



the
brunswickan

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Florida?

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The opinions contained in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Brunswickan.

The Brunswickan, while being an open forum for the viewpoints and opinions of all UNB students, may refuse any submission that is judged to be racist, sexist, libellous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for brevity. Letters generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length and must contain your signature, student number and phone number, or it will not be printed.

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EDITORIAL

by Allan Carter

Orientation week always seems to be a nuisance to those of us who figure it is just an unnecessary foolish expenditure by the Student Union. When I came to UNB four years ago the last thing I wanted to do was spend a week pretending I was enjoying orientation activities. And to make matters worse, I also had to contend with the orientation activities which my residence house had so thoughtfully created for my pleasure.

But for the most part I enjoyed myself. During orientation week I realized that many of the people I met were people I never would have become acquainted with since we were not enrolled in the same studies. In fact, the only thing which I had in common with many of them was that we were all frosh. And only through zany and enjoyable orientation activities can one find and share that common bond with other first year students. So if you can swallow a bit of your pride and partake in orientation week, I urge you to do so. For some of us, it is impossible to attend every event, I know I didn't. But attend as many as you can because, like it or not, orientation is for a whole week and it usually only occurs once in a person's lifetime, so you may as well enjoy it.

During orientation week, many students will be scrambling to get enrolled in courses and to pay the hefty tuition fee. As usual tuition rates have gone up once more and the university conveniently did not formally announce the fee hike until classes were finished last year. Besides fees, all of us have matters which we will have to contend with this year. Some students have to worry about trying to find a reputable day care centre or a dependable baby-sitter to take care of their children while they attend classes. Other students will spend their spare time trying to find a part time job so they will have enough money to continue their education after Christmas. International students will experience the joys and horrors of Canadian living (including the weather). And through all of this many of us, including the frosh, will be

wondering just what exactly we are doing at university. People are currently stating that an education, a degree, will not guarantee a person a job anymore. I like that word "anymore" because I don't think a degree ever guaranteed anybody a job. In fact, nothing comes with guarantees, aside from some of the merchandise we purchase and even those guarantees usually come with attached strings.

If a student is attending university for the sole purpose of beefing up his/her resume that student will have a pretty uneventful, unfulfilling academic career. Of course finding a job someday is part of most students' agendas, but let us hope that we are at university for other reasons. These other reasons will vary greatly since we all come from different families, different cultures and different countries. However, some reasons will most definitely be common for all students: a hunger for knowledge and a need to find out what one's capabilities are and developing them.

The first thing I discovered when I came to UNB was that I spent most of my first year trying to figure out what I wanted to do. In fact, it took me three years before I even decided what my major was going to be. Many have told me that my time and money has been wasted, but I disagree. Watching fellow students I have concluded that discovering the studies which you truly enjoy is all part of a process which every student must go through. As a first year student, it may dawn on you half way through the term that the courses you have enrolled in are just not what appeals to you. The important thing to remember if this does occur is that your time has not been wasted. Time is only wasted if we stubbornly hold onto studies when we know they don't appeal to us. Of course, to meet degree requirements, we all have to take certain courses which we never would have picked on our own in a million years. But in comparison to high school, university offers us much more freedom. So if you discover your area of interest on your first try, great. However, if you don't, remember nothing is

etched in stone and while the ultimate decision is yours there are deans and faculty advisors ready to give advice, if necessary.

Keep in mind that knowledge is attained almost anywhere if one is open to it and it is the duty of every university student to get involved, one way or another. Fortunately, UNB has many different clubs and societies to pick from. In addition, there are many different sport teams which one can join. I just recently read an article (which I believe is to be printed in our sports section this week) where it is stated that nobody is ever "cut" from Rugby. I am not sure what the attitude is like with other sport teams here at UNB, but I do know that in most of the clubs and organizations at UNB, like the Rugby team, people are not "cut". So take a good look around and make use of your Beaverbook which has much information on the clubs and societies and usually provides contact numbers. Also keep in mind that next week UNB's Orientation crew is hosting Activity Day where students have an opportunity to meet people who are involved with clubs and societies on campus. This is a great opportunity for students, whether they be in their first year or their fifth, to find out more about any organization which they may be interested in.

I am confident that you will find your niche somewhere on campus and that you will discover that the knowledge which you will attain through campus involvement is invaluable. Many students claim that they don't have time to get involved, but the beauty of most of the clubs and societies at UNB is that you only devote as much time as you can afford. Like the Bruns, most of these clubs and societies are volunteer organizations so any commitment, small or large, is welcomed and appreciated. If you are interested in what we do here at the Bruns or know you would like to be a member, drop in soon and say hello.

But in the meantime enjoy orientation week.

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