

A New Dimension in Left Polititics

On December 10, 1969 a small group of Socialists met in the SUB's Room 26 and launched the NEW BRUNSWICK SOCIALISTS (NBS). In their words, this new group was being formed because of "dissatisfaction with present alternatives on the left" in New Brunswick. Given the almost minimal political activity on the UNB campus, the absence of real alternatives on the left is hardly surprising. The CSDS was for quite a while the most visible political group on campus (some other groups existed on paper, but had no obvious identity). With the formation of NBS an extra dimension has been added to left-wing politics, on the campus.

NBS has spelled out some of its political philosophy and strategy in a short "manifesto". "The province of New Brunswick has one of the lowest standards of living and highest levels of unemployment in Canada... the economic imbalance between rich and poor is becoming worse every year... ultimate success of the people's struggle (to gain control over their own lives) will be achieved only through the elimination of capitalism and the development of a socialist society."

The NBS maintains that a free society cannot exist until the means of production are publicly owned and



Two members of the New Brunswick Socialists are seen here at their literature table in the SUB.

democratically controlled. From this basis, NBS proceeds to a position that seeks to build a "working class political movement" to bring about the needed changes in Canada's political economy. Within this broad theoretical framework, NBS has developed a strategy for developing "a progressive political climate" on campus. The objective is to build a strong Socialist movement on campus and simultaneously to direct the campus activists into

the larger left-wing community.

NBS sees the next few years as being crucial in the struggle for socialism. Unemployment will become critical, and, especially among such groups as Science and Engineering students who have traditionally had expectations of secure jobs and high incomes, this will create a tremendous potential for socialism. Simultaneously the economic situation of the industrial and farm workers

will move them in the direction of socialist solutions to their problems. Thus it becomes crucial to build toward the time when socialism will be the concern of most movements throughout Canada.

In the three months that NBS has been in existence, its main thrust has been educational. To this end NBS members have sat at "Lit tables" for hours, sold socialist literature and discussed socialism with every one who

wants to talk. NBS has also sponsored speeches on campus by Prof. Robin Matthews - "The Americanization of Canadian Universities"; by Alfred Nieforth - "The Farmer's Struggles"; by Gordon Sadul - "The Sir George Williams University Incidents"; by Chaka Walls - "Deputy Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party"; and by Harry Kopyto - "The Arab Revolution and Zionism."

Early this month NBS sponsored two showings of "In the Year of the Pig" - a film on the war in Vietnam. Before the end of this term, NBS will sponsor a speech by Andrew Nicholas on the Indian movement, and will work for a large public protest against Canada's support of the U.S.A. in the Vietnam war.

All these activities are designed to encourage interest in socialism and to initiate discussions of the variety of problems facing Canadians today. To supplement these discussions NBS carries on an extensive research program. Already NBS has issued a 25 page study of poverty in New Brunswick, prepared a short paper on pollution and helped the National Farmers' Union with their study of education in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Socialists are not a passing phase - they are here to stay.

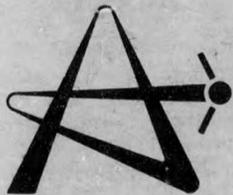
- Ron Gaudet

PIZZA NIGHT

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The crowd gathers outside Harrison House to see one of the most impressive acts of God. Last Saturday gave people a chance to view a 90% eclipse of the sun. No scorched retinas were reported so it appears that the big spectacular was a success.

SECONDHAND BOOKS

The Campus Bookstore will be buying textbooks from April 13 to May 1 ONLY. This is the only time of the year second-hand books are purchased. So be sure to remember the dates.

A list of texts to be bought will be posted in the bookstore the day buying begins.

(NO BUYING IS DONE IN THE FALL)

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