

# Op-Ed

— a page for student opinions

## To trap is to torture!

The purpose of this article is to bring to your attention the fact that in a civilized country there still exists a primitive and barbaric custom—the use of the leg-hold trap.

The leg-hold trap holds the animal by its paw in strong steel jaws. The leg is often broken and the flesh badly torn. The animal suffers agony in this trap, frequently for days on end, perhaps until it dies of hunger, thirst or cold. The trap lines are often so long that the trapper cannot visit them every day. In the meantime the victim is held in this way, terrified, and in excruciating pain.

Sometimes an animal thus trapped manages to twist its foot off or after the lower paw becomes numb, chews the foot off and escapes; and if a rotting stump does not eventually end its life, it survives permanently mutilated. When an animal escapes the leg-hold in this way, it is referred to by trappers as a "wring-off".

For those of you who may be concerned for the welfare of the trapper if anti-leg-hold legislation were passed in Canada, these facts should put your mind at ease. "Few trappers, except Indians and Eskimos in more remote northern areas, now depend solely on trapline earnings for their livelihood. The modern trapper is usually a full-time wage earner carrying on trapping activities during weekends or off seasons." (Canada Year Book, 1967). For the trapper whose livelihood depends solely on trapping, re-

placement of his traps by more efficient humane traps could be readily subsidized from the royalties received by the Government on all furs trapped in Canada.

The leg-hold trap is still used by almost all trappers in Canada although anti-leg-hold trap legislation has been passed in the following countries: England, Scotland, Wales, Austria, Norway, Finland and Germany. In the United States its use is limited in Massachusetts and South Caroline.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP to have anti-leg-hold trap legislation passed in Canada?**

1. Write to the appropriate Provincial Minister urging that the use, manufacture and sale in Canada of the leg-hold trap be abolished. NB - Hon Wilfred Bishop, Minister of Natural Resources, Legislative Bldgs. Fredericton.

2. Do not buy any fur product without first establishing that the skins were obtained humanely.

3. Write letters to editors of newspapers.

4. Join the CAHT (Canadian Association For Humane Trapping). This association was incorporated under Dominion Charter in 1953 and for the past 18 years has been trying to put an end to the cruelty of the leg-hold traps. Give them your support! CAHT, Box 934, Station F, Toronto 5, Ontario.

**"ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS THAT GOOD MEN DO NOTHING".**

Shirley Asher STU



## AVAILABLE Rooms in Men's Residences

There are still a limited number of spaces available in the Men's Residences for this term. These vacancies exist in a number of houses.

Anyone interested should enquire at the Men's Residence Administration Building (opposite McConnell Hall).

## Where do we stand?

Speaking with students on the UNB campus forces one to the conclusion that the bulk of the student-body is not really interested in the problem of pollution.

The prophets of doom and their P.R.O. hirelings occasionally oblige students to lend an eye and an ear to their warnings; but the effect is not sufficient to move people to action. And aside from the UNB Biology Club's recent Nackawic Project, little or nothing seems to have been done "up the hill".

With UNB's almost unlimited research resources at hand, it may be time to put these to use and fight back against what has been described as "this world-wide plague of garbage".

An impromptu survey has shown that many student scientists would be only too glad to share their knowledge and labours.

Because it is located in the province's seat of government, UNB is in an ideal position to exert pressure on that government to make public their fund of information on the problem's seriousness.

In addition, we have a Forestry Faculty that is second to none in Canada and hardly excelled in the entire world. Its fund of knowledge remains unexploited. And the Fisheries Station at St. Andrews is another source of information whose full value has never been tested.

The belches of polluting smoke that spew from UNB's Services Building elicited exactly one Brunswickan story last year. And that was it.

The Fredericton Campus also evinces an apparent lack of knowledge about anti-pollution groups that have recently sprung up across North America.

Just one of these, Pollution Probe, a project of the U of T's Zoology Department, is dedicated to combatting pollution in our entire environment. Formed in 1969, its 1,500 mem-

bers have an advisory board of eight doctors.

Even before the Federal Government took action against the ever-increasing DDT level and its baneful effects upon Canada's wildlife, Pollution Probe succeeded in having DDT banned in Ontario. They also analyzed the phosphate content of many detergents and, through their elected representatives, pressured the manufacturers into withdrawing these from their sales lines.

The list of PP's accomplishments is impressive and includes legal action against those who ignore anti-pollution legislation. PP encourages citizen groups to form in other Canadian cities and become affiliated with the parent body.

As one New Brunswick authority points out, we have, in this province, at least 10 pulp and paper mills, a major oil-refinery, pollution-producing power plants, and a score of factories and mills whose waste-disposal plant is the nearest river or stream.

As a PP publication warns:

*"Your Ecosystem is the sum of those environmental factors which are essential for the survival of all living things. The components of the Ecosystem, both living and non-living, natural or man-made, are interdependent; they form the stable balanced community necessary for existence. We are upsetting this balance at an ever increasing rate. This imbalance is called Pollution. Only by acting, by speaking out, by making our point at every opportunity, can you and I hope to eliminate the source of this imbalance and plan for an environment fit to live in."*

Chris J. Allen UNB

### IMPORTANT:

Don't forget to read the registrar's ad P. 6



# give a damn BRUNSWICKAN DOWNTOWN free

GEORGE'S  
QUEEN ST.

HERBY'S  
QUEEN ST.

LEVINES  
QUEEN ST.

LE CHATEAU  
FREDERICTON  
MALL

HIGH-GEAR  
R-CADE

LANG'S  
K-MART

SMOKE SHOPPE  
R-CADE & FRED.  
MALL

FREDELLE SHOES  
FRED. MALL

ROYAL STORES  
YORK ST.

**10% OFF  
ALL PURCHASES AT  
HERBY'S MUSIC STORE  
308 QUEEN ST.  
WITH I.D. CARDS**