

An enlightening experience

The International Students Lounge

By MARIA WAWER

The lounge, very attractive in itself, and often containing many interesting objects from abroad, has been the local for activities well worth taking in.

During Canada week in January, for example, films were shown, discussions organized.

On Friday, January 21st, a coffeehouse with talent from China, Africa, the Carribean and Asia was a great success. Over 70 guests attended, en-

joyed the coffee and the people. As one put it: "When I walked in, I knew almost no one. Now, I have the impression I met everyone in the room."

On Saturday, the three UNB students who were part of the Crossroads International program presented slides of their trip and recalled the advantage and problems of their travels.

Crossroads, organized in 1961 by Dr. Robinson, a black involved in the American Civil Rights movement is a multiracial volunteer organization to broaden cultural contact through summer work in foreign countries. The American branch is involved specifically in Africa.

The Canadian organization separated from the parent American group this year, and is involved in sending people to the Carribean. Future plans for work in Asia are being considered.

Last summer, Gord Cousins went to Ghana and was based primarily in the southern region. Working for the Ministry of Education and the Centre for Civic Education, he instructed in the use and repair of audio-visual equipment. He travelled quite extensively, and his slides exposed various quirks of a country which has received foreign aid from the United States, Russia and China.

One noticed the contrast between an extravagant port and shipyards built with foreign loans as a prestige item and a local "restaurant", a shack run by "a very nice guy" where one could get a full course meal, including chicken, for 30 cents.

The differences between the costly and often near useless items, as the above mentioned port (whose dry docks, largest in the world south of Suez, are half empty) and a small, labor intensive Chinese textile mill.

Dan Fenety was put to work supervising the addition of a maternity wing of a small hospital in Northern Ghana. Possibly because he was more removed from cities and industrial developments, placed more emphasis on the strangeness of the land itself, in particular the northern farming regions.

During the day season, the land appeared parched. According to Dan, some people literally starved to death during this period.

With the advent of the rainy season, the plains changed character completely - everything became lush, green. Millet grew to be taller than the low, native clay houses. And the rain-sheets of it!

Dan found it interesting to learn to work within the local system - inefficient perhaps, but the only practical one in that corner of the world.

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...margin for error; poor organization must be the inevitable result of such circumstances.

This letter is not being offered as an excuse and we are not expecting any sympathy. As Chairman of the organization I must bear the responsibility for what happened. But in view of our experience this year, I can't imagine anyone trying to organize another Science Week; so if next year comes and goes without one, you ought to know why.

Gordon K. Falconer
Science IV Chairman,
Federation of Science Students



Mugwump

By EDISON STEWART

Journal

Last term I mentioned that perhaps the SRC and the administration could operate some sort of bus service to the downtown area from here. I have no idea on how often a bus like that would have to run, but no doubt transit studies could determine that.

The need for such a service was demonstrated to me once again early this week. I took a cab from a certain cab company's office (located downtown) to the SUB. My trip was fine, until we arrived at the top of the hill by the law building.

There I politely asked my driver to take a left, so I could be taken to the side door of the SUB (by the library) and not to the back door. He snapped back very rudely, saying "don't tell me where to go. That's very rude of you." I was the only one in the cab at the time and this fellow's eloquent grade-two-speech perturbed me a great deal.

I was taken to the back door - again I was chastised for telling the driver where I'd like to be dropped. After I reached the Bruns Office, I phoned the cab company's office to complain. The manager backed his driver, much to my surprise, and he too said that they didn't like being told where to take their passengers. (I know now where I should have told him to go.)

So I hung up on him and phoned the Provincial Consumer Bureau and told them what had happened. I found there was nothing much that I could do - but the fellow there advised me to pay half of the fare if it should ever happen again.

My suggestion, then, is that we look into the procuring of a small van to transport students.

Until then, however, I'd like to suggest to the taxi companies in town, and in particular this "certain company" (you know who you are, don't you?), that they educate their drivers in some semblance of courtesy and etiquette. But then with the average intelligence of many of the drivers being what it is, I might be asking too much.

Well folks, our slippery-when-wet signs are still up. I guess they'll stay that way until some professor or university official slips and hurts himself. Then I suppose we'll get some action.

I'd like to hear from you on that. If we get enough letters, there's a good chance that we can do something about it. If you have anything at all to say about anything, write and say so. We'd appreciate it.

Well this is election time and I suppose I could make a few predictions. None of the Presidential candidates excites me at all, but I think Chris Fisher will be our next Comptroller. I wonder if the people now running for the SRC have the intelligence to handle the situation.

Will the person YOU vote for have the intelligence to put things in perspective? - to take his time in making decisions? Will he (or she) be able to keep control of their emotions and make a wise decision on an emotional issue?

The vast majority of people attending last week's SRC meeting didn't. It would take too much time to go into it all here, but make sure your candidate has his head about him. Vote for the person who will be able to think straight, no matter what.

That's who we want on council ... not a bunch of people who are so shortsighted that they can't see beyond the ends of their noses.

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