

# The Maritime attitude: Nothing ventured, nothing lost

We have been reading in New Brunswick's daily newspapers of the plans for the development of large base metal deposits in northern New Brunswick; it may be that these deposits are the biggest in the world. Moreover, there are investors who think that this undertaking is worthwhile and will sink \$117 million to back up their claim.

Premier Robichaud speaks of the great steps forward; other provincial politicians echo his sentiments; and businessmen talk of new investment opportunities in New Brunswick and in the Maritimes in general.

This is all very good. No one can be against economic development: it's like being against motherhood or cancer research. But the thing that disturbs us is the fact that this optimism in the future of the Maritimes is not as wide-

spread as the leaders of this area tend to think it is.

In fact there seems to be a whole philosophy of life here in the old "maritimes" that is antagonistic to economic growth. It goes something like this: "We like the slow pace down here. No one is in a hurry like they are in Upper Canada. No sir, very few ulcers down this way; we don't worry about money so much."

There is nothing wrong with this attitude, if the people who like to say this really believe in it. Many of our more affluent Western governments have suffered under the illusion that all countries in the world are concerned with economic development, and have consequently made many blunders when passing out foreign aid. Manufacturing plans have been built when no one wants them; in fact no one will even work in them.

But this is not the case in the Maritimes. The same people who say that they are not worried about money so much are typically those who demand that their provincial governments go after more federal assistance. Few people in our region want to take the risks involved in a new undertaking, but want to share in all the benefits. Now, we won't deny that the Maritimes need more Federal assistance; this is certainly needed. What we can certainly do without, however, is that large group who say they like the unhurried pace down here, but are certainly in a hurry to get another handout.

Unfortunately this attitude does not tell the whole story. While provincial governments have been devoting a lot of attention to the development of industry in the Maritimes other powerful groups are do-

ing their best to discourage new business. The reason for this is quite simple: they don't want competition. We are probably blessed with more back-room-fixers per capita than any other region in Canada. While they profess the benefits of more businesses locating in their area in public, they are active behind the scenes in discouraging any new undertaking which may compete with them.

In essence, what we all must realize is that economic development depends on effective planning by government — which necessarily entails qualified experts — and a public which is optimistic and seriously interested in attracting new industry to this area. We have the former; let us hope that it won't be too long until there are more people in the Maritimes fitting the latter description.

## DAN SCANS

Have you ever tried to order anything as simple as two 5x7 prints from the downtown photographic studio? Unless you are of singularly obstinate mind, don't. The central sequence of events goes like this.

"I'd like to have two 5x7 prints made of my graduation photo."

"Name please."

"Mersich, Dan Mersich."

"How do you spell that?"

"M-E-R-S-I-C-H"

"Oh yes, here it is. Now you wanted two 5x7 prints did you? My goodness it seems as though the minimum order for 5x7's is three."

"But I only need two."

"Well, we can only make three, and you can take two of them if you want."

"No, that doesn't sound very good; you see I only need two so there is no sense in paying for three, is there?"

"Well, just a minute and I'll talk to the manager."

It is at this moment that those of weak constitution begin to feel the pressure. "Certainly", they think to themselves, "my magnificent order doesn't require the attention of someone as important as the manager."

"I'm sorry sir, but Mr. Shudder says that you must order at least three."

In an attempt to get the whole unpleasant business over with you offer to buy the negative and have the prints made elsewhere. This, even in the completely dull mind of a salesgirl, is on a par with trying to buy the original copy of the Bill of Rights to show to the Russians as toilet tissue. With an indignant curl in her lip, she says "Just a minute, and I'll give you to Mr. Shudder", leaving no doubt that you have now become chattel, to be given, taken, bought or sold, as your owner sees fit.

Mr. Shudder appears, looking from the backroom doorway looking for all the world like a grizzly bear that's been disturbed from its evening meal.

"Well, you're Mersnik are you?"

"No—No Sir; M-Mersich, M-E-R-S-I-C-H"

"Yes, well that's fine; now I understand that you only want two prints."

"That's right sir."

At this point you are again offered what he makes out to be a grand bargain.

"I'll tell you what, we'll make three prints and you pick up the ones you like most."

You are now so completely rattled that you don't realize all three prints are identical and gladly scoop up this offer, as if it was completely obvious, you consider Mr. Shudder as having done you a great favour. You pay Shudder right

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## Why don't people TELL me these things

One of the main complaints students here can raise against the SRC and its sub-committees is that a small group of people are "in the know" and have all the information about what's going on, while the rest of us are consigned to the outer darkness outside the privileged circle. Of course it's always possible to find out something IF you know whom to ask and IF you're on good terms with the people you're talking to. Official public announcements about almost any aspect of student activities are few and far between. It takes a lot of determination to wade through the minutes of a Student Council's meeting. More often than not important decisions are given the barest possible mention. Besides,

most things that really matter aren't decided in Council at all, but in casual talk and small committee meetings.

Instead of "hard" news, we are forced to rely either on rumour or else to have no idea at all of what's happening. Most committee decisions affecting students don't become general knowledge until weeks or months have gone by. A case in point is the Winter Carnival. For weeks there have been rumours (but nothing official) about changes in the usual schedule of events, about pushing opening night back to Wednesday, and, most alarming of all, stories about the rock and roll singer Bo Diddley. Come clean, Carnival Committee, what are you DOING in there?

This situation is the fault of our SRC representatives. Most of them seem to feel that they have done their duty when they've rubber-stamped the latest request for money. Not one of the members this year takes any pains at all to ask questions at Council meetings.

A few of them are reasonably well informed, but they do their questioning outside Council meetings, so their information remains inside the "charmed circle". This is always a much more comfortable situation for the ruling group since embarrassing questions aren't asked in public, but in private. Whenever there's been anything faintly controversial discussed at SRC meetings this year (e.g. the

Entertainment Committee or Wrigley's Communist motion) — most of the questions were asked by spectators, not by Council members.

While it's true that the Carnival Committee is set up as a semi-independent organization, it is still a student activity and we ought to hear what's going on. Council members don't do much to justify their existence. Most people consider them time-serving social climbers, and with good reason. The first thing they can do to lose this reputation is to start asking questions right now. The SRC costs us \$54,000 and it's about time we heard a lot more about where the money's going.

—Nelson Adams

## LETTERS

Editor:

For the last couple of weeks my name has been prominently involved in a number of articles and letters concerning the entertainment committee and Brandywine Singers fiasco. I feel that I owe the student body a full explanation of the whole since any information heretofore has been scant and not altogether exact.

All bookings were made by myself this summer and for any lack of foresight I am fully responsible. The reasons I didn't wait until school had resumed where I would have had stable outlook on coming events and the feasibility of the contracting any or all of

the performers are two-fold. Firstly, I was anxious to get the whole entertainment idea rolling and, secondly, all of these entertainment contracts require signing at least two months ahead of time. When I returned I found that Nancy Ames was booked on Thanksgiving week-end and virtually unknown in the Maritimes. After haggling and bargaining with her agent, Preston Thom and I managed to change the date to the 16th of January. But the Nancy Ames story isn't over yet. She has been paid in full for performance that has not gone on yet and judging by the reception given the Brandywines she is going to have to be changed for a much cheaper entertainer for us to regain our investment.

On to the Brandywines, I

signed them for October 24th which unbeknownst to me was the date of the Mount A away football game. All efforts by myself and the SRC to change the performance to the 23rd were quelled by the fact that the Brandywines were appearing in Portland, Maine that evening. For this lack of foresight and planning I assume full responsibility and I have had a lawyer at Limerick and Limerick draw up a declaration of my intent to repay the full loss of \$1,428.50 incurred by this mistake. The first payment is to be made on Dec. 31, 1965, the remainder of which is to be covered in six month quarterly payments thereafter.

With regards to the SRC and their interference I have only to say this. On the 21st

of October without consulting myself the SRC executive and finance committee decided to reduce the price of the tickets by 40%. At that time we had collected \$600.00. After rebates for the reduction in ticket prices and a money collected for additional tickets sold after that time our total receipts totalled a figure in the vicinity of \$60.00 less than the \$600.00 initially taken in. For this I do not feel morally or ethically responsible because I knew that most people usually wait to the last minute before they buy their tickets. To point this out, on Oct. 16th the Chartbusters were scheduled to appear at the Beaverbrook Rink. On the 21st their promoters had sold some 14 tickets. By the 16th there was a

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