

The following editorial was written by Isaac Bickerstaff, a former BRUNS staffer, in December 1956. It just goes to show how slow the Province of New Brunswick is in changing its laws. It was only in last Tuesday's Speech From The Throne that the government said that they will be making substantial changes in the Liquor Control Act. Yet even now there are changes that are needed, but will not be initiated for some time yet. A prime case in question are the laws concerning Liquor advertising (or the lack of it). The government will not touch that because it is too political. An ad for liquor or beer can be printed outside the Province (booze ads in TIME, etc.), but papers such as yours that could use the revenue from such ads are denied the right to publish them. There is not equitable justice.

This modern age, imbued with the allegedly sound principles of democracy, prides itself on its broad-mindedness and its frank dealings with controversial issues. We are thoroughly convinced, also, that some of our practises, however ludicrous in the face of common sense, are properly justified through democratic theory. One such example, which violates common sense and clearly illustrates a rather disturbing adherence to out-dated puritanism, is the Liquor Control Act of the Province of New Brunswick. We are all aware of its gloomy provisions, so a survey of the Act itself is unnecessary. Another thing we are all aware of, although we won't admit it, is that citizens are not "supposed" to discuss it. This Act has become a sacred cow; everyone knows it's there, but critical speculation as to its validity confounds a considerable portion of the populus.

It is also an arbitrary regulation, that university students, and the university itself, should not concern themselves, publicly with the Act's doubtful merits. This we believe, I suppose, that ignoring the Control Act will serve to give the impression that colleges are not in the least influenced by its provisions. We are thus tricking ourselves erroneously into believing that New Brunswickers regard colleges as "unstained".

I think it about time that people realized that universities are inhabited by reasonably adult persons who are able to conduct themselves with propriety. It would be ridiculous to assume that college students go through four or five years of university without taking a drink. To what degree this is common belief, I am not at all certain, but I strongly suspect it is prevalent in some parts of New Brunswick. It is equally preposterous to picture college students as a collection of alcoholics. In this respect, at least, university students are akin to any other homogeneous

community. There is just as much justification for labeling the citizens of Fredericton alcoholics.

The obvious evils of the present liquor legislation have been outlined by many representative groups in the province. The probable evils of drinking are continually being underlined by assorted "Temperance Organizations". (It is interesting to note that nearly all the so-called Temperance Societies are, in reality, collections of individuals who believe in total abstinence. Curious indeed would be a group who "called" themselves, abstainers.) Sensible liquor laws exist in many other provinces in Canada, in all the States of the Union, and in Europe. It would almost appear that the people of New Brunswick are different from all others, and cannot be counted upon to exercise moderation and common sense.

Legislation that provided for retail liquor outlets would allow non-drinkers as much freedom as before, and would not prevent those who do drink from doing so in a civilized manner. If drink in moderation is unharmed, and I think this can be sensibly argued, then decent provision should be made for its distribution. The idea of strict government control on alcohol is not only unwise and foolish; it repudiates the notion of human rationality.

The Provincial Government should seriously consider drastic revision of its present liquor regulations. Perhaps it will turn out that the consumer liquor industry in New Brunswick is one of the most profitable, and thus, the government will be unwilling to surrender control. If this be so, then all effort should be made to expand the industry. Perhaps if I submitted this hypothesis to the Atlantic Advocate \$1000. Contest For the Best Suggestion to Improve New Brunswick's Economy, something might come of it.

FEEDBACKFEEDBAC FEEDBACKFEEDBACFEEDBACK

Dear Sir:

Your article entitled, "Graduate Prospects Slim", which appeared in the February 11 edition of the "Brunswickan" was, generally speaking, an informative and worthwhile effort. The article did, however, contain one particular statement regarding employment for graduates in History which was

misleading and which I wish to bring to your reader's attention. In reference to the interview with Mr. A.B. McRae of the Canada Manpower Centre, the article maintained: "With regards to persons having a Bachelor of Arts degree Mr. McRae said that those majoring in History usually have the toughest time finding employment". Mr. McRae was con-

tacted regarding the above statement and he admitted that he had been misquoted. He did not mean to imply that graduates in History from UNB necessarily have more difficulty gaining permanent employment than graduates from the other disciplines in the Arts Faculty. Mr. McRae did suggest, however, that History Students often had difficulty finding

summer, or temporary employment related to their field of study. In any case, the number of History graduates that make use of the Canada Manpower Centre as a placement agency is minimal, since the vast majority obtain employment through their own efforts in schools, universities, museums, archives, and the civil service.

Certainly, there is not an overabundance of jobs for graduates in History, but this circumstance applies to the

other disciplines in the Arts Faculty as well. To suggest that History students find it particularly difficult to gain permanent employment upon graduation is to engender misunderstanding and disillusionment among the sizable population of students at UNB who are, or will be, specializing in History.

Yours sincerely,

Gregg Finley,
Secretary,
History Liaison Committee

Dear Sir,

The following concerns an enlightening trip to the health centre.

I asked to see the doctor at the centre at 11:05 a.m., 28 Feb. - not quite the March Break yet. He should be there from 11 am to 1 pm on Mondays. Not too surprisingly he wasn't in. But the reason I was given for his absence was most incredible and disgusting: (and I quote verbatim).

"WE informed the doctor not to bother to come this morning as THERE ARE NOT TOO MANY STUDENTS AROUND. However, he MIGHT be here at about 12 to 12:30 IF ENOUGH PEOPLE WANT TO SEE HIM."

I went out thanking God I wasn't burning my head off with a 104 degree fever. What do they consider to be "ENOUGH PEOPLE" anyway to warrant the eminent presence of that particular VIP? I was most shocked by the assertive statement made on behalf of the whole student body that "there are not too many students around." Why bother having the centre at all if it is such a sham!

Sincerely,

Edmund C. Ha
Engineering 1st.

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