

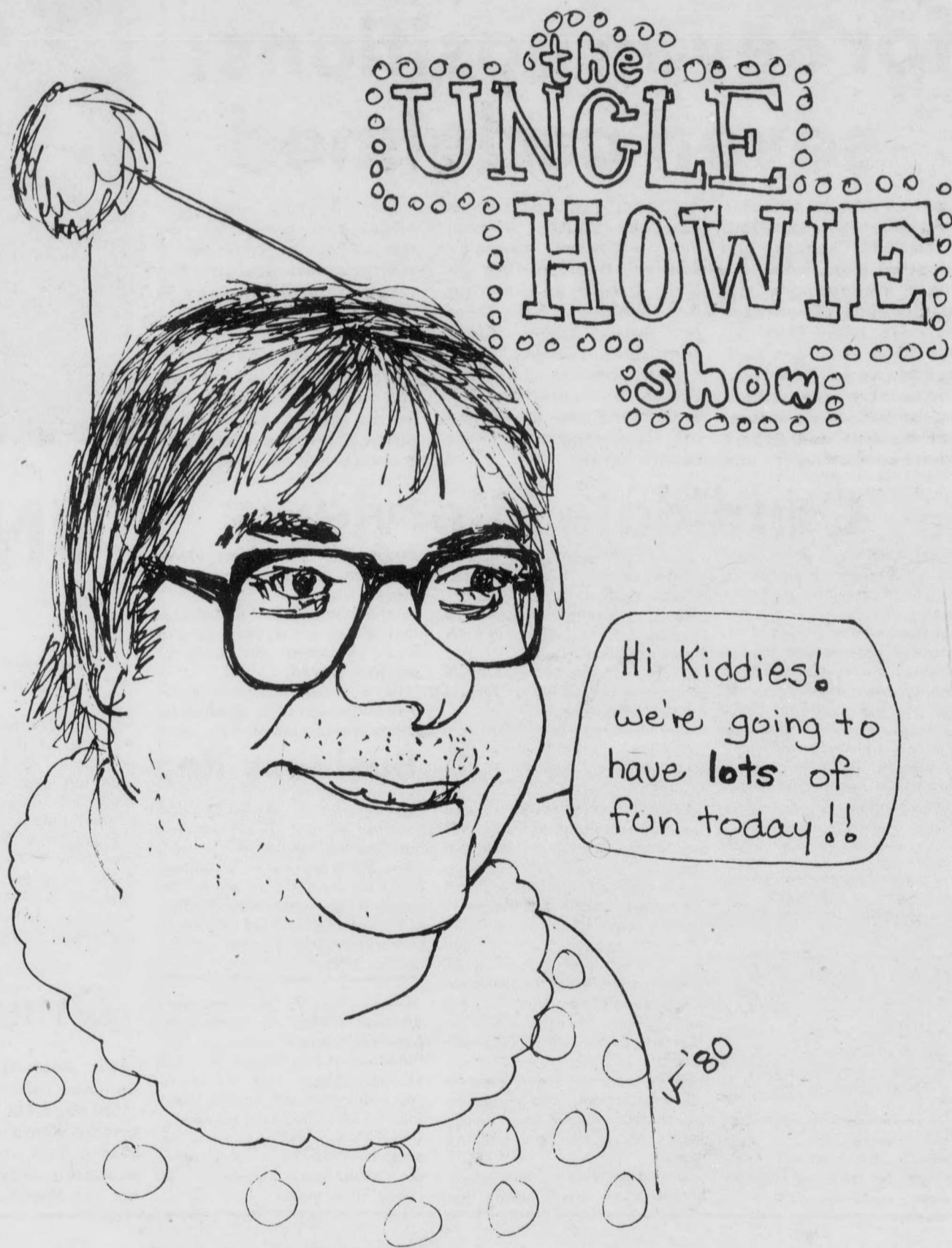
The frivolous fun-loving days of university may be either lying dormant or they could be forever gone from the academic life of university students. Few people care - as can be noticed by the definite drop in campus activities. But for the slim minority of students and faculty who do care, the situation has reached near crisis levels.

Howard Goldberg's report entitled, "The Student Activities Dilemma" reflects many of the problems pertaining to the UNB campus. His analysis that films and pubs are the only campus events and that the only activities on this campus appear to be drinking events truly reflects the need for some strong reconsiderations and reorganization in student activities for UNB.

Whether changes should include the hiring of a full-time Activities Co-ordinator, as suggested in Manager of Conferences and Food Services Howard Goldberg's report remains to be seen. Under his proposal the University would assume the entire operation of the SUB with the overall intent of securing a balanced and co-ordinated effort to provide the best facility for the best programs for the students of UNB. The idea seems noble enough but there are certain areas which raise some serious questions in regards to the actual being of the students and their student union.

One particular area of concern is in Goldberg's proposal of a 15-\$20 increase of student activity fees to support programming. Said Goldberg "This increase is an essential part of the overall plan."

Is this money for use in specific activity proposals or is it just to go into bureaucracy? Whatever the case, any increase in student fees would have to go to referendum and how many students are going to be willing to fork over another \$20 for such events as: craft workshops, frisbee competitions, snow games and fireside chats with local celebrities? As ridiculous as it might sound these are the possible programs suggested for the students as listed in Goldberg's report. Are we going to be getting the type or programs we want or are we going to be getting the type of programs the Co-ordinator wants? If such a position such as Activities co-ordinator is to exist within the Student Union, then it would be of the utmost importance to select a person who can genuinely reflect the attitudes and wants of the students. It's important that this activity problem be followed through with the students likes and dislikes in mind. After all who are the activities for? The failure of such a program could bring serious implications as far as student participation is concerned. Let's not lose what little participation there is to be.



A second consideration concerns the control over the student union. Goldberg proposes that the university take over the running of the SUB.

Financially this could mean a little more money for the SUB from the MPHEC. But on the other hand, the proposal could limit the function of the SUB Board to that of strictly becoming an advisory body. And what happens to Saint Thomas University - are they just to disappear from the scene without a word? Goldberg's report makes no mention of Saint Thomas's presence in the SUB. Has everyone forgotten that Saint Thomas has offices in this building?

The implications of Goldberg's report points towards strict control and organization of the Student Union disallowing the student input. Goldberg's conclu-

sion that students are dissatisfied with campus activities is quite correct as his interpretation that alcoholic events seen to over run all other campus events. While it

is pleasing to see people such as Dean Thompson and Howard Goldberg's interest and recognition of the need for some kind of solution to an increasing problem, it is discouraging to note alternatives in programming turn to approach the level of elementary grade school fun times.

Failure to spark student enthusiasm towards active participation has resulted from the high costs of education. Combined with the pressure of maintaining a successful academic standing many students have reached the decision that extra-curricular activities are time consuming and not worth the effort. Their point is valid - to a point. But to remember that

there is always those few who want to enjoy university life is also to realize that proper activity programming could attract more students hedging between active participation or remaining apathetic.

Unfortunately Mr. Goldberg's report doesn't quite perfect the needed measures. University take-over of the SUB is much too rash a move - let's leave the University bureaucrats out of some things and the Student Union can remain as is - a union of students. Perhaps a part-time Activities Co-ordinator hired by the Union

would be a better solution. But for heaven's sake -let's not end up with Captain Kangaroo or Mister Dressup. At last glance, we were sure we saw a mature group of students who wanted anything but a craft workshop or frisbee contest.