

OPINION...

RISE OF COR PARALLELS

THE RISE OF NAZISM

by Luis Cardoso

"We're not against the French, or even bilingualism; we're against official bilingualism." This was the statement repeated throughout this past weekend's Confederation of Regions (COR) party convention, generally followed by the remark, "some of my best friends are French." Interesting, then, that anti-French invective was awarded the loudest applause by the delegates to the weekend convention. Although there was frightening anti-French sentiment expressed from the podium throughout the convention, the most vicious of such sentiment was expressed by the delegates on the floor. What is most frightening about the COR phenomenon, however, is that it so closely parallels the rise of Nazism in Germany during the 1920's.

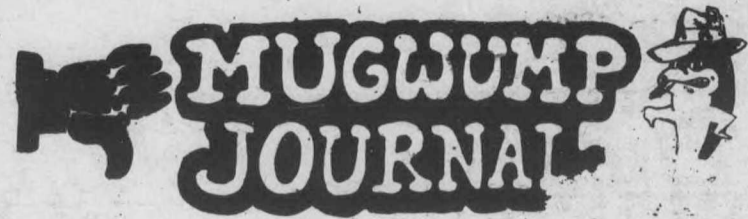
In the summer of 1920, the National Socialist German Workers' Party began to increase its popularity principally on its anti-semitic platform. In anti-Semitism it had found an issue that would appeal to a large number of Germans who suffered in a depressed post first World War economy by positing the Jew as the cause of their economic woes.

At this point they were basically a one-issue party and although that issue was not (yet) anti-Semitism, it was a union of all Germans in a Greater Germany, an intense patriotism harbouring an anti-Semitism that William Shirer claimed in his ambitious work *THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH*, constituted a dire warning." As Shirer wrote, "A good many paragraphs of the party program were obviously merely a demagogic appeal to the mood of the lower classes at a time when they were in bad straits and were sympathetic to radical and even socialist slogans."

The COR party, in much the same way, blames the French for the woes of the uneducated unemployed. They cannot find work, it is claimed, because they cannot speak French. They are worried that their children will not be able to find employment because the government is run by Acadians (as are the RCMP and the media). There is a French conspiracy of power in Canadian institutions from the RCMP to the CRTC, ranted COR speaker Jock Andrews, as the delegates cheered wildly. COR, he claimed, is the only party bold enough to speak out against this conspiracy.

Like the Nazis, COR relies on lies and false statistics as basis for its lunatic claims. Statements made concerning Canada's immigration policies that the great majority of those entering Canada through the immigration process are French, are easily disproved by Stats Canada. And calls for the strict control of non-white immigration are simply frightening, demonstrating clearly that the discourse of COR is that of racism and bigotry, and, of course, gross ignorance, where the former spawn.

There is little doubt that COR is still a fringe political movement, despite the exaggerated estimates of COR itself. Through proper education, New Brunswick's youth will not succumb to the twisted ideology of COR. And because COR is so predominantly a party of those over-50 years of age and uneducated New Brunswickers, it will fade away after reaping a minimal percentage of the vote in the next few provincial elections.



by Melanie R. Hawkes

Hey! There's a spot.... Nope, those motorbikes trick you every time. I thought that would be too good to be true. Oh, there's one. Blast those puny "Le Car"s. You'd think twenty minutes to park before class would be plenty - but no. Parking places are like gold this time of the year and this is one of the classic signs that school has started and the fun 'n sun must come to an end. The Green Hornets are already on the prowl. You'd think they'd give us a weeks grace until we get into the swing of things. Wrong.

Let's observe some other indicators that university has truly commenced:

*A line two miles long to buy one text book costing \$123.58 that you'll only open once this term.

*Millions of students who look fifteen years old carrying maps of the campus and generally looking lost.

*Trying to find a seat in the cafeteria which seats about 600 people for a school population of 7000. I.e. only 1.16 out of 10 people is able to sit down. So, during lunch, please only use your 6 minutes and let the next student have their turn.

Wait! Did you know this. Next year you are not getting a new student I.D. card. Instead, you're getting this years re-validated. This is the dumbest thing I've ever heard of. For one thing, the ID says 1989/90 on it. And, what if you don't like the picture - you have to suffer the ridicule for two or more years now. I don't think I've ever had a worst picture taken. Who can look decent after a fun and exciting day of registration?

Let's just discuss this topic of registration for a minute, shall we? Good thing I prepaid my fees this year so I could save myself some time. I was twenty-eighth in the prepaid line while all other payment lines had only three. I'm glad they try to make life easier for you at the business office. Makes sense to me?!?

Don't you just love it when you wait 45 minutes to register for a course and the guy in front of you gets the last spot in the section you want. Or better still they refuse to put you on a waiting list. Isn't it so much fun beginning your day of registration with 7 out of 10 sections you want 'closed' before you even start? Finally, you end up with a timetable 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ever seen beer bottles grow out of the grass? Well, then you should have been at the "Spoons" concert last week. You were probably lucky not to sprain both your ankles (or else you didn't feel it happen).

It's incredible how many people from high school and work you can see at a UNB/STU students only function, huh!

I guess by now you all realize how much fun university life is. Keep smiling, it can only get better.

P.S. Does anyone know how to get an immobilization boot off a car??