

soundoff continued

Artsies are intellectuals

Dear Sir:

Having been in attendance at UNB only a short time, I hesitate to commit myself to concrete interpretations of the university environment. I find, however, that I can be no longer be tolerant of what is to the informed mind a gross misconception, one seemingly held by the majority of the university populace. I am referring to the attitude displayed toward the Faculty of Arts, of which I am not ashamed in any way to be a member.

While ignorance is a rather harsh word, it would appear to be apropos, since it abounds in a typical conception of the Arts Faculty. Those who are guilty should hold

their collective tongue for a moment and consider the type of society we would be left with if Arts graduates were to be removed for a short time. We would be left with few lawyers, journalists, political figures, social scientists, or authors. There would be a shortage of doctors, civil servants, businessmen, administrators, and members of other professions. In short, Arts graduates fill integral roles in the functioning of our society, for this faculty stands alone in being able to provide competent persons to positions in virtually all areas.

Unlike some of its more empirical counterparts, the Arts Faculty is not in the habit of mass produc-

ing graduates more resembling finely tuned machines than thinking individuals. The Arts student is afforded the opportunity to grow and expand within himself, and is able to provide an educated insight into the pressing socio-political problems of today's world. Those of you who offer opinions without knowledge are fond of saying that the Arts graduate is lacking in the specific skills needed to find a job. The facts say otherwise. A federal government report circulated a few months ago provided information regarding the chances of a university graduate landing a permanent job position. Arts students were said to have an edge over

graduates of other faculties in the percentage able to find work.

Yet another piece of false information which seems to hover about Arts students is that we don't have the workload of other students. There are those persons who choose to take the easy path in every faculty, but as in the others an Arts student who does not work does not graduate. People tend to overlook the shortcomings of their own group and find fault in others.

The purpose of this letter was not to place the Arts Faculty on a pedestal above all others; indeed, that is contrary to what I am trying to say. The point I wish to make is that all faculties deserve

an equal share of respect. The Arts Faculty is one which is honoured by the passing of time. The "Old Arts Building" carries that title for a reason. There is no valid reason for any Arts student to be ashamed of his or her faculty. Other faculties produce graduates who are merely intelligent. We in the Arts Faculty go beyond that, for we are the intellectuals of tomorrow, and it is time we assumed a prominent role at UNB. One closing bit of advice - we would all be much better off if people did not voice degrading opinions on matters which they know precious little about.

Sincerely,
Bradley Green

For the record

Dear Mr. Bosnitch:

Permit me to react every so briefly to the item in the December 2 edition of the Brunswickian entitled: "3CF IS ALIVE":

first, the Third Century is an effort of the Board of Governors and is managed by a Board-appointed Management Committee; neither you nor anyone else has the right to issue pledge forms, pamphlets or any other materials in the name of the Campaign without permission;

second, to all intents and purposes and consistent with our commitment to the students, the canvass of students ended last March when more than 65 per cent of them agreed by referendum vote to a \$10 per year voluntary levy for a five-year period, i.e. up to and including 1987-88.

third, because of the results of that referendum and because so many students did make \$10 contributions to Third Century this fall, all students are protected from further canvassing on behalf of the Third Century;

and fourth, despite your desire to see an addition to the SUB and a return of Varsity Football, neither of these are approved Third Century Fund projects. No one has the right to add unilaterally a project to the official slate for which we have been canvassing so long and so diligently.

Permit me to remind you, then, that the pledge-payment period will go on for five years but that the canvass is over. Your sub-campaign (and, obviously, therefore, your term as co-chairman) ended with the passing of the referendum in March, 1983. Any actions that you have taken since that time should not be confused with any actions which you might have taken in concert with this office in support of our student fund-raising effort.

Yours truly,

John W. Meagher,
Chairman
Campaign Management
Committee

... Bosnitch responds

Mr. Meagher:

It was most discouraging to receive your letter of December 6. It exposed a complete ignorance of the issues in the Third Century Fund campaign. In the interest of clearing things up for you I will instruct you as to the facts:

first, as a Governor I am fully aware of the control we on the Board exercise over the 3CF and your office in particular. Perhaps you have forgotten the fact that all the pledge forms, pamphlets and materials distributed by the student campaign were distributed with your personal knowledge and full authorization...it would be deceptive on your part to suggest otherwise.

second, had the students approved of "mandatory donations" to the 3CF in last year's referendum, the canvass would now be complete. Since they did not, it is essential that they be told the objectives and applications of the fund.

third, contrary to your opinion, it is precisely because

the students did NOT adopt a mandatory levy, and because over 2,000 of them have already requested refunds, that it is essential that the student campaign continue to publicize the Third Century Fund.

and fourth, despite your apparent personal objections to Varsity Football and additions to the S.U.B., it is my right to present any project to the rest of the Board of Governors for possible inclusion in the Fund. I clearly stated that these were projects which were to be presented to the Board in January, and could not possibly be added "unilaterally". In line with the old saying "he who pays the piper picks the tunes", you are the piper and the students are picking the tunes...

Regardless of whether you permit me or not, I will remind you that the students have decided that their contributions shall be voluntary. Therefore, both you and I are bound to inform them of the objectives of the campaign AND of its voluntary nature. You are

mistaken when you suggest that the student sub-campaign has ended, and

are most presumptuous in suggesting that our actions must be conducted solely in

concert with your office. 3CF Strategy Paper No. 1 specifically refers to a long-term student campaign which operates freely and

independently. We shall continue to do so. I find it surprising that your interest in the student campaign did not lead you to even so much as phone me about for more than one whole year.

As a final note, we shall

continue to provide the full information to the students, and we will not tolerate any attempts to conceal the facts about the fund.

John Bosnitch

The President
Student Union