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Liquor, A Problem?

For some time now the problem of liquor and the laws concerned with liquor have received a great deal of attention at this university and in this province, although there is a tendency among the authorities to attempt to keep the problem in the background. The reason for this is, as we can safely assume, Politics! In spite of what has been written on the subject, no changes can be seen; on the contrary, it has resulted in a renewed enforcing of the antiquated New Brunswick liquor legislation.

Up until this day the university has "played ball" with our provincial government. However, we have been wondering whether a change of attitudes on the side of the university and student body could not bring about a change of these laws. We must not forget one thing. A university with its population of faculty and students has, or should have, by tradition an enormous amount of influence. It should be the centre of inspired and educated enthusiasm; it should be in a position in which it can face a modern world; it should be able and willing to take a firm stand on issues, controversial or not, that are of importance to the people of today and tomorrow.

We feel that if the university, regardless of the word "provincial" that usually precedes it, were willing to look the problem in the eye and consider it in a mature and academic, and also in a practical manner, a great deal of important influence could be exerted both on our legislators and those pressure groups that until this day have managed to keep our legislators from bringing the subject up for reasonable and mature discussion. With the words 'pressure groups' we refer, of course, directly to certain societies of the Victorian-minded, some of our religious groups and our united bootleggers.

Is it correct that we, the inhabitants of New Brunswick are indirectly ruled in some matters by those groups? Or are we open-minded enough that we accept the reasonable suggestion that academically trained people, to whom the higher education of Canadian people is trusted, and those people themselves, not rusted in traditional thinking and hypocritical argument, should have an influential voice in these and other matters?

We do not intend to create disturbance. We do not want to make people feel foolish, although many will say that we have every right and perhaps even the duty to do so to the smug. Our intentions are to make people look at themselves in an honest and critical manner and when thinking of university, municipal or provincial legislation, we want them to ask themselves the question: "Is this good government?"

G.B.

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The Dark Ages

It is only recently that we realize why the Dark Ages were called the "Dark Ages". In the first place they did not have any lighting except oil lamps, and in the second place the people had no lights within themselves to provide inspiration and drive, but could only do what they were told to do by their overlords and other authorities.

Actually times have not changed much, except for the fact that we have not even got oil lamps. Anyone who has ever tried to walk to or from the Students Centre after 7 o'clock at night will no doubt agree, that our campus is possibly one of the worst illuminated on this continent. To go to the new chemistry building or Arts Centre is even worse.

Whether it is considered to be too expensive or whether the personnel in charge simply forgets to switch the lights on is not clear, probably due to the darkness. Would it be too much to ask for an improvement in this matter?

This second item concerning people having no lights within themselves, of this we also have a case here. For almost two months now there have been questions concerning the closed library stacks. No word has yet been received that this system will be remedied. The S.R.C. has concerned itself with the problem but

the suggestions that were made in a meeting of that body have not been used. When will we receive news as to what will be done? Surely those in charge do not tacitly assume that the students will get used to the situation if nothing is said about it.

If we were still living in the Dark Ages, no one doubts we would merely accept the decision as a decision and no questions asked, as it becomes good serfs and slaves. However, the Dark Ages are over—presumably—and we are daily reminded of our duties and responsibilities by such institutions as the S.D.C., institutions of which we heartily approve. We therefore ask in humble but insistant manner: "What is going to be done about the closed library stacks?" G.B.

TOO MUCH LEISURE TIME

The question of the five day week as blessing or an evil will be debated at the regular meeting of the UNB Debating Society this Thursday evening. Two Engineers, John Bate and Hugh Griffiths, will support the affirmative of the argument that 'the Five Day Week is doing more harm than good'. Opposing them will be an Artsman, Pete Kent, and a Business Ad, George Bastin. Two of the judges for the evening will be Professor Cogswell and Professor Donaldson.

Following the debate, the audience will be invited to take part in a general discussion on the topic and on its presentation by the sides. The meeting will be held in Room 106 of the Forestry building this Thursday evening, November 28, at 7:30 P.M.

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