

The Liberal leadership : ho-hum

By MAURICE GAUTHIER

The New Brunswick Liberal Leadership debate held recently was the type of event Albert Camus could write a book about. What could be more absurd than a group of provincial party leadership candidates discussing a topic under Federal jurisdiction (ie legalization of grass) with a non-voting audience only two weeks before the election? The only

how we were to become the social conscience of the Liberal Party and that he would find a way to get youth involved. And another green cow flew over the moon.

Bud Williamson's true colors turned out to be the same shade of white as the shirt he was wearing. He played the "suck-in-the-students" game by telling us, in complete

coincidence or not, no one will ever know for sure. Like his good friend John Bryden, Higgins told a few "funnies" which proved beyond any doubt that he too was a great guy.

The "debate" was concluded by a question-and-answer period

during which non-questions were put forth and non-answers were returned.

Isn't it wonderful that the voting age has been lowered to allow us to vote for such inspiring people as these candidates?

JOHNNY CASH

IS A PAY TOILET

op-ed / comment

thing that could come close to this would be to "rig up" a car with a public address system and to drive around the campus promoting such an event after having posted dozens upon dozens of yellow sheets in buildings on this same campus only two days beforehand promoting this same event!

So we piled into the Tilley auditorium, but only after most of us had been moved from the "bear pit" (ie the announced location) which had been too small to accommodate the hordes. And we read Maurice Harquail's circular telling us how he had once been President of the North Shore Hockey League. And we waited until nine-fifteen so that Robert Higgins could make a triumphant entrance. And the "Great Debate" which wasn't really

seriousness, how the province needed graduates. He didn't, however elaborate by mentioning where these graduates could find jobs.

John Bryden opened his act with a half-humorous joke. This was to show everybody what a great guy he was. His follow-up consisted mainly of statements such as "I don't want to take up too much time" and "I've gone on longer than I should."

Maurice Harquail stated that we could call him what we wanted just as long as we mentioned his name. He also told us that the world was ours. These weren't delivered as candid humor although we did get a good laugh out of them.

And then, there was Robert

By CHRIS J. ALLEN

It appears that the great detergent phosphate debate of the late 60's is on the upswing once more. This time for the reinstatement of phosphates in laundry detergents. In the past weeks the press has reported that the American Government may be lifting their ban on phosphates.

Recently in the U.S., medical doctors and government officials warned against the premature replacement of detergent phosphates with untested, and possibly unsafe, substitute materials. Meanwhile, a growing list of scientists and engineers are questioning whether the removal of phosphates from detergents alone will have any measurable effect on the over-fertilization (eutrophication) of lakes and streams.

The compound phosphorous pentoxide was added to most commercial detergents in the late 40's to make clothes whiter and cleaner. When the 'pollution threat' began to sweep the world, substances containing DDT and phosphates were the first to fall victim to the environmentalists guillotine. It was discovered that elements such as phosphorous were accelerating the eutrophication of many of our waterways.

At that time a report of the International Joint Committee on pollution in the Great Lakes recommended the "immediate reduction to minimum levels of the phosphorous levels of detergents and amounts of phosphates based detergents used; complete replacement of phosphorous compounds in detergents with environmentally less harmful substitutes as soon as possible but not later than 1972."

Eutrophication is a term describing the natural process in which a complex variety of nutrients promotes animal and plant life in slow-moving bodies of water. If left entirely to nature, this process spans thousands of years. However, man has caused an acceleration of eutrophication in many cases. He has increased the rate of aquatic enrichment by an over-abundance of nutrients. Over fifteen nutrients are required for this natural process including carbon, phosphorous, nitrogen, potassium and silicon.

This excessive fertilization of our waterways causes large slimy green carpets of algae to float on the water. The dead algae sink to the bottom and decay, using up much dissolved

oxygen that is required by fish and other forms of aquatic life.

Sewage treatment plants are designed primarily for the removal of organic wastes which may contain disease organisms. They are not intended to remove phosphates which pose no hazard to our health.

Many citizens and politicians began to worry about the death of our lakes. Lake Erie is a prime example of a 'dead' lake—one that has had its eutrophication accelerated. Pollution Probe in Toronto organized massive campaigns in the early 70's to have phosphates in detergents banned. In a Feb. 1970 press release, P.P. states that "so far the detergent industry has reacted only by denying the facts, evading the question, making excuses, and mounting a public relations campaign designed to ride out the storm over phosphates."

In August 1970, the Canadian Government came out with the Phosphorous Concentration Control Regulations. Since phosphates were banned by the Canadian and U.S. Governments, the detergent manufacturers have been attempting to come up with a substitute.

Unfortunately, of the numerous substitutes, none have shown to be satisfactory. In fact, many are considered hazardous. Dr. R.E. Gosselin, Chairman of Pharmacology at Dartmouth Medical School, said he was "alarmed" to discover that the alkalinity of many no-phosphate products of which he was aware "is so

high that they represent a distinct hazard in the home."

At U.S. Federal Trade Commission hearings prominent physicians warned that many new phosphate-free detergents may be hazardous to human beings. A U.S. Senate Committee on Public Works now advocates the construction of "properly designed and operated sewage treatment plants" which "can remove in excess of 90 per cent of all phosphates in municipal wastes and, at the same time, remove other nutrients necessary for algal growth."

Dr. Steinfeld, the U.S. Surgeon General testified that "it should be realized that tests conducted thus far indicate that some of the currently used substitutes for phosphates are clearly toxic or caustic and pose serious accidental hazards, especially to children." He also brought attention to the proven safety record of phosphate detergents and stated that his office may have to take "drastic action" against highly caustic phosphate-free detergents.

More and more scientists, doctors, engineers and government officials are coming out in favour of returning to phosphates. It seems that while phosphates may be detrimental to our waterways, they are not hazardous to our health. Many of these people, along with the detergent manufacturers, are pressing the American Government to lift the ban on phosphates, at least until a safe and satisfactory alternative can be found.

Women's Lib

By SARA AND JANET



Why do you need Women's Liberation?

Perhaps you already understand how Lib. applies to you. But by joining a Lib group you can also see how it applies to all women: mothers, working women, students, women living with men or women on welfare. Only by discussing our problems can we achieve a total understanding of Women's Liberation. For instance it may be difficult for a single student whose problems include her relationships with men, etc., to understand the problems of a married woman, who must cope with the roles of housewife, student, and mother.

Even those who have a full understanding of liberation must realize that our objectives cannot be fulfilled without the total support of many women. We will no longer allow ourselves to be forced into the mold society has cast for us. To free ourselves we must unite.

Some believe that by belonging to the group you must agree with everything you have heard about Lib: some women even thought they would have to burn their bras!! This of course is not true, but to understand our motives and means it is necessary to participate. This is only fair if you are going to pass judgement.

Many women are afraid of being labelled women liberationists. However, the people who intimidate you are often those who realize that they are up against the wall. Don't let them keep you from standing up for what you know is right.

Out from under, women unite.

The great detergent phosphate debate on rise - again

By CHRIS J. ALLEN

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Students and the library

By S. MYERS

Fifteen days ago I began classes at the University of New Brunswick. Within that span of approximately two weeks; ten of my nights in Fredericton have been spent visiting the Harriet Irving Library. I think of myself as a somewhat serious student and the Harriet Irving has offered the calm necessary for positive study habits.

There is unfortunately one flaw as there is in every great system. The leader of the pack ie. Dr. Gunn who heads the libraries' Administration seems to feel that at the university level an adequate studying hour should not exceed eleven or twelve o'clock. At this time a flickering of lights occurs and

one is compelled to run home for fear of turning into a pumpkin. I really cannot see the need for such conservative action. There should be little reason why one room such as the basement could not remain in use until 3:00 a.m. The cost of securing a guard to watch all the action would not put the library into bankruptcy.

What kind of opportunity does the present system allow the student who enjoys studying past the witching hour.

I propose that Dr. Gunn reconsider her feelings on this subject; it would only be for the benefit of the student body. Unfortunately I can say no more at this point, a guard is coming to take me away - it's 11:00 p.m.