

Brunswickan

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Editorial

It's really too bad about apathy.

Last year apathy worked. It enabled the administration to do at it wished, delaying the issue of open rooms for at least another year. It enabled Council to do anything it wished without effective opposition. It kept both Council and the local unit of the Canadian Union of Students in virtual ignorance of what students want.

All sorts of insidious plots are afoot this year to corrode the great monolith of apathy.

The Students Council plans to provide a speakers' room, enabling anyone with ideas to speak to students willing to listen. The Debating Society plans to hold public debates in the Students Centre, operating in the British style where anyone in the audience has the right to interrupt.

Radio UNB has two programs afoot to interest students in campus affairs. SRC Reports, in conjunction with the Council and Crossword, a program of student opinion on which any interested student may appear, both begin this term.

The possibility of a student strike is more likely this year than has ever been dreamed of in the past. It's really too bad about apathy.

Future Citizens

You sad little people,
 Society's future,
 With your sad little grasp of
 Democracy's freedom of speech.
 You demand for yourselves that which
 You deny others -
 That simple privilege,
 The privilege of being heard,
 Respectfully,
 Openly,
 Without harassment.
 You sad little educated people,
 When will you start to learn?

- Pamela Kitchen
 Marilyn Thomas

- reprinted from the *Ontarian*

Give Your Favorite
 Senate Member
 An Apple This Week,
 He'll Appreciate It.
 His Gratitude May Be
 Shown Next Month



LONG

Actually they shouldn't mess around with apathy - its the only unifying force this university has.
 - Reprinted from the *Carleton*

Letters to the Editor

THOUGHTS ON THE WAR IN ASIA

Editor:

Sitting immersed in the sound of Student Centre gabble and speaker squawk, stirring sugar wrapped in a Russian flag, my mind is drifting to thoughts on the war in Asia. Vietnam seems so far away, but it is not so far really. Half a world away is not far. It is near enough that UNB people I knew have been killed in action there. It becomes close, too, through photographs of the wreckage of age.

People here are afraid to accept the pictures of burned and wounded children as typical, and I can understand that. Who would have believed that some of the concentration camp scenes were true? But everyone believes the fact of bombed-out villages and farms.

In a recent issue of *Time* magazine there is a photograph of a river valley that looks remarkably like the St. John or the Oromocto or the St. Croix, except that as far as the eye can see the earth is blasted with craters - thousands of craters, ten, twenty, thirty feet in diameter.

When my family lived in Montreal in the early 'forties the air-raid sirens were used several times, but only in drills. Montreal would have been bombed eventually if the war had swung a little toward German's side. We would have had photographs of that too. People would have believed them. The Germans were wrong. The Allies were right. Berlin was bombed as well as London.

The argument in favour of the United States remaining in the war seems to be that the USA is right in fighting communism everywhere. This is what many Canadians feel. It is simple, and is predicated on only one assumption, which few people dispute: communism is bad. To me the issue is more complicated than that, and a conclusion is not so easy to reach.

We have police forces in Canada, and we use them as a deterrent to crime and violence. But we do not encourage or approve of the use of violence in the control of nonviolent crimes. Only in international affairs do we accept the use of force as a means to bargain. In this way international politics is still barbaric. If a Member of Parliament disagrees with the rest of the House there is a simple procedure for ignoring his view: vote. Rarely do the others beat him into submission or expel him from the House. In international affairs the rule is simpler: eradicate the opposition.

Several points come to mind which make it even harder to understand how men as informed as those in the government of the United States could approve of war as a solution to international political problems.

There seems to be less reluctance to send troops to fight in and against "nonwhite" countries than "white" countries. Vietnam, Korea, Egypt (1956), Algeria, Congo, and all colonies before 1910 are examples of this. Leniency prevails in the "white" countries like Rhodesia, South Africa, even Cuba and Germany.

The United States has never taken a very successful stand in world affairs, consistently backing itself into a corner in defense of the *status quo*.

The immense military strength of the United States is no longer measurable. It is, analogous to an immensely rich oil tycoon who supposedly has enough money to buy anything. But a man's billions cannot buy anything he wants because eventually he will encounter a man who refuses to sell his property at any price. The United States cannot hope to maintain the *status quo* because there will always be people willing to struggle for changes. These people will always exist. If they are all killed in Vietnam they will arise elsewhere, in Asia, in South America, or the United States. Even in the universities and in the middle class.

Time necessitates change and no power can stop time. We are drifting along in time and we must expect changes to take place. Not all of these changes will appeal to us, but that is the way life is. Through cooperation and by attempting to help people to develop their talents we can expect to reduce the number of burned and wounded children, bombed river valleys, concentration camps, and dead friends.

The threat of disasters which could take place if we do not make peaceful gestures is always with us. There is hardly a choice but to attempt to make peace with our enemies, to discuss, to plan, and to work sincerely toward improving the lives of people everywhere.

- Gary Davis, UNB '66