half an hour, they too started to vomit. The vomiting occurred every five minutes and was constant for the next three hours in one case and all night in the other two. After a couple of hours, blood was being vomitted and severe diarrhea, also continuous began. They were admitted to hospital at 2 a.m. By this time, they could not walk and were shaking. They had a fever and high blood pressure and were given a saline I.V. and shots of graval. They spent three days in hospital. Numerous blood tests were done and in one case, enzymes appeared in the blood which indicated either mild brain damage or liver damage. When released from hospital, the diarrhea continued for several days and they were all very weak for seven or eight days.

Mushrooms, including magic mushrooms, can be cultivated using a number of techniques. Most serious devotees of mushrooms of whatever kind will do that rather than risk poisoning, they will only eat one of the several field mushrooms which can always be reliably identified and are always safe.