

lacking: interest or courage?

It was interesting to see the reaction of the campus set to the Cuban crises. Everyone of the students developed a sudden and intense interest in the international balance of power. Everyone developed a theory as to what was going to happen next. And everyone was READING the front pages of their newspapers with avid interest.

What makes this remarkable is that about nine out of ten college students normally dismiss international politics with a shrug, as a matter for the 'politicians'. If for no other reason, this sudden rash of interest puts Castro in a good light . . . he did shake a lot of North Americans out of a smug, complacent attitude.

This is the first time students have put any real thought into international affairs since the 1956 days of October. But it seems to be short lived. If you ask students about the Indian crisis, most of them will probably tell you that they should have the vote. Perhaps we can explain away this ignorance born out of apathy by saying that what happens overseas is no concern of ours, but the sad fact is that . . .

it's the same here at home!

Ask the typical university student a question about Canadian politics. There are about three stock answers.

I don't know. I don't pay any attention to that sort of thing. Politics is a dirty business anyway."

"Well, I've got a vote, and it's . . . Maybe it's because my father votes that way, but I don't like the look of that . . . (other national leader) anyway."

"You're crazy to get mixed up in that racket. It's a lot safer to keep your mouth shut, then you'll never get into trouble."

These are the most prevalent attitudes of Canadian college students on the subject of politics. It is not a simple lack of interest, it is also a lack of courage.

This is not as it should be. To be more precise, it is a disgrace. The university population will leave these institutions to become the leaders of the nation in the social, business, and intellectual spheres. What will happen if they have no interest in the governing of the nation and of its parts? The result will be that a small oligarchical group of politicians will have absolute control, unchecked, over the destiny of the entire country.

Is it too much to ask that students take an active interest in government? It is not something mysterious, nor is it distasteful. Indifference to public affairs, either here at home or internationally, is shirking our duty as the future civic leaders of Canada.

CAMPOS CALENDAR



Hang on the boosh a shecond Joe, I'm on nexst.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14
S.R.C. Tartan Room 6:30.
Indian-Non-Indian Friend Club. Oak Room 7:30.
International Affairs Club. All-Purpose Room 7:00.
Ladies Society, Maggie Jean, 6:30.
British Debaters in Tartan Room at 8:30. All interested invited. General Meeting of Debating Society preceding., refreshments following.

THURSDAY, NOV 15
Bible Study Group. Tartan Room 12:45 (Rev. W. Whitley)
International Affairs Club. General Meeting 7:30. Important issues will be discussed.

FRIDAY, NOV. 16
Chapel Service. Room 109, Douglas Hall, 1-1:20.
U.C.C. Study Group, Cathedral Hall 6-8.

SATURDAY, NOV 17



"The name is BOB, mother! Not Bobby."

Inter-Squad Hockey, Beaverbrook Rink 7:45.

TUESDAY, NOV. 20
Bridge Club, Oak Room, 7:00.
Chapel Service. Room 109, Douglas Hall, 1-1:20. (Rev. Carl Jones)

Red 'n' Black Revue Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights at 8:15 in Teachers' College.

From Our Readers

Dear Editor:

Has "plagiarism" no meaning except when it comes to writing essays? Dave Keays' article, "The Looking Glass", was very enjoyable reading in last weeks (Oct. 31) Brunswickan, but it is regrettable that Mr. Keays has not got the intelligence to come forth with something original. The article is copied almost word for word from a column by Bill Smiley which was published in quite a few small town weekly newspapers a couple of weeks ago. It is obvious where the title, "The Looking Glass" originates. Perhaps Mr. Keays should get some praise for inventing a new type of mirror, since his obviously brings the words out as they are in the original article, while the usual common mirror shows the letters backwards, etc.

Sincerely,
Bob Cox
3rd Arts

Bob, your comments are embarrassingly true. We read Bill Smiley's column, and the one which was printed, unbeknown to us, is an extremely thinly disguised copy. Mr. Keays read your letter and replies, below but . . . —ed.

Dear Editor:

I would like to reply to the letter in this issue from Mr. Bob Cox.

I agree, Bob, plagiarism does have meaning. It includes not only essay material but all ideas, and views which are obtained from another person. Perhaps you would enter your idealistic world where plagerism is not theory but fact. I am just a frosh who can only read and take what I learn from others. Be realistic and face the facts, man! Try to realize this is a world where few original ideas ever blossom. Man is forever basing "his" ideas on others. The facts remain the same and I am sorry if I could not obscure them to suit your taste. If I wounded your belief in man's ability to always be original, my apologies to you and Bill Smiley are humbly extended.

David Keays

... it seems that his letter consists of a bold front, an attitude similar to that of a small boy caught with his hand in the cookie jar. The Brunswickan apologizes to its readers and to Bill Smiley.—ed.

Dear Sir:

Although I graduated from U.N.B. several years ago (Civil Engineering 56), I have managed to keep in touch with events "up the hill" through friends on the faculty and others who remained in Fredericton. Until now, however, I have never felt moved to express an opinion to the students themselves on their affairs, but I write you today in the hope that you may find my words of interest and see fit to pass them along in the pages of the Brunswickan.

As recent events have shown, the government of nations is serious business. It seems to me, however, that Canadians take their politics lightly. Look at the June election, which returned a minority government. Not that it in itself is bad, but look at the sudden springing of a radical organization whose deputy leader speaks as if he believes the world's best governments were those of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

The universities should be producing graduates whose thoughts have been stimulated by exposure to national political issues. It is at college that most of us first come in contact with organized political parties. But these parties must be serious in their approach if the new generation of Canadians is to keep "the true north strong and free." Granted students are students and will have their fun. And some of this fun is bound to creep into politics. Indeed, politics is not a stilted subject devoid of humour, but it is nevertheless something to be taken seriously.

Every campus seems to have its "farce" parties where "a bunch of the guys" can have a little fun. But I was appalled to learn that U.N.B.'s "Christian Atheist" farce attracted more support to its meetings than the Liberal Club! Surely this is a sad commentary on our times!

How can this reflect an institution training young people to take positions of responsibility? As a graduate of U.N.B. I am especially conscious of the effects of happenings at the institution on its image among the people with whom I work, most of whom come from Ontario. At times like this I wonder if it isn't time for the administration itself to try and shove some common sense down the throats of its misguided young students.

Might I add that I certainly believe in "freedom of thought" (I'm sure I'll be charged otherwise by the "Christian Atheist" jokers), but I also believe that "the twentieth century belongs to Canada", and today's students will be running the show before that day passes.

Sincerely yours,
R. G. (Bob) Irvine

Very interesting and thought provoking views, Sir. But it is certainly not a matter for the administration to handle; it must be left to the conscience of the students themselves. Watch this page for editorial comments on this line of thinking.—ed.

Dear Editor:

Gaiety trophy competition has reached a ridiculous level. While in house Thursday noon, I was asked to register at the clinic in the name of a house member who preferred not to give. In return, I was to receive an invitation to their "house day".

This idea, bribery, far exceeds the principles upon which the trophy was established. I hope that this is not U.N.B.'s idea of "house spirit and humanitarianism".

Sincerely,
Doug Cole
(non-resident, 1st Forestry)

We like the fact that people like you are brave enough to bring matters like this to the attention of our readers. We didn't print the name of the house, because it is not right to ruin its reputation for the irresponsible actions of a few callous individuals.—ed.

Brunswickan



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OFFICE: Memorial Students' Centre

PHONE GRAnite 5-5191

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