

Reader wants Canadianization of our universities

To the Editor:

An issue of concern in Canadian academic circles today is the Canadianization of our universities. Certain observations around UNB lead me to believe that many of the administrators and faculty members have ignored this issue in their hiring practices. An examination of the Calendar reveals a very large number of non-Canadian faculty members (judging their national origin by their first degree), could this be one of the reasons why this issue is neglected in their hiring practices?

Before coming to UNB I had read of this issue. But the seriousness of this problem was brought home to me by a number of experiences. I had heard of Ph. D.'s driving taxis in Toronto and Montreal, but found this hard to believe. A letter in University Affairs (Nov. 1974, p. 12) from a Dr. Andrew Nimmo revealed that since returning to Canada he has been working as a machinist's helper with the CNR in Edmonton because he was not able to get a teaching position. He relates that "while in Britain, it was no comfort to see Canadian Government advertisements in newspapers seeking among others, 'University Professors'." It's not a happy reflection upon our government's responsibility to its citizens.

When I brought this to a friend's attention, I was told that his sister had recently graduated with a degree in Library Science and had not been able to find employment in her field. As a result, she was "putting in time" as a waitress. He then told me that since July, of the five librarians hired at Harriet Irving, only two were Canadians and the remainder were Canadians.

In the October 24th issue of the daily gleaner, two new teaching appointments were announced. Judging from the description of the appointees, it is clear that they were neither Canadians, nor even landed immigrants.

In both of these examples, and undoubtedly there are many more, it's hard to believe that qualified Canadians can not be found. Universities, which are so heavily financed by the public, have the obligation to hire Canadians whenever possible, only then such non-Canadians as landed immigrants, and in exceptional cases, non-residents. A few years ago it may have been necessary to go beyond our borders to recruit, but not today when there are so many qualified Canadian graduates and post-graduates under-employed. The old story that non-Canadians are better qualified and more experienced in inexcusable. Even in a few cases where it may be true, how will Canadians acquire better qualifications and experience if they are not given an opportunity.

What are the prospects for an undergraduate contemplating graduate school, and possibly an academic career if this trend of favouring non-Canadians continues? If our universities are not interested in providing opportunities for Canadians, then who is? If this trend continues, the prospects are not bright and there is little incentive to do graduate work.

What can be done to reverse this trend? A drastic solution would be the establishment of a reviewboard on each campus composed of faculty members and students. They would be responsible for investigating the hiring of non-

Canadians and would have the power of vetoing any contract until it was clearly demonstrated that a thorough search had been made to find an equally qualified Canadian. If universities are reluctant to take some such measures to reverse this trend, pressure should be put on government to legislate the establishment of such review

boards. This may be an extreme measure, but if universities persist upon discriminating against Canadians, then there is no other alternative.

In addition, each student should contact his M.P. protesting the Canadian Government's practice of recruiting skilled non-Canadians while there are Canadians with

these skills unemployed or under-employed. Canada's first obligation is to her own people.

I hope you will publish this letter in its entirety in the next issue of the Brunswickan.

Sincerely,
Jim Davis
Arts I

Gunfight turned to "Love Story"

Persons:

With regard to your last issue and its opinion feature on the Nomination Convention of the Fredericton North Progressive Conservative Association.

It would seem to me that Mr. Simms in looking for the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" walked into "Love Story".

The Honorable Lawrence Garvie was not opposed at that convention because at the author of the editorial noted he has done much for the development of Health Services and has represented his constituency very well. People appreciate a person who listens to them and works for them.

On that evening Mr. Simms would have been better off attending the York South nominating convention where four people were seeking the nomination.

I find it strange that the author concentrated so much on the Conservative Convention when it was the Liberal one that should have received the brunt of his comments.

When a party can find only two persons in a city of this size to run for a position where no incumbents (Liberals) stand is a sad

testimonial to the state of the Liberal party.

Helpful criticism is always respected but it should be directed where the problems are the worst.

In this case I feel that it should be directed towards the Liberal party.

Sincerely,
Peter Dobbstein
President UNB PC Club

Editors' comment

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absolutely no experience is necessary. It's an education in itself and we can sure use all the help we can get, besides we are sure he'd enjoy himself. A lot of people say they don't have the time, but speaking for the staff and the people in their last year hoping to graduate, we don't have the time either but we're here because we like it, it's fun and a great way to make friends, and it's an education.

We understand that Mr. Curtis was afraid his letter wouldn't get printed in its entirety. We print all letters as long as they are signed but we do not have to print the person's name if they wish to remain anonymous. The name is necessary for our files for legal purposes.

We wish Mr. Curtis had come to US

much earlier and we could have settled the matter without giving a lot of wrong impressions, but we do hope this comment will clear things up. We are sorry about misunderstandings because we are not here to "screw anyone in the ear" and become power trippers. Anyone interested in seeing papers from other universities might drop in to the office, we get them in the mail. We guarantee you will be proud of The Brunswickan, perhaps proud enough to come in and join the fun and help change what you don't like because we're far from perfect and we never will be. But we're doing the best we can.

Sincerely,
Susan Manzer
Tom Benjamin

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