



Mugwump

By DERWIN GOWAN Journal

I guess I owe Peter Anderson an apology. It appears my faith in humanity has been dashed once again.

The current strike in the province by liquor corporation employees certainly brings the characteristics of your typical student into relief.

Consider both a recent Brunswickan-CHSR-Yearbook party, and also the case of the Saint Thomas Orientation.

I have been told that their orientation was quite the success despite the fact there was no booze available. A better way to start students off on the right foot, organizers said, all discos packed and dances overflowing.

But, then the truth comes out.

UNB orientation chairman Peter Anderson lets us in on what's really happening: Saint Thomas students actually buying UNB frosh packs so they can get into our events where the booze was bought well in advance.

That sort of dashed my faith in humanity and confirmed it at the same time.

The campus media party held last weekend at the East Tibbits Lounge provided the supporting evidence to guarantee a conviction.

The party was going along well. It's an annual event after the Media football game, where we demonstrate the superiority of the print media.

A recent press report claimed Canadians consume over 428 million gallons of beer annually, and that doesn't even include the wine and hard liquor, and UNB students drink their fare share.

But, back to the party!

As I was saying, the party was going along fine. We had a garbage can filled with 125 ounces of tequila and a quantity of orange juice and cranberry juice in lieu of grenadine.

However, all good things must come to an end, and the booze ran out around 10:30. Of course, with the liquor strike and all, there was no alternate supply.

But, not to worry, I thought to myself. We had good music and lots of people. We'd have a great party.

However, something didn't go quite according to plan and the party flopped.

The Brunswickan Editor-in-Chief came late, and promptly left for another party where there was an ample supply. The Brunswickan managing editor went to one of the residence pubs, where he got good and inebriated.

CHSR station director Mathew Penny made an awful short appearance, if he was there at all.

By midnight, no one was there but the Brave Six, who sorrowfully decided to call the charade off and got the CHSR folks to come for the sound machine.

But, you say, there were other parties going on. They can't be everywhere at once. Or maybe it was the heavy toll taken at the Orientation party the night before, where the booze lasted closer to breakfast time than some of the Frosh-squadders would want to admit. Or maybe it was the partying all afternoon at a local tavern and in the morning too, I guess, that wore them out.

But, of all the partying going on that weekend, take a good note of which one it was that flopped. When all the evidence is considered: the STU-cats who tried to crash UNB orientation, the Orientation party that succeeded, the media party that didn't - there is only one verdict.

What you have is a sad commentary on students at UNB, and, one suspects, at other universities and even people outside university.

It's not the fact that students like a brew every now and then, or that they sometimes get more parties and other social events lined up than they can rightly handle-that's the sad part.

Rather, it is the fact that too many people, and a whole lot of students can't seem to enjoy themselves if they don't have something to control their own inhibitions, in this case, alcohol - to sort of re-assure them.

A lot of people will write off group of people or a social event entirely because of the music they play, and it seems too many students will write off a social event if, horror of horrors, they find out it's going to be dry.

It's not that they try the party, find it dull, and go home. Rather, they won't give it a chance in the first place.

Some people will make a token gesture, after they already have their minds made up, that the party will flop, and stay for ten minutes, scrupulously avoiding any conversation or other sociable activity. However, they're not much different than the ones who won't show up in the first place.

People are too insecure to look beyond their own protective stereotypes, and that's sad. When they band together and laugh at people who do know how to have a good time, it isn't fair.

Dear Editor:

I am writing to comment on the editorial which appeared in last week's Bruns regarding Saga Foods.

You indicate that you think that it was Saga's decision to cut out various aspects of the UNB food program and I want to point out that this is not the case. Every point you mentioned (steak night moving to every second week-end and the Stud closing) was discussed with a committee which included the UNB Administration and a number of students representing the SRC, the SUB and the Residence Food Committee's. The Dean of Students and the Residence Deans Kidd and Chernoff were also present, not to mention a representative of the illustrious(?) Board of Dons.

Any proposals of this type may be suggested by Saga during negotiations but they must be accepted by the above mentioned committee and, if accepted, they are written right into the contract.

Which brings me to your comment about "fiscal restraint (a

well worn phrase)". It is a well worn phrase but only because it describes a very real situation that we must live in.

- Some facts:
- 1) about 50 percent of Residence Fees go to pay for the food.
 - 2) in 1971 a Residence Room (with food) cost \$850.
 - 3) Financial Post figures indicate that the cost of living has gone up 95 percent since 1971.
 - 4) today's Residence Fees are \$1650.

Result: Residence Fees have gone up 94 percent while the cost of living went up about the same.

Just because we're students does not mean that we're exempt from outside economic pressures.

The Contract Negotiating Committees have, since about 1973, been faced with the difficult task of trying to maintain the status quo of the Food Program while at the same time keeping the fee

increases to a minimum. To accomplish this something has to give and this year it happened to be steak night and the Stud. Yes, next year the Marshall D'Avray Hall cafeteria may get the axe

along with Steak Night altogether - but are you willing to pay still higher fees to keep these luxuries?

I'm tired of listening to all this complaining about unjust cutbacks and fee increases - its time we realized that this University and its services are very much part of the real world.

I also think that your paper should check out its facts before blaming Saga for all these cut backs.

By the way, you should note that the 12 cent comics that you mentioned are now 30 cents (150 percent increase), 10 cent candy bars are now 25 cents (150 percent increase) and the dollar movie is now \$3.25 (225 percent increase).

Sincerely yours,
Peter Galoska
-SRC President (1974-75)
Men's Residence Food Committee
Chairman (1973-1975)
-Contract Committee (1973-1975)

sound-off Saga not to blame

Brown hair offensive?

Dear Editor:

In last week's Brunswickan, the Chairman of UNB Orientation '77, Peter A. Anderson, wrote, amongst other things, that "there were no scheduled events at all for those who cannot abide the sight of brown hair".

I am taking issues with the phrase "those who cannot abide the sight of brown hair". It is beyond the shadow of a doubt that this refers to some of the foreign non-white freshmen. This, to say the least, is an insult on these freshmen and a gross misconception on the part of Peter Anderson. I guess he is displeased with these freshmen because they did not attend most of his Orientation

activities. What he, unfortunately, fails to understand is that these students' cultural backgrounds are different from that of most Canadians - or people with brown hair, if this sounds nicer; these freshmen do not necessarily have to enjoy what people with brown hair enjoy and have the right to stay away from activities they do not enjoy.

Furthermore, I would like Peter Anderson to understand that no foreign non-white student is bundled by force into an airplane and sent to UNB to study; the decision to come here is his/her own. Consequently, a student who cannot abide the sight of brown hair would not come to Canada -

a land reeming with millions of people with all shades of brown hair! All I am trying to put across is that these freshmen are not what Peter Andersen is trying to make them out to be - segregationist or racists.

I strongly feel that Peter Andersen owes these students an apology for his thoughtless and regrettable phrase. Like Watergate, advancing indefensible explanations of that disgraceful phrase won't do - an apology is the ONLY path of honour out of this mess!!

Yours truly,
Okon B. Anwanane
S.E. 2

Energy conservation gone too far

Dear Editor (Trix):

After writing you a rather long communication expressing my regret that the university has decided to close the library at the very times a lot of students would like (and need) to have it open, I didn't just sit back and think of ways to educate myself. I wrote to our (beloved) president, Dr. John Anderson and to the University Librarian Dr. Gertrude Gunn. The reply was the same in both cases. NO! According to our educators, Dr. Franklin, vice-president academic, and Dr. Anderson reviewed the situation and decided the current hours would stand. Dr. Gunn told me by telephone on Wednesday morning that perhaps if the situation warranted the administration would consider a change in the following school year. I wonder what the criteria will be for opening the library up more. Perhaps if a certain percentage of university students fail this year as compared to last, the evening and weekend

sessions will return.

I am very disappointed that in this time of higher learning, we must cut back on our knowledge as well as the lights.

The library posted a notice on the bulletin board therein stating that all the people doing research should have it done between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. I wonder if they realize this is possible in merry old England due to a proliferation of night classes. I think, correct me if I'm wrong, that a lot of the graduate and fellows here at UNB spend a lot more time than between 10 and 5 in the library as well as earning their way via teaching fellowships, etc.

Today the library closes at 5 p.m. Next the halls in residence will never see light. Next the streetlamps will disappear. Next, half the lights in the classrooms. Soon at night the only lit building on campus will be you guessed it an office in the old arts building where a bunch of efficient people celebrate UNB's cutbacks to save

energy. It won't matter that there is not a student or professor on campus. UNB will show profit.

Matthew Penny

Unsolicited letter

Dear Editor:

Circumstances compel me to ask that you publish this unsolicited letter at the earliest opportunity.

- 1) The Security Service, R.C.M.P., is of vital importance to Canada.
- 2) Current attacks on the Service could do irreparable harm.
- 3) I am trying to end those attacks, and ask interested readers to get in touch with me.

Sincerely
Maurice Spiro
532 Tweedsmuir St.,
Fredericton, N.B.