

Treasure Van Man Holds Back Facts

The first letter to the editor is an amusing rebuttal to an article in last week's *Brunswickan*. The article criticized the Treasure Van, a travelling show of goods from other countries. They sell these items to students or anyone else who will pay their prices.

In his letter, Mr. Forbes criticises the writer for "his naive attack", hardly realizing that in his own naivete he answered the challenge of the article's last paragraph.

Poor Mr. Forbes (we pity him for undertaking as dishonourable task as directing Treasure Van) picks away at a few points in the article. Mr. Goldman does not run Treasure Van, he says, he is merely Business Manager. The Treasure Van budget request is irrelevant, he says. But, Mr. Forbes, ask the Finance Committee Chairman. He will tell you that he wants the most accurate estimates possible.

Mr. Forbes' third point is incomprehensible, and he seems a little confused about the WUSC budget cut. The parts that were removed from the WUSC budget may never be used by WUSC, Mr. Forbes. They are out of your control (as he seems to be himself). Their use is controlled by some committees of the SRC.

The article said that the Treasure Van charges as much as three times their cost for the trinkets they sell. The fact is that the Treasure Van charges about three times what the people in the manufacturing nations are given. Mr. Forbes' "eight points" are some of the reasons for the high prices, but we got the same "briefing document" that he did, and the two he omitted are of more concern: (a) should be "the buying agent's or exporter's commission. Because the Treasure Van "briefing document" did not include any indication of the magnitude of each item, we must conclude that this omitted one is one of great magnitude.

Another omitted item is (k) "an allowance for breakages and depreciation". The latter includes a factor written off annually for goods held in inventory. We happen to know that the Treasure Van has been using part of the profits to increase inventories.

Oh, dear, Mr. Forbes.

Alas, Mr. Forbes says misleadingly that the money will help WUSC. That's for sure! Our source says "this profit is turned over to the general funds of WUSC to be used, at the discretion of the WUSC National Assembly and National Committee to finance student welfare projects in Canada and overseas."

We need not go on. Tom Forbes is surpressing facts from the students.

We hope that this isn't characteristic of all WUSC workers.

CP's Take Booze, Permit Violence

At last Saturday's game, we noticed that the Campus Police (and City Police) got an exhilarating joy out of confiscating liquor. We overheard one CP boasting to his cohorts, "I got five pints and two mickeys".

But we also saw a Campus Policeman push a UNB student back into the stands as he tried to jump onto the track. He was thrown on top of two cheerleaders.

And we saw a boistrous (and probably intoxicated) student dragging a fifteen year-old girl across the front of the bleachers against her will. She was in tears. No CP came to her aid.

There has been one Student Discipline Committee meeting this year. A student was fined \$10 for throwing up at a dance.

Is this what the Campus Police are for? They are confiscating liquor and ignoring breaches of the peace.

The Students Representative Council must legislate to improve this intolerable situation.

Brunswickan

CELEBRATING ITS HUNDREDDTH YEAR WITH CANADA

Established in 1867, the *Brunswickan* is Canada's oldest student publication. It is published weekly for the students of the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton, N.B. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Student Representative Council. Subscriptions \$4 a year. Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa. The *Brunswickan* office is located at the Memorial Students Centre, UNB, Fredericton, N.B., telephone 475-5191. This paper was printed at Capital Free Press, Brunswick Street, Fredericton.

SEE THE HOLE

Letters To The Editor

VAN-MAN STRIKES BACK

Editor: I read with interest an "expression of opinion" given in the October 27th *Brunswickan* by Gary Davis. I question whether Mr. Davis aims his naive attack at W.U.S.C. or TREASURE VAN — or Mr. Goldman. In either case, I find Mr. Davis' facts singularly inaccurate.

Firstly, it is not Mr. Goldman's "job . . . to prepare for the sale here"; that is MY job. Mr. Goldman's duties — as Business Manager — start November 21, when the sale arrives here. Secondly, the W.U.S.C. committee has not given \$135 EXTRA to finance TREASURE VAN; this amount is, and should be regarded as, a loan. The full \$135 is repayable after the completion of the TREASURER VAN sale. Therefore, Mr. Davis' long-winded and confused discourse on the cost of TREASURE VAN. is irrelevant — be the amount \$156 or \$135 or \$125 (where did Mr. Davis extract this latter fact from?).

Thirdly, this amount, \$135, was not forgotten OR omitted from the W.U.S.C. Budget request. And therefore this FIGURE could NOT have, and DID NOT, APPEAR in the HANDS of the Finance Committee after the initial draft. Fourthly, as any attentive member of the Student Representative Council, or any member of the Finance Committee can substantiate, the W.U.S.C. Budget was not cut by the SPECTACULAR sum of "almost" \$1439. Due to a

revised Budget scheme, certain items come under a separate classification — but they are still there!

Fifthly, according to Mr. Davis, "it has been said that the profit (of TREASURE VAN) which goes . . . not for their (W.U.S.C.) activities overseas, is as much as 300% of the cost of the items to W.U.S.C. Many things "have been said", and many more SHALL be! The profit is 15%, not more, and often LESS; by NO stretch of the imagination does this equal 300%. (I suggest Mr. Davis examine his typewriter carefully).

It is perfectly true that the cost of items is higher in Canada than in the local markets back home. TREASURE VAN has to pay, IN ADDITION to the basic cost of the item:

- a) the cost of packaging,
- l) export taxes, harbour dues, etc.
- c) shipping cost to Canada
- d) insurance
- e) Canadian customs duty (10% - 30%)
- f) Canadian Excise Tax
- g) Canadian Federal Sales Tax — 11%
- h) the cost of distribution and publicity within Canada

The 15% profit goes to the general funds of W.U.S.C. to be used to assist the work of the organization in Canada and Overseas.

To speak of "soaking" someone is absurd! Everyone, even students, CAN profit from TREASURE VAN. Those who have interests outside the confines of their aggressiveness and personal accusations should welcome the opportuni-

ty to see the handicrafts of other nations. Thus, Mr. Davis, "we are forced to ask": "why should TREASURE VAN not "get half a page in last week's paper"?"

"THIS WRITER, Mr. Davis, waits expectantly for more incoherent phrases and unreliable facts.

We ALL wait!

Thomas Forbes
Chairman
TREASURER VAN

FORMAL PROTEST

Editor:

It's time to write my annual protest letter concerning the use of SRC funds for the Fall Formal.

Have a formal by all means — but why hire an expensive orchestra? If, for example, The Law Society Ball, which is restricting entrance to Law students and members of the profession — that is, seniors, post-graduates, and post-graduates — can make do with a local band, why not the humble cross-section of university life which is admitted to the formals.

The need and demand for university formals diminished as enrollment increased. UNB is now too large for everyone to go to a dance to see and be seen.

The formals function has largely been taken over by the House Socials and faculty dances with their liberal sprinkling of guests.

If there are to be formals let them be financially self-sufficient; also, it could be easier on the balance of payments.

Dave Godby (Forestry V)

HOME SWEET HOME

Editor:

Mr. Nelson Adams' comments on "the ugliness, dyspepsia and monotony", being the real disadvantages of residence life, are wrong and your cartoonist did pick the proper target for his cartoon. As you can readily see in the enclosed photograph.

If there were more open rooms in residence the poor students would not have to sink to alcoholic consumption to fight off the pressures of their natural drives. This is what I thought your cartoonist was trying to get at.

A Lush.



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