

Blood n' Thunder

without recording them on video? They might do... anything! Get with the times, caveman! All modern weight rooms have surveillance cameras.

C: They also have modern equipment.

A: Yes, well the Committee will consider your recommendations, but money's a little tight. Parker from Traffic Control has been hogging all the money so he can monitor the faculty lot. But I'll show him....

C: But this room has been neglected!

A: Neglected? How can it be neglected when it's getting its own surveillance camera? Do you realise how many residence rooms, how many classrooms on campus haven't even been bugged yet: Those profs can say some controversial stuff. There are things we administrators cannot tolerate!

C: Like dissent?

A: Careful, buddy, I'm taping you.

Patrick Toner

People miss the point of Carrier's Left Jab and IS

Dear Editor

This is a response to Jonathan Beaudoin's article in the last issue of *The Brunswickan* ("Let's Blame Capitalism for Everything"). I'll only try to deal with what I think is the main confusion.

First, Beaudoin's opening sentence related that "Left Jab" moralizes about the "vile and evil" nature of capitalism as the cause of all of our problems. This tells me that "Left Jab" has not been very effective in getting across a very simple point: Capitalism isn't an "evil entity". Dwelling on whether an economic system is "evil" or not misses the point. It's effects upon the population can certainly be termed by its members as "evil", but this has little to do with a clear analysis of that system. Capitalism is an economic system permeated with many contradictions, the most prominent of which is the division of society between those who own the factories, businesses, banks, etc., and those who sell their labour to those owners in order to survive. This isn't an attempt to moralize, it's only an analysis (and not a very new one: most liberal political economists would not refute this).

Beaudoin mentions unemployment. It isn't moralizing to say that capitalists, by the ever present necessity to acquire profits in order to compete, will almost always try and make their workers work harder, lay workers off, lower the wages of workers, or some combination of these things. The proof? Look no further than Saint John, where Irving is offering a text-book example of how capitalists get ahead. There, at Irving's largest oil refinery, about 200 workers have been on strike for over 20 months because the boss wanted to lay off 30 people. So, you spend the best part of your life making profits of gigantic proportions for Irving and then he sells you down the river because he's developed some new technological trick to make the refinery more efficient. How was he able to do this? By using all of the \$\$\$ that he made off of the workers in the first place that were in turn reinvested into new machinery, technology, etc. This isn't a small problem. It actually describes the process of capitalist accumulation in every corner of the globe, in every business, large or small.

This isn't about a "good" Irving or a "bad" one (although I truly believe that the Irving's could give two shits about the rest of us). What it's all about is the priorities of capitalism: profit accumulation and competition. It's the rationality of such a system that makes the labour-power of people a

commodity, and in turn, disposable. If this is bad, I guess that's what made me a socialist.

I've already wrote more than 1 thought I would, and probably not all of it on target, but I'll leave the rest of Beaudoin's questions for "Left Jab" to answer. If anyone wants to debate the nature of capitalism, the International Socialists have weekly meetings at MacLaggan Hall, in Room 109. Our next meeting is in conjunction with "Black History Month" and is entitled "The Politics of Malcolm X." It's on Tuesday night, Feb. 27, at 7 pm and ALL ARE WELCOME!

Scott Jack
International Socialists

Changes destroying residence system

Voices Need to be Heard!

For the past two weeks I have been interested in the newspaper articles on Neill House. I have worked closely within the Residence Community and I am happy there are people finally taking some action. Throughout the last year there has been drastic changes to the Residence system, destroying a once spirited and enjoyable home away from home. In the Residences, it was not uncommon to have third, fourth and even fifth year students staying in Residence. This has now changed. Friends made in Residence are life long friends. However, what has happened to this ideology?

The residents are not being heard when opinions and suggestions are made. I find it so ironic that we are not being heard since we are the reason Residence administration have jobs. We are young ADULTS, more than capable of deciding what is right. Communication is the biggest problem because we are not heard; but, isn't that always the way!? I find it really disappointing because there are so many people who have worked so hard to build the Residence Community and well-known Residence spirit, which is disappearing too quickly. We are adults but certainly are not treated that way. Give me a break! - controlling individuals who listen to certain songs? What happened to the freedom of rights and expression? In addition, dismissing an individual from residence for expressing their opinion on a situation when they were asked?

Economically the residence system suffers every time a resident moves out. It is really sad that the rules in residence are more strict than our rules at home, which are quite strict!

The spirit that was once fresh and alive is disappearing and I find it difficult to brag about the school. Try listening to some of our suggestions, they are normally valid. Unfortunately though, if Residence Administration continues as in the past, nothing will result. Numerous letters about serious problems within Residence have been written before; however, our opinions never seem to be taken seriously. The perfect example of this was when Neil House wrote several letters expressing their opinions and the letters were responded to only after publication was made. I could go on and on, but to conclude with, could I make a suggestion? Listen to us. We are your future co-workers, dons, Dean of Students and even Dean of Residence!!

A concerned resident
(name withheld by request)

More Blood n' Thunder
next week

Metanoia

by John Valk

Hopeful Dust

Jesus was a prophet. He had a sharp intellect, keen vision and articulate speech. Jesus was also a teacher and miracle worker. He attracted crowds, large and small, wherever he went. He also attracted controversy. There was always controversy.

We can handle controversial people. We listen to them for a while, then we tune them out. But what if the controversial person is a family member?

Jesus had siblings. The gospel of Matthew (Matt 13: 55) names his brothers - James, Joseph, Simon and Judas. His sisters remained anonymous. Though younger, they doubtless spent years in close association with Jesus. What kind of older brother was he - playful, helpful, thoughtful, pre-occupied, distant? Was he special in anyway? Were they impressed with him?

They were not impressed, apparently, when he began speaking to fellow villagers. The locals said that "he is out of his mind" (Mk 3: 21). That, no doubt, hurt the family. They tried to divert his attention. They wanted to talk to him when crowds gathered (Mt. 12: 46-47; Lk. 8: 19-20).

Jesus' claim that his society, with its cultural ethos, economic strategies, religious institutions, military oppression, was headed nowhere probably rung true enough for many. That kind of prophetic analysis isn't new. We hear that same story from prophetic people today about Canada.

What was new, however, was the message that no amount of military maneuvering, economic strategy, or religious formalities and affiliations would save the day. People first had to get right with God! Furthermore, and Jesus stated this in no uncertain terms,

WHY DOES MY BROTHER JESUS HAVE TO ATTRACT SO MUCH ATTENTION?



he was the means by which people could get right with God. This baffled, even annoyed, Jesus' siblings, and others.

To no one's surprise - his family, his close friends and countless others - spouting ideas like this would attract trouble. It did. They watched him go to his bitter end, to his very last breath, clinging to his ideas.

Now all his words, even those miraculous deeds, were little more than high ideals, shattered by the religious and military authorities of the day. He was just one more of history's countless other tragic figures, claiming so much, but delivering so little. His family was left with confusing memories.

One brother, however, changed his mind about Jesus. James, the elder of the siblings, came to see things differently. Why? A resurrected Jesus appeared to him (1 Cor. 15: 7).

Whatever the nature of that encounter, it happened and it had an impact. Only it can explain James' change of heart. He became a leader in the early Christian movement. In fact,

he became an authority (Acts 15: 13), an acknowledged "pillar" of the movement in Jerusalem (Gal. 2: 9-12). All those years spent with his older brother now were seen differently.

Interesting, isn't it? The resurrection is something so incredibly difficult to comprehend, especially by means of reason and science. Yet only it can turn us around. Only it can ultimately turn despair into hope.

This past week Christians celebrated Ash Wednesday. It reminds us that, in spite of our achievements in this life, humans are but "dust, and to dust they shall return."

But neither Ash Wednesday nor doom and gloom Good Friday are the end of the story. Easter Sunday is, and Easter Sunday spells hope. We become "hopeful dust", in essence.

It took a resurrection appearance to convince James, and others, that Jesus was more than a wisecrack who ran afoul of the authorities. Once James had encountered Jesus in his post-resurrected state, his life was re-oriented.

The Grad ZONE

Industrial Research Chairs at UNB
by Pavol Sereš
Engineering Rep, GSA.

Are you a would-be grad student or already in a program? Do you think that having a Master's Degree is a good idea but you do not really want to spend two more years just doing "research for research's sake"? Well, maybe the following is for you.

There is an increased activity at the University of New Brunswick in terms of establishing new positions - Industrial Research Chairs (IRCs). The purpose of these positions is to provide closer contact between University and industry. People in these positions come with a lot of experience in both commercial and academic environments, quite often from various parts of the world. For example, the Engineering Faculty currently employs nine IRCs, not including the Associate Chairs, with a few more yet to come.

For a general idea - the IRC cooperates with some companies on various industrial projects. Usually there are also graduate students, involved in particular tasks. The graduate student then works out the details of the problem, presented by a particular company, resulting in his/her thesis. This includes quite careful theoretical analysis of the task, before actual implementation of the idea. The good part for the students is that they can get a feeling of what the "real world" actually needs and can appreciate.

This time we would like to give a little closer look at the Chair in Instrumentation and Control (at the

Department of Electrical Engineering) - Dr. J. Taylor. This position was established back in 1994, with significant support from NSERC, Monenco AGRA Inc., and Eltag-Bailey Group. The goal of Instrumentation and Controls Chair is to bridge the gap between sophisticated control theory, being developed recently, and the industrial needs. Quite often the industry is not using modern controls approaches which would yield more optimal production. Even if the users

in the field buy expensive control equipment, they do not necessarily utilize them to their full extent.

To find more information about the purpose and tasks of IRCS, please refer to the web site: <http://www.unb.ca/UNB/units/chairs/chairs/html>.

To conclude - the ultimate objective of the IRCS is to focus their and their grad students' research towards more practical applications, and also to get their graduate students ready for the world, waiting for them after graduation.



Not Just Another Day
by Nik Carrier

Just over a week ago, on Feb. 15, there was a demonstration of almost 200 students at the N.B. Legislature. Francophone and Anglophone students stood together against the cuts to education. This was an excellent beginning. Rallies and demonstrations are becoming more and more frequent across the country. Protests against cuts to education are finding as part of their inspiration rallies versus cuts to Unemployment Insurance by seasonal workers all over. N.B. Students have a long history of struggle in solidarity with workers in N.B. Such struggles helped win greater access to education and social services. It only stands to reason that solidarity will defend these. More students will soon find themselves being "political" in a way that they would never have believed. Why? Because the federal and provincial governments are leaving no one with a choice: we must stand and be counted in order to oppose the cuts. Feb. 15

showed the kernel of what will be possible in the fight against McKenna. But there were problems as well.....

Why, if Tories have a long history of selling out students by attempting to limit access to post-secondary education, was a Tory MLA allowed to speak at OUR rally?

Why, when he has said repeatedly where he stands on cuts to education, was the Minister for Advanced Education and Labour, Roly McIntyre, allowed to speak at OUR rally?

Why, if they will also be affected by the Liberals' cuts, were the workers on both Campuses not contacted about the demo?

Why, since they were important enough to be asked to attend the demo, were none of the demonstrating students asked to contribute their thoughts and concerns at the microphone?

Why, when they knew that the demo was happening well over a month in advance, did Lamrock & Co. only advertise the demo to students a few days in advance?

Why, when the Student Union has an entire page of its own in *The Brunswickan*, was there not one mention of the demo?

For this answer and more Left Jab see page 10