

Some issues to think about

By ANDREW STEEVES

There are several elections coming up on this campus and in this country. With elections comes all the posturing and bullshitting that is common to the politician's trade. There also will be some very important and some not so important issues raised in these campaigns.

Several of these issues will directly affect Engineers; others will affect us as students. All of the following issues should be carefully considered by Engineers before they vote for their EUS, SRC, provincial or federal candidates. It would do us all some good to force our candidates to give us answers before we vote them into office.

The issues:

1. If UNB does not obtain more funds very quickly, we will almost certainly receive a tuition hike of at least \$100 for next year. Our EUS, SRC, and provincial representatives must be people who are willing to fight very hard against the university administration and provincial government on this matter. UNB's tuition fees are among the highest in Canada.
2. Tight budgets in government and at the Comptrollers office have kept professors' salaries at an unnaturally low value. If this is kept up we could lose several of our better Engineering professors to other universities UNB must remain competitive.
3. UNB professors are about to become unionized. Your new Eus and SRC representatives must ensure that students are not shafted by this new arrangement. As a matter of fact they should be

asking if a faculty union is good for students at all.

4. UNB's residence system is in bad shape with dozens of vacancies all over the campus. Yet we are told that residence hikes are possible again this year. Should this be done?

6. Co-ed residences have been suggested as one means of putting interest back into the residence system. Should we support this?

6. There have been several complaints about how and where our SRC dues are spent. Is there a problem at the SRC or poor public relations about what is being done by the SRC?

7. Engineers have seen several of their services cut in recent years with the 'Gndivan' and the 'Iron Ring' yearbook bring prime examples. If Engineers want these services renewed these must elect an EUS council that is willing to budget for these services and willing to fight the SRC for funds to pay for them.

— Many Engineers would like to see more services from the EUS and SRC. Are they willing to pay higher fees to get them?

9. There is a move afoot to give all the UNB sports teams the same name (for example both the football and hockey team could become the "Red Madman" or whatever) Do we as students support this standardization or do we want to keep the old, traditional names?

10. There are several other issues which could be raised by Engineers or any one other various Engineering Departments. They should be. And our candidates should be prepared to give us frank, definite answers.

Want to become the new Chevy Chase? If so see Gary LeGassie who is the Engineer's representative on the College Hill Video Workshop (CHVW). Gary is going to start up a comedy show on CHVW and would like to hear from Engineers Gary can be reached by phoning 472-1561. Incidentally CHVW shows can be seen on Cable Channel 10 on Saturday afternoons.

Engineering 23 continues to do well in ball hockey. Last week they beat the tough Computer Science squad 6 to 4, lost to Education 8 to 4 and beat Forestry 2. It now appears that Engineering 23 will be one of the four teams in the ball hockey playoffs.

One team which won't make the playoffs is the Civil Stars. Inconsistency has hurt the Stars all year and it was never more apparent than on Monday night. With only six players the Stars held the tough Education to a slim 4 to 2 lead after 2 1/2 periods before losing 7 to 3. The goaltending of Wayne Chamberlain was outstanding in the losing effort. Yet with a full squad the Stars have lost several games badly.

In conclusion we should give a tip of the hat to the Engineers who helped build the Ice Palace and the snow sculpture. Good job group. Keep it up.

There are benefits to EUS jobs

Are all you engineers aware of the extras afforded to members of the EUS executive? You get extra responsibility, extra challenge, extra friends, extra recognition and extra booze, as well as free admission to all EUS events.

If you think you are up to one of the jobs, all you need to do is have two people sign your nomination and deliver it to the EUS store before Feb. 20. The election will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 22. Any questions about workload can be posed to former members of the executive.

The best fun, however can be had on the committees; like the Queens committee, or Eng. week committee or you could try being social chairman.

This year the palace may not be stylish elegant, or anything like that; but it sure is massive. All who participated had a great time, and some of the graduating class are considering coming back to do it again next year.

The walls were slipformed using plywood and drunks, and applying snow and water at a ratio of 3:2. The drunks kept quite tight. Because the foreman was also tight, the walls are not exactly plumb. The finishing touches were applied late Saturday night by members of other faculties who were just passing by and saw the engineers too drunk to stand. To them we give a big thank you! A big thanks also to Howie Goldberg and the gentlemen from the physical plant.

We give engineer of the week to Leonard McFarlane for supplying us with a float the last few years and again this year. Thanks also

for the head start on the ice palace.

P.S. rumour has it that if you want to ride on the float tomorrow

with all that beer, you gotta help out this afternoon. Check Paul Hayes for details.

Engineers perform

On last Monday evening the theatre of Marshall D'Avray Hall was the scene of the Winter Carnival Variety Show. There were some very good acts in the show. Many people do not realize how much talent there is on this campus.

The engineers displayed their own brand of talent (among other things). For those unfortunate readers who were unable to attend this performance, let me assure you that it was a brilliant exhibition of intricate choreography and vocal harmony.

Twelve engineers (six dressed as females and six dressed as males) sang and danced their own version of several popular songs. Everyone who witnessed this display will never hear those songs again without remembering the engineers. I hope that all members of the audience took the songs in the spirit of humour in which they were offered, and were not offended. (Well, not too offended anyway).

So a pat on the back for the people who put the Variety Show together, including the performers.

Safety feature for '81

In 1981, the nation's car makers will be required to equip all new cars with air bags in an effort to reduce accident-related injuries.

The air bags, which automatically inflate upon severe impact to protect riders, should add an extra \$200 - \$300 (dollars) to new car prices. Car buyers probably won't be too happy about that, and because of the increase, Detroit is predicting sales will go through the roof in 1979 and 1980 as buyers try to save money before the law takes place.

However, the biggest complaints are likely to come in the mid-1980's for two reasons: first, it'll cost between \$600 and \$700 (dollars) to replace a damaged or used air bag and second, higher insurance premiums will be required to cover the replacement costs. Insurance firms currently offer small discounts on cars equipped with air bags, but Detroit says this will be more than wiped out when all cars have air bags and claims increase. (News-crypt - Credit: Mike Dolan, WLRS, Louisville, Kentucky)

Inside Track by Allan Patrick

THIS ONE'LL KILL YOU

We're all familiar with the expression "you are what you eat", and we are also all too aware that we eat many things we shouldn't. In an attempt to save ourselves, we avoid certain things and gorge on others, thinking all the time that we know what's best for us. Or do we?

A recent report from the New England Journal of Medicine surprised me in a few respects. The report says that there are many things we take for granted as being good for us that aren't at all. And the author states that a return to natural foods provides no relief from dangerous foods. For example, sassafras, once a popular item in the home, was banned due to the presence of safrole, a carcinogen that is contained in it. Even honey can be dangerous to you due to a carcinogen (pyrrolizidine) which comes from pollen. Is nothing sacred? Certain molds on food crops produce toxic substances that literally "poison people throughout the world each year". And buying health food will help you none.

People's fears of chemicals in their foods also came under heavy fire in the report from New England. They state that millions of dollars are made each year on so-called natural vitamins that are actually less good for you than synthetic ones. Natural vitamins are usually much more expensive too, while being of less potency than synthetics. People continue to buy the natural ones due to their fear of chemicals. If they only knew that they drink trimethylxanthine and chlorogenic acid each time they drink coffee maybe they'd understand that EVERYTHING is just a combination of different chemicals. This fear of chemicals also takes the form of fear of food additives and preservatives. Granted, many have proven harmful, but there are 670 items that are classified GRAS - Generally Regarded as Safe by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the U.S. All these items are under scrutiny, and most are expected to come up as safe. Some dyes and preservatives have been taken off the list over the years. The dyes were found to be carcinogenic, but two major preservatives, BHA and BHT, were banned in the US for the wrong reasons. The report says that these two preservatives are very safe and prevented other more dangerous chemicals from forming, but they were removed from circulation due to public pressure - fear of chemicals in their food.

Enough for chemicals that are not a threat; now I'm going to tell you about a few that are in very widespread use and are also very dangerous. They are Sodium Nitrate and Sodium Nitrite, known collectively as nitrites. These are used greatly as preservatives in cured meats, and have been directly linked to cancer. What happens is that when the meat is fried (high temperatures are needed), the nitrites react with secondary amino acids in the meat forming nitrosamines, very dangerous carcinogens. Hot dogs are one of the worst offenders, and the only safe way to eat them is to boil them. This boiling dissolves most of the nitrite in the water, and the temperature is low enough so that the reaction forming the nitrosamines cannot occur. It is also interesting to note that beets, celery, spinach and lettuce are high in nitrites, but unless they are cooked at high temperature with meats, there is nothing to be concerned about.

In closing, there are many things in our diets that are considered dangerous, and using your good old common sense won't do you much good. All we can do is hope that eventually the government agencies will weed out the cancerous items before we all begin to suffer the consequences.

INSIDE OUT

Recently I came upon a copy of a new book that I find enlightening and very informative, especially if you were born in this province and written for those who were not. The book is called New Brunswick Inside Out, and is rightfully called "The only complete guide to Canada's Picture Province."

The book is written by Colleen Thompson, who by the way is the wife of our Dean of Students (presently away on sabbatical). So the book is all the more a personal experience for me. I especially enjoyed the section on the history of Fredericton, which included some things I certainly didn't know, and found delightful.

All in all the book is one of a kind, and overdue. It is well researched, and written in a light, airy style that you will find easy to pick up and read when you have time. It is a must for all New Brunswickers. It is published by Waxing Productions in Ottawa, and should be available in the bookstores in town. Buy it.