



# mugwump journal

By MIKE MACKINNON

"UNB Awake". The now famous slogan of John Bosnitch is an appropriate opening for this column. The minutes of November 15th's SRC meeting read like a history of Caligula. You are, of course, familiar with him. As pointed out in Bosnitch's Reaction column in the September 17th issue of the Brunswickan, Caligula was a Roman emperor who appointed his favorite horse to the senate.

The following committees have Student Party members appointed to them: the Constitution Committee, with two; the Student Aid Committee, with two; Election Reform Committee, with one; Entertainment Committee with one and the Student Activity Awards Committee with three. Resolution 4 of the Student Union Executive Meeting is a resolution that the Student Union join the N.B. Coalition of Students and that the president be nominated for a seat on the Coalition Executive.

Now this may appear normal but it is interesting that the majority of those appointed to the various committees are SP/Unity people. Bosnitch is doing the very thing that he was so angered about concerning the actions of the Summer Council. Why is it that it was so wrong for Andy Young to appoint his girlfriend as Winter Carnival vice-chairman and yet perfectly acceptable for Bosnitch to appoint his as a member of the Student Activity Awards Committee. It seems that he has set up a system of double standards.

With this alarming number of SP/Unity members on the committees it appears that what they want done will be done. Perhaps Bosnitch knows what is good for us, the students, and is going to do it for us whether we like or not. We should thank the good Lord for providing us with such a gifted and generous President.

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Another alarming setup in regards to the council is the secretariat. There is no way that such a system should be allowed. The students have the right to know what is going on in matters that concern them. The secretariat reports directly to the President and is in no way required to let the students know of their advice. Sounds like we're starting to take away the rights of the students.

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Bands. Good bands. Something we have yet to see at UNB. So far we have seen Valdy, Terry Crawford Band, Blushing Brides and Teenage Head. The first two were brought in by CSL and the last two by the SRC. With the exception of Valdy, who has been here repeatedly, this list is not very impressive. Blushing Brides and Teenage Head are beginning to use the address of UNB as their home address.

It is possible for us to get better bands. Bands such as Mental as Anthing and Men at Work were certainly a possibility. These two groups played at UWO on October 30. Why then can't we get them or other similar bands. The year is nearly half over. Time is running out.

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We, the Bruns Barbarians, accept with eager anticipation, the challenge put forth by CHSR to a game of floor hockey. At long last we have the opportunity to right the grave injustice done us by the Czars. Let us hope that this time they will be able to overcome their fear of losing their masculinity and have a team that consists of more than just "men".

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This Sunday night, check out the movie put on by the Bruns and CSL. It's *Arthur* and will be shown in room 102, Tilley Hall at 7 and 9 p.m. This is a great movie.

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The Social Club will soon be open at its new location. We, at the Brunswickan, would like to wish them the best of luck and look forward to frequenting the club, especially on Wednesday night.

# soundoff

THE BRUNSWICKAN-9

## A comment on a comment

Paging through the 29 October issue of the Brunswickan, I came across a letter from Bruce Dickson which commented on Gregory Betts' article on agnosticism (8 Oct.) and my reply to it (15 Oct.) Maybe this is carrying things just a bit too far, but I'd like to respond to Mr. Dickson's remarks. If you haven't seen any of the above articles, you'd be well advised to read at least Mr. Dickson's otherwise you risk a great deal of confusion by continuing.

For those not familiar with my earlier letters to this paper, I suppose I should state my belief that each one of us is his or her own savior. What we are, what we have been and what we shall be is up to us as individuals. What we believe is also up to us as individuals; morality (arguably the basis of religion) cannot come from the preaching of others, it must arise from constant introspection, from constant questioning. There have been those who counter with "Who could be so arrogant as to question the word of God?" Well, maybe I'm that arrogant; in any case, I dismiss that argument because I don't choose to believe in a God who says "This doctrine is law and damned be any who doubt it."

This is probably the place to answer Mr. Dickson's statement that Mr. Betts and myself "hold Christianity in low regards because an all-knowing God is in control." While I cannot speak for Mr. Betts, I'd like to say that I don't hold Christianity in low regards; the idea of any philosophy having a monopoly on an absolute truth is what I hold in low regards. I simply don't believe that absolute truths have much to do with this particular corner of the continuum of space and time.

Personally, I happen to believe in a sort of all-knowing God; I don't believe, however, that this God spends his (hers? its?) time passing judgements on the human race.

One thing that really confused me was Mr. Dickson's assertion that "Christianity is more than just an internal philosophy, it is a complete lifestyle." (an "internal philosophy" is essentially how I have described Christianity; this description applies to all philosophies, or so I choose to believe). One's lifestyle reflects one's philosophy; it cannot be any other way. A philosophy is simply a way of looking at things, and is therefore the basis of the way one lives. Put a little more accurately, Christianity is more than just a lifestyle, it's an internal philosophy.

According to Mr. Dickson, Christ gives us a choice "to accept his claim or not." If you "accept his claim," you go to Heaven and live forever in happiness; otherwise you're condemned to a less appealing fate. Myself, I like a more diverse set of options. I choose to be free to believe any version of reality that pleases me, thus giving me an infinite number of choices. Anyone who thinks that this is a very lazy way of dealing with the universe might look twice; it can be great, not counting your sins, wandering through the world heathenous and happy, but at the same time you're then responsible to come up with a personal set of beliefs comparable to what took Christianity the wisdom of Christ, Moss, et al to come up with, comparable to Lao-Tsu's poems, comparable to Buddhist's Eight-Fold Path. I said "comparable" perhaps not in quantity or even quality, but at least in personal applicability.

Believe me it's hardly the easy way out.

With this in mind, I find it hard to believe that Mr. Dickson would have me approach philosophy as I would "a history essay or a math problem." I reject the former because, despite the historical basis of religions, this is still not a complete way of looking at the issue. As for the latter, taking life as a problem in logic? No, that I refuse to do. I suspect, however, that Dickson would simply like me to consider all the facts before coming to any conclusions and I am perfectly willing to accommodate him there. Being an eclectic, I'm only too happy to look at another's ideas and learn from them and the bible has a lot of ideas, but like most doctrines that I'm exposed to, I don't take the Bible as, well as gospel. In this same spirit of curiosity, I would ask Mr. Dickson to read *Tao Te Ching*, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, *the Critique of Pure Reason* and *Illusions*.

Reality being rather complex (or maybe just very simple), it's easy to concentrate on only one aspect of it. To achieve some "inner harmony" is as close to a purpose in life as anybody is going to get me to admit to and I have found that Christianity (and pretty well any other doctrines) doesn't help this pursuit very much. This isn't to say that it's useless; au contraire, I have found a lot in it, but whatever I incorporate into my philosophy has to be custom-fit, so to speak.

I guess that's what I believe, in a nutshell, that the "solution" to life is a personal one, and that's why it's so important.

Barry Parkinson

### Special thanks to...

Dear Editor,

On Nov. 12 the ladies of McLeod House held a social to which they invited the

gentlemen of Neill and Neville Houses. As is now common knowledge, certain guests caused a great deal of damage

and the early shut-down of the bar. While we know now that those responsible are being dealt with, another larger group of guests deserve mention as well. I would like to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the kind gentlemen who stayed behind to help clean up the awesome mess; most especially Smitty and Digger from Neill and men of Neville too numerous to mention individually. Your help was greatly appreciated by all.

## You're absolutely right

Dear Editor,

Why would a newspaper that was founded by the students of the University of New Brunswick, to serve the students, be opposed to one full page of concise, easy to find information, dealing with matters concerning organiza-

tions funded or operated by the Student Union?

The only possible conclusion is that the editor-in-chief is a real meglomaniac who is afraid of an informed public.

Organization Secretary  
UNB Student Union  
T. Allan Roulston

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Forestell  
Don of McLeod