

## Tap shut off? BOG on welfare?

Well it's that time of year again. The operating grants awarded the Maritime universities are running the race with increasing costs and not coming anywhere near "show". In fact they're falling through the floor. Some figures to consider: inflation rate - about 8 percent; MPHEC recommended operating grant increases - 14 percent; actual grant for 1978-79 at UNB - 6.6 percent!

When you read the interview with our esteemed "leader", Dr. J., you'll find all kinds of expletives and condemnations of an unacceptable situation, right? WRONG! UNB's President is effectively taking the situation lying down. "The tap is just about shut off." The President seems to be an apostle of the social action theory: "Don't rock the boat!" But in this case THE BOAT IS SINKING!

We have already seen around one of the "final solutions" of this dilemma - a 50 buck jack in residence fees. We'll get the second barrel of "buck" shot (i.e. "strongly possible" tuition increase) at the May 17 Board of Governors' meeting, after we've all nicely left, to mind our own damn business. This practice of deciding tuition after we leave seems to be one of the rites of spring here at UNB. But this year they have an excuse. The poor BOG members are not paid and have to make the long trip to Fredericton at their own expense. If you want to see the "welfare recipients" on the BOG, take a look at them on May 17th if you get the chance.

Meanwhile our beloved Dr. J. is taking a wait and see attitude. He has said that if we got 1 percent more (plus the funds requested

for alterations and renovations) then we might not get an increase in tuition. Let's get those pot-holes fixed! Who cares if the classrooms are empty? After all, the "tap" is shut off, now it's time to start squeezing the blood of the turnip - us! One gets the impression that Dr. J. is fiddling while UNB is burning, and we get burnt!

This situation is getting out of hand. Although we students only pay a small percentage of the cost of our university education, surely we are the least capable of making up the difference. UNB already has one of the highest tuition rates in Canada, and the days when we were on this same rung of the Canadian ladder with the quality of our education (if they ever existed) are clearly gone. But for Dr. J. to use rude words to the government would

perhaps make him feel like he's biting the hand that feeds him. One can almost hear the wolves howling at the doors on Waterloo Row! It's much easier to kick us around, especially when we are at home and alone. Never mind that the cost per student is going through the ceiling and the grant per student is declining in real terms. Those crazy students are probably into some sado-masochism kick anyway.

Well, Dr. J. although we don't expect you to be chucking molotov cocktails at the Centennial Building, we do expect you to be at least a little more than "disappointed" about such an unacceptable situation. Forgive us, but from our vantage point we can't tell the difference between taking something lying down and just plain taking it. But of course, we're just part of the furniture here.

## White students society - a bunch of bigots?

During the last few weeks you may have heard about a new group in the process of being formed on campus. "The White Students Society". We asked the question in last week's viewpoint, "what do you think of the newly formed white students society?" The answers we got surprised us. We really expected people to laugh it off, but no. A lot of people obviously think that the bigots of the campus are banding together to rid UNB of the minorities.

So with this in mind we set out to find the real reasons behind the forming of the White Students society and I must say that some of the reasons make a lot of sense.

If you take the constitution of the white students society and change the word white to any other name (say Eskimo) and reread it there doesn't seem to be anything out of line. But leave the word white intact and all of a sudden connotations of redneck bigots wearing white sheets and carrying burning crosses comes to mind.

There are presently on campus seven groups which fall into the same category as the white students society. There is the Black Students Association, the African Students Association, the Chinese students Overseas Association and others.

Don't get us wrong there is nothing wrong with any of these groups. In fact any of these groups that we have come in contact with have been well organized and most definitely contribute to life in general on

this campus. The point is why is a white students society so different. Why does support of a white students society make you a bigot?

We talked to one of the original conceptualizers of the society. According to this individual there is a kind of tokenism present in the SRC. This individual further stated that "If you're a member of the SRC and you vote against or

even question the budget or policies of one of those (ethnic) societies then you're a bigot." One of the reasons for forming this society is to show people what is going on around here, said this person. "We're not out to polarize the campus or promote prejudice, we would just like to see things on an equal basis."

One has to admit that there is a certain amount of logic in all this.

What we are scared of is that people with the wrong idea of the reasons behind the formation of the White Students Society will cause problems that none of us want to see on this campus.

What we suggest is that you take with a grain of salt all you hear about the White Students Society. They may have some valid ideas but let's not get carried away with the joke.

## Profs to be replaced?

Is it really worth it?

It appears that many profs at UNB could be replaced with a sheaf of photocopied notes, handed out at the beginning of the term. Over the years it has been evident that few profs that are innovative or who really try to impart some valuable knowledge onto the students stay at UNB.

In the last few years we have noted the decline in the value of most degrees. Could this be in part the result of the lack of expertise in our teaching profession?

Technical schools have become the trend and their students do earn the bucks! Perhaps universities should take note of their methods of intensive teaching.

The profs at UNB fall in one of many categories. Every student at one time has taken a bird course. In these courses the prof teaches

the bare minimum of information and the course requirements are slack. Some profs don't seem able to think on their own and their idea of a lecture is reading word for word from the assigned text. Another type is the prof that can't allocate his time properly - i.e. he takes it slow at the beginning and then tries to cram the bulk of the course into the last two months. There are a few profs who have stiff requirements but do not bother to clarify their material. Somewhere there must be a happy median.

How prepared do UNB students feel when they graduate? Not prepared, is the consensus! It is one thing to teach someone how to think but we must also teach how to apply what we learn. It is time that we reassessed our degrees and methods of instruction as well as those who instruct

us.

Any Corporation knows that they must keep up with advancements in their field in order to succeed. Universities must also advance with the rest of society.

One UNB Bachelor of Nursing graduate, now working at the Everett Chalmers Hospital, recently remarked that she wanted to take the Saint John Ambulance first aid course as she felt unqualified in this area. This seems ludicrous - an institution of higher learning that graduates BNs that feel unqualified to practice simple first aid!

We feel that UNB simply can't afford to wait to re-evaluate our professors and degrees. Our tuition is one of the highest in Canada and if a student can get a more highly recognized degree for less elsewhere - why would he/she come to UNB?

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Good-bye UNB. L