

David Miller

God must really wonder what sort of a beast He really has created in man. Christmas 1976, a time of severe oil spills, much discussion on the merits of spraying for the budworm, fires set deliberately in Saint John and elsewhere, and for the first time since 1920 no murders on New Years day in Detroit [a city of 700 plus annual murders].

Given the complexity of the modern economy and the rather excessive lifestyle man is used to, we have no choice but to move oil around. I am not convinced that we have to spill it.

The publicity surrounding the oil spills on the Delaware River and off the east coast of the USA shows that human error and to a lesser extent equipment failures were totally responsible for the spills. The weather or other "acts of God" cannot be blamed this time.

The fishermen whose lives depend on the productivity of the coastal areas are trying, quite rightly, to sue the owners of the tanker for 120 million dollars. The chances of them getting that much would seem to be nil.

In any event the money will not restore the environment. Man has done nothing to try to develop the means to clean up his messes. We know painfully little about the affects of oil spills on the environment other than the painfully obvious ones. More importantly to the current question, we know absolutely nothing about actually treating oil spillage.

It is to be hoped that the current disasters will stimulate a long over due formulation of new laws, policies and scientific endeavour to attack this question.

It is bad enough for the immediate residents of an oil polluted area, fishermen losing their means to live, but what about our food supply, our regulator of the atmosphere and our origin?

§ § § § §

Damn fool thing this starting classes in the middle of the week. I'm sure that the committee which made this big decision did so for entirely logical reasons, which don't make a lick of sense. I would predict that when the statistics are in, one would find that attendance in classes, although not necessarily at the university, was not what it should be.

At any rate there is a rather thin Bruns this week, written by a bunch of die hards who try but, no matter what, can't seem to get through a week without having a couple of dozen or so spelling mistakes in a 20,000 word paper.

§ § § § §

Time for the "Time-Newsweek intellectual" corner this week. From the scholarly journal called Playboy. This month, they carry an item about coed residences. In a paragraph quoted directly from a report by the Department of Psychiatry at Stanford University, the essence of what I have always believed has been determined in a proper study.

"...collegians who choose the coed dorms tend to have higher academic and career aspirations and that the women especially, participate more in social and cultural activities and have a better self image than those living in all women housing".

To those used to reading scholarly works, it is clear that a fairly strong statement is made here saying that in a coed situation, the average woman reaches closer to her potential and, if my reading of the statement "a better self image" is correct, is somewhat better adjusted [euphemism for being less screwed up].

Further investigation as to the literature available on the subject of coed housing should be undertaken by students and the university alike to resolve this question on a more rational basis than emotion.

Chinese counter-revolution?

By GERRY LASKEY

Events of the recent weeks in the People's Republic of China seem to imply a slight shift to the right for the Chinese revolution. They also seem to indicate that Chairman Hua Kuo-feng is not nearly as skillful at political compromise as Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai were.

The events revolve around the unfolding purge of the left wing of the Communist party, in particular four radical leaders known derisively as the "Gang of Four" or "Shanghai Mafia". It consists of Chiang Ch'ing (Mao's widow); Wang Hung-wen, Chang Ch'un-ch'iao and Yao Wen-yuan. The four were all leading leftists during the Cultural Revolution (1966-69). The left was spurred to action during this period under the guidance of Chairman Mao himself to rid the Party of bureaucrats and "bourgeois elements".

In the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution a new balance of power was built by compromise between the radicals and moderates under the supervision of Chou En-lai. Chou's death last year marked the start of an open power struggle between the rival factions. Chou's funeral sparked a pro-moderate demonstration. Tensions were increased as the left successfully purged Chou's heir apparent, Teng Hsiao-ping. Mao appointed Hua as a compromise Premier.

Then suddenly after Mao's death this fall during the gradual succession of Hua to Party Chairman, as well as Premier, the compromise exploded. The left, militant Maoists who controlled the press, editorialized that Mao had said "Act according to the principles laid down" on his death bed (meaning a radical program of domestic socialism and a strong anti-Soviet foreign policy). The moderates claimed it a forgery and added that Mao had told Hua "with you in charge I am at ease". The left was henceforth beset by negative propoganda and countless accusations. The radical leaders were arrested and have disappeared from sight, their fate unknown. Mme. Mao was accused of being a "capitalist roader", attempting a coup d'etat and is depicted in wall posters (a peculiarly Chinese form of propoganda) as a snake, rat and prostitute.

Recently reports of armed insurrection in pro-leftist cities and provinces have circulated as the purge progresses.

What all this means, is that Hua Kuo-feng has failed to hold the Communist Party together peacefully. He is not appeasing the left but attempting to crush it, in direct opposition to the policies of Chairman Mao. Hua is not resolving the problems of China's future, but compounding them by simply trying to obliterate one of the country's most important

political forces.

Also significant is that one of the jailed "gang", former Party Vice-chairman, Wang Hung-wen (fortyish) was once thought an outside candidate for Party chairman. Now his purge has ensured that men in their sixties and older will continue to dominate Chinese life and the new generation of leftists will be further alienated. Hua himself admitted the situation, even before the purge, was dangerously close to civil war.

Sociologist Anderson donates to UNB

Nels Anderson, 87, honorary University of New Brunswick research associate and former visiting professor of sociology, has presented the university with a \$13,000 gift to support graduate research in sociology.

Dr. Anderson was first appointed to the UNB faculty in 1966 at the age of 77. He had retired three years earlier as director of the UNESCO Institute for Social Sciences. UNB conferred him with an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1972.

His academic career, interrupted sporadically by wartime service, the depression and the

lack of finances, resulted in three degrees, an AB from Brigham Young University, an MA from the University of Chicago and a PhD from New York University.

He went into government work at the time of Roosevelt's New Deal, became a labor relations specialist and returned to the academic world 40 years after he had left it by taking a visiting professorship at Memorial at the age of 74.

Since 1925 he has authored more than 15 books, the first The Hobo, a classic sociology treatise and over 50 articles and 60 reviews.

Forest Engineering association formed

The Department of Forest Engineering announced Dec. 10 the formation of the Forest Engineering Student Association (FESA).

The primary aims and objectives of this association are to: a) promote informative discussions, lectures and field trips concerning methods and practices of industrial forest mechanization and the consequences of such mechanization, b) provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information between students, faculty, professional engineers and foresters in industry as well as any other interested groups of individuals and c) co-operate with other student sections of technical

societies at the University of New Brunswick in planning programs and activities.

Membership is available primarily to students enrolled in the Department of Forest Engineering but also to any interested graduate student, faculty member and practicing engineer or forester. All interested persons are invited to attend general meetings of the association.

The inaugural meeting of this association will be held on January 18, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building room 203. Regular meetings of the association are to be held during the third week of each month in the regular academic session.

NOTICE

1975-1976 YEARBOOKS

NOW AVAILABLE
at Room 126, S.U.B.

Please present your receipt

Raquel's



beautifully
you
FREDERICTON SHOPPING MALL

LUNA
PIZZERIA



**CALL FOR
FAST
SERVICE
AND
DELIVERY
455-4020**

298 KING ST. — CORNER WESTMORLAND
FREDERICTON, N. B.