

## Letters to the editor

Editor:

In 1965, Dr. A.G. Bailey appended his signature to the following letter addressed to Prime Minister of Canada:

"Sir:

We are gravely concerned about the course of events in Viet Nam and about the response our Government has made to these events.

It is clear to us that there is blame on all sides in this struggle and we consider that the assignment of particular blame by any side is harmful to the cause of peace.

We feel that the people of Viet Nam have already suffered far too long and cruelly in an ideological struggle that has involved greater powers outside their borders. This struggle has intensified during the past year so that it now threatens to become such a dangerous and cruel international war as was fought in Korea. We ask you to remember that by far the most numerous and desperate sufferers in these wars are civilians, non-combatants, women and children. They will certainly do nothing to stop the war.

The chief hindrance to negotiations in Viet Nam is the insistence by all parties on certain preconditions. It is our opinion that unwillingness to negotiate on either side, with

all the danger and suffering involved in the widening conflict, is cynical and immoral.

We submit that it is Canada's duty, as a sovereign nation and as one member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Viet Nam to seek an end to this war and call for immediate negotiations, to be undertaken without precautions."

At the time, slow at the uptake, lacking ideological wisdom and without an understanding of international politics, I was impressed by the advice the petitioner offered to the then Prime Minister. Today, after protracted reflection, I believe I have detected the visionary message hidden in the text. As a result, I am taking the liberty of plagiarizing the original letter almost verbatim, with minimal *mutatis mutandis*, and readdressing it to the Vice-President (Academic):

Sir:

I am gravely concerned about the course of events at UNB and about the response our University Government has made to these events.

It is clear to me that there is blame on all sides in this campus struggle and I consider that the assignment of particular blame by any side is harmful to the cause of peace.

I feel that the UNB students and faculty have already suffered far too long and cruelly in a struggle that has involved greater powers outside their campus. This struggle has intensified during the past year so that it now threatens to become such a dangerous and cruel campus war as was fought at Berkley, Columbia, Simon Fraser and McGill. I ask you to remember that by far the most numerous and desperate sufferers in these wars are academic standards, non-combatants, the majority of the Faculty and students. In these circumstances, accusations of blame seem irrelevant. They will certainly do nothing to stop the war on the campus.

The chief hindrance to negotiations at U.N.B. is the insistence on certain preconditions. It is my opinion that unwillingness to negotiate on either side, with all the danger and suffering involved in the widening conflict, is cynical and immoral.

I submit that it is the Academic Vice-President's duty, as an academic sovereign and as a goldworthy member of the Senate, to seek an end, before Christmas, to this campus war and call for immediate negotiations, to be undertaken without preconditions.

S.D. Bosnitch  
Political Science

Editor:

Having read "An Appeal for Moderation," I am dismayed by its blatant underestimation of the political awareness of UNB students. Mr. deAuer's view that "moderate" equals "polite" is hardly a realistic opinion.

His "moderation" appeal begins by deploring the attempts of the SRC to "involve all of us in a factional dispute". Regardless of its stand, the SRC supposedly represents the student community and must of necessity involve the students of UNB, or their money, or their opinions, or their rights in all its activities. Mr. deAuer states: "I feel that the student council is now also taking a hasty and hard line stand." In comparison to what? In comparison to the almost total indifference of the previous council, or in comparison to the carefully thought out attitude of the university administration? To condemn as revolutionary the council's decision to have the officials concerned come to a meeting of interested students and explain the necessities of political expediency is somewhat far-fetched. The SRC reconsideration of the wording of their resolution and re-asking that the President and Board of Deans speak to a meeting of students is even less, if one must overwork the word, "radical".

I refuse Mr. deAuer's assumption that I cannot understand the power structure at UNB. All power resides in the President by the University Act, and in actual practice.

The student is a negligible factor in the running of the university; his views and needs are of slight consideration. The attempt of the SRC to have official explanation of police action on campus was not an insult; it was a tiny step towards political action.

His Appeal ends with a statement of fact and/or threat: "It is time for us to remind everyone that while not taking part in most discussions, we have to be taken into consideration, and that if pushed too far, we too can take action".

bronwyn mcintyre  
Arts 4

This statement could perhaps as well describe the tentative steps taken by the SRC. Its policy is not confrontation-oriented; its aims are much more "moderate," to enable the student to participate in the governing of the community in which he lives. Nothing more insidious than claiming for students the responsibilities of taking part in the decisions that affect their every-day lives.

Perhaps Mr. deAuer is secretly a reformist who is advocating the tactical superiority of being polite when you ask the authorities to respect your point of view. And perhaps he is just someone who became so emotionally involved in the SRC-administration situation that he too took action. Regardless of his motivation, Mr. deAuer is somewhat mistaken. The beginnings of a political stand, or if you must, a "hard line" by the SRC will not bring down the wrath of God upon the campus, nor send columns of tanks rumbling past the Engineering building. Mr. deAuer deplores the emotionalism of the present situation. I deplore his emotional attempt to put good manners back into campus politics. Apparently, by this he would mean the socially acceptable approach of "Excuse me, sir, could you please, etc." and not a fundamental respect for people as individuals.

I further reject Mr. deAuer's distinction between "us" and "the activists." I am a person, who happens to be a student at UNB. In this studenthood I have not rejected my responsibilities or rights in the community. Thus, I expect the SRC for which I voted to state clearly and definitely that I am not a negligible factor in this university. Mr. deAuer claims that his petition will voice "The expression of the will of the students." I disagree both with his theory of "moderation" and his analysis of the situation. Changes are not effected by feuding over such trivia as the verbs used in SRC resolutions, or even in anti-ID card pamphlets. Changes are effected by people who can see beyond the ends of their noses.

## Suggests SUB be named after Gilles Tautin

Editor:

I respectfully submit that the new SUB be named the "Gilles Tautin Memorial Building", in honor of this sparkling-eyed French youth who lost his life during the battle against the bureaucratic administration of the Sorbonne last spring. Eight thousand students at-

tended the funeral of the first casualty of the "revolution", each throwing a rose upon his sepulchre.

I in no way question the sincerity of Mr. Davis in his desire to name the SUB after Martin Luther King, Jr. but I suggest that the death of Gilles Tautin is closer to this uni-

versity community than Mr. King's, and that his fearless action be remembered by having the SUB named after him. This tribute will insure that he is remembered as long as the SUB stands.

Peter G. M. Clarke  
Arts 2

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