

Mugwump
By ED WERTHMANN **Journal**

Damn! Stoned again . . . and not having a lot to say to all you weird and wonderful readers out there. This is a bad situation, you can be assured. I'm sure that there are many who read this acclaimed column or are there? It's something I've always wondered. Just how many do read this part of the paper, that is, the editorials and "sound-off"?

Some wise person once said that the first thing people read in a newspaper is the editorial section. Smart. Love 'em. But I can't be sure that is true. From the response in "sound-off", I don't think people are reading the paper, listening to CHSR, or generally not keeping in tune with things around campus. Either that, or everything is so rosey that no one is getting bugged, bothered and — basically pissed off at anything. Narry a letter to the editor in weeks — except one or two. (But thanks a lot Maurice!)

Talk of apathy! At UNB? No comment.
Seriously, folks. Something must be bothering you. So don't hesitate. Write—sound off!

I had the opportunity this past weekend to partake in a retreat at Caton's Island. For those of you who are not familiar with the local geography, Caton's Island is in the St. John River in the Bellisle region. (So I suppose you don't know where Bellisle is.) Anyway, the island is owned by the Holy Cross Fathers of the STU variety. And it's beautiful! But that's another story.

The idea of the retreat was to discuss issues of vital importance to students. Those who took part in this excursion represented various groups on campus. And all Christian oriented—save one. One person, Betsy Anderson, president of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Canada was there to start off the discussion. The discussion, however did not take a Christian "stance", as I might have thought. Rather, it became centered on social, political and economic issues geared toward students.

The SCM is known to be more activist than most other Christian organizations. And the discussion, I found, was extremely stimulating, comfortable and informal. (Including hot apple cider, beer and Southern Comfort — in front of a blazing fire-place.)

So here we were, (about sixteen, I guess) solving all the problems of students on international, national and local levels. Many problems and situations came up . . . student aid, labor, the pulp and paper industry and just about anything. Even NUS.

Bad news, though. The discussion ended on this sad note: Government is exploiting students in that student aid is not realistic. The government is backing off on their duty to provide education in this free, democratic country of ours. (That's a joke!) And the reason they can and do get off easily is that they in essence UNDERSTAND where students are at. They realize that students at UNB, say, do not appreciate the social, economical and political situation at U de M. And the student leaders, although aware of the situation on various campuses, do not realize that there is no real communication between them. Especially between UNB and the U de M. So if there is no real communication between campuses, how one expects another to appreciate the situation?

As I type this column, Jim Smith storms into my office and shows the article that the Plain Dealer had in their latest issue. It doesn't look good. It really craps on students. (As on everything else.) But what makes it really terrible is the quote they got from Miguel Figueroa the NUS Atlantic Fieldworker. All I can say is that what Miguel said about UNB is true. But he has just touched on it. It's much deeper. But that, too, is another story. The point is, that because of his lack of understanding, he blew NUS for UNB. With a quote like that, most students will be turned off. I'm not saying NUS is no good. Nothing could be further from the truth. I'm personally in favor of unionization and solidarity. NUS is a viable (ugh, I hate that word) organization, and it provides a good service. They do, however, need much improvement. Perhaps "understanding" is the key word. If NUS comes to realize just where the "thought" of students on this and other campuses, is they would be much more powerful.

I suggest, dear reader, that you pick up a copy of the October 6 issue of the Plain Dealer. The article is on page 23. Then vote YES on the upcoming NUS referendum. This way, you'll heighten your own "awareness" and help NUS along the way. If students want to be able to stand up against government exploitation, we have to come to terms with ourselves. NUF, AFS, SCM and such groups included.

I'm sure Ms. Anderson benefited from the retreat . . . if indeed my observations are correct. (And I'm rarely wrong, right?) At any rate, I do hope that Miguel and Jim and others listen . . . not to themselves, but us — the students.

Dear Gene: The drug situation on campus is really bad. In fact, it's terrible! First of all, there's very little; secondly it's poor quality. What are you goin' to do about it?!

Affluent UNB students apathetic

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to an article which appeared in the October 6, 1976 Plain Dealer, entitled "October 14 Protest: No Formal Support From Students."

I agree in the main with the impression Peter Sherwood gives in his article based on an interview with NUS fieldworker Miguel Figueroa. He says that UNB students and student leaders are very apathetic about the economic troubles of working people and

You had to be there

Dear Editor:

The following true story is for those kind-hearted people who tell me, now and then, that some poem of mine is beautiful.

Shortly before leaving England, in 1968, I happened to hear a young lady relate one of her experiences.

"Was that a long time ago?"
"It was a little bit of a long time ago." (That's more beautiful, I thought, than all the poetry I've written or will ever write.)
"How old are you?"
"Three and a half."

Sincerely,

Maurice Spiro



students.

I have two complaints about the article. First, we here at the Bruns have done our share in presenting coverage for the National Day of Protest in both our national and local coverage. In fact, our last issue contained a story which provided the basis for the P.D. article in question. Furthermore we provided a full page story on the meeting of the Fredericton District Labour Council's Day of Protest co-ordinating committee September 28, 1976. A meeting at which, I might add, the Plain Dealer reporter showed up after the press conference was over.

The P.D.'s criticism of our student leaders is justified and we at the Bruns have tried to pressure our SRC to take a posture on the Day of Protest, but Jim (Fence-Sitter) Smith, our pres. keeps postponing. Possibly he'll take a

position on October 15?

Secondly, however, Figueroa made comments about UNB students being anti-francophone. I believe this criticism to be most inaccurate. I don't believe UNB students are any more anti-French than any other group in Canada (except Quebecois, perhaps). I, too, criticised UNB students in an editorial in the DOME (Fredericton High School's paper) last spring. But I believe that UNB students are not racist, simply apathetic and affluent. The fact that the Acadians are the underprivileged in New Brunswick is the fault of our system and a general oppression, not racist students at UNB.

Thank you for letting me Sound-Off. I'll be sending a copy of this to the P.D.

Gerry (Axe-to-Grind) Laskey

Yearbook staff seeks support

Hi! Our names are Peter, Gina, Ann and Rolf and we are the yearbook editors. We are here to inform you that there is a 1977 yearbook this coming year, and we would like to see you support us! Sciencers, physeders, engineers and nurses are yet to be represented on our staff, so why not still join us? You can sign up in room 126 of the SUB, or room 31, which is the yearbook office.

If you have not bought a book yet, hurry and get the bargain of

the year! Your clubs and faculties will be well represented. We hope that if there is anything you would like to see, you will let us know, and we will be glad to fulfill your requests. Again, rooms 31 and 126 are the key contacts.

Again, we hope to hear from you, and we wish you all a good year!

Sincerely,

The Editors

Student asks burning question

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to write to you to let you and your staff know that I personally think you people put out the best newspaper I've ever read. Although I've never met you, Mr. Werthmann, I'm sure you are a warm, wonderful and generally nice. It would be a great pleasure to meet you some day.

I do, however, have a complaint that I wish to have printed. I am resident in Westmorland St. area. And there are some students

living in the immediate area—quite close to my own home. Being a student myself (I live with my parents), I can understand why some students have to have "wild parties" now and then. But this place near my home has parties just about every night. I can just imagine what goes on. Drugs and booze. Sex orgies. Loud music. Well, my complaint is this: Why in hell am I not invited?

Signed,
Kate McLaggen Hall

Nurses offer pre-school help

Are you the parents of a preschooler? Would you like to understand your child better?

The nursing students at UNB are eager to explore with you ways to communicate effectively with your

child. We can assist you to encourage desirable behaviours and discourage the behaviours you dislike.

Films will be shown and coffee served. A series of seven classes

will be offered beginning Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at MacLaggen Hall.

Interested couples call 453-4642 or 472-6258 for further information.

Cover: **Honore Daumier (1808-1879) Numphs Pursued by Satyrs**