

now we must challenge it



PART TWO

The feature thus far may seem bleak, if not a little smug in its sarcasm, but I believe we must look at ourselves and our situation if we expect to enter the adult workforce and someday be in a position of power and responsibility.

To many in the world, we have had the opportunity of a lifetime. We have been permitted by our high standard of living, in world terms to attend an institute of higher learning. In our university, we have been allowed access to knowledge without restriction. Our form of government makes no knowledge secret and no form of expression forbidden. Consider that in many countries poverty makes university impossible, or regimes make it rigidly conform to guidelines. In some countries, our colleagues in the student press publish in

the underground, and face imprisonment or execution if discovered. The tenets of our society make it possible for all of us here at UNB to practise social justice.

We have had the opportunity to live in the world of ideas, the world of social responsibility. We have met fellow students from countries in other continents or on the opposite side of the world. As well as our studies, we have had access to interest groups and lecturers who can teach us to use our learning for more than ourselves, but the world. Nuclear disarmament groups, environmentalists and Third World cultural organizations are just some of the people who enrich our college experience. In the adult world you will face such issues as defense contracts to build nuclear arms, acid rain, business ethics and Third World exploitation. These can involve you whether you make your living in government, finance, industry, scientific research, or engineering.

We need people to challenge the status quo, to speak up when their company is making an error in judgement. You must speak against Government's or business's tacit support of racist, totalitarian or otherwise oppressive regimes through aid to, or investment in their countries. Multinational corporations open plants in Third World countries wherein the employees are either paid poorly or placed in danger. Examples like the Bhopal disaster in India or the inferno in Mexico last winter are most vivid.

The very things that have given you such a world perspective also help you land that job. Employers are now looking for graduates with broad interests and experiences as well as their formal training. They are looking for engineers who can spell, businessmen who can speak in public, and scientists who can be understood to the layman. Above all, they are looking for people who can think beyond the preconceived confines of their job descriptions. That is where true innovation is born. University has let you meet the world — now get out there and challenge it.