Corona or honour society that is the question

First of all Corona isn't an "academic" organization, and its members aren't necessarily Honours Students, or even particularly bright in the academic sense, though there is a minimum academic requirement of 65%. The "honour" in the name is used in a more general way, to indicate the qualities of Character (a word which members speak in a hushed and reverent tone) which the group claims to look for in its members.

Like many groups and activities on this campus, Corona got started in a vague and nebulous sort of way; partly a fuzzy desire to be "suave" and partly our "me-too" attitude: the main argument seems to be that other Universities have "Honour Societies", so we should, too. As usual, students here seem to want to stand firmly in the middle, where it's cozy and warm; not too far behind, but (god forbid) not too far out in front either.

Last year a committee set up by our SRC managed to pick 22 Honourable People to start the group off. Not too surprisingly Corona now includes most of the members of that Committee who are still at UNB — presumably it takes one to know one. The Group then put together some kind of constitution, which has never been given to the SRC for discussion. No one is supposed to get money from the student government without an approved constitution and a proper budget application, but these were Honourable people, so without any advance notice, Council happily voted them $75.00 for crests. SRC money control is always loose — SRC executives this year, for example, paid out more than $7,000 for entertainers' contracts without volunteering a word to the Council. Fortunately for the Students' pocket book, Corona decided there might be too much uproar, so none of the money has been spent — so far.

So Corona hasn't cost us anything yet. What has it done? So far, members have helped with Freshmen Orientation: meeting foreign students, guiding Freshmen around the campus, taking part in the President's Tea. In the future they'll meet visitors to the University, act as ushers at the more decorous student events, like Convocation and Encaenia, and supervise elections (one hopes they'll be a little more restrained than the girl taking ballots in last week's SRC election, who told us whom to vote for.)

Corona isn't a "clique" or a "snob group" — it's a "Service" organization — it exists to help the wheels go round a little more smoothly.

No doubt the group is now a permanent fixture. The SRC seems to like having a body of decent, respectable students to call on for thankless jobs — CP's with class, one might say. The members are now, and probably will be, representatives of the best people involved in extracurricular affairs on this campus. But let's not call it Honour Society; as C. P. Snow, said of another group, "they are not a society of distinguished men, but a society of men conferring distinctions upon one another."

Nelson Adams

DAN SCANS

The question of a National Broadcasting System has been a hot-bed of controversy for the past 30 years. Commissions of every conceivable variety have been delegated to investigate the problem, however, it seems that the recommendations made by these commissions were cast aside and broadcasting developed in its own blundering and stumbling way.

In its attempt to blanket the nation, the CBC leaves you and I with a $100 million tab to pick up every year, and what is even more disconcerting is the fact that 75% of this coverage is carried by private stations. If the CBC were to attempt this coverage without the help of private stations, that is by building its own, the cost would be astronomical. Also, many of the areas now served by private stations are sparsely populated and could not support another television station, but none of this seems to impress those who lay down the policy.

In its attempts to promote Canadian talent, the CBC has again through a lack of realizing the facts of life completely fumbled the ball. The old days of Shakespearian Drama, when a 4-foot sapling on stage represented a forest are gone. The television audience of today has been exposed to a great deal of fine set design and layout (mostly from American TV) and it is not going to settle for anything less than the best from Canadian television. Some of the CBC productions look like nothing more than a high school play.

The CBC has also failed or more accurately has not even attempted to publicize Canadian talent. Apparently the directors of our public network seem to feel that presenting Canadian talent is all the publicity that is required, but it's not. The CBC should make big news of Canadian talent anywhere and everywhere. The private stations certainly won't, and why should they? Why should private broadcasters go to the bother and expense of building a glamorous and popular Canadian talent scene when they have one ready made in the States.

Why did Robert Goulet, Lorne Green, Raymond Massey and many others go below the border? For the obvious reason; they didn't get the public acclaim and popularity and the money that goes with it in Canada.

The outlook of the CBC, although commendable is not realistic or practical and unfortunately reflects what is often the attitude on much of the Canadian scene. The appeal to Canadians to buy something (be it material or abstract) just because it's Canadian.

The CBC must realize that it cannot sell national pride, and begin to sell a quality product.

LETTERS

Editor:

Controversial opinions have been voiced among Teacher's College students whether we should or should not contribute towards the Student Union Building at UNB.

Many look upon this as being a very favourable method for socially uniting the students from the three colleges and promoting better relations among them. This opinion no doubt arises from the fact that many UNB students have a tendency to look down upon TC both academically and socially.

Contrary to beliefs of UNB students and even to many TC students, we at Teacher's College are perfectly free to contribute to the proposed Student Union Building — but only as individuals.

There are several reasons — very good reasons — why we cannot contribute as a group in the name of Teacher's College.

Since TC is a government institution, the students cannot be forced to contribute unless 100% of the students are in favour, which is, of course, well nigh impossible. The plans of TC include a Student's Center to be built in the very near future. If we contribute, to UNB's SUB the provincial government might very well think that we really don't need our own Student's Center which we desperately want.

Then there are those who are terrified that TC would lose its precious identity — that it would become socially submerged under UNB activities. Although our students are wholly in favour of promoting better social relations, we will never become a subsidiary of UNB unless we want this enough to let it happen. We are bound to lose a certain degree of our identity simply because we are on the UNB campus. After all why are we on the campus — we hope it was not simply because of our overcrowded conditions on Queen Street.

Even though TC will soon have its own Student's Center, our students will very likely wander down to UNB. Since UNB has so long permitted us a generous use of their facilities, we hope that they will make the long climb upwards to ours.

Cristene Hanson, TC

Editor's comment: What do you mean that you have to have 100% support of the students before you can institute a SUB levy? You must be joking. What does it matter whether you are part of a government institution?

We think that it would be a good idea to see TC become more interested in our community on the hill . . . and what about losing this so-called "precious identity." What identity is this? The only identity we can perceive are a sea of blue TC jackets with the collars turned up.

Editor:

In the Daily Gleaner, we read that Oscar Brown, folk-singer (not another one!) will be presented by the UNB Student Representative Council on Nov. 21. Nov. 21 is the date of the first UNB home hockey game — to be played against. STU. This points to result — a full rink and another empty playhouse.

The losses to date of the Entertainment Committee are reported as $1400. This loss is being absorbed by student funds. An occasional cookie sale will do little to improve the situation. Even if we had one successful cookie sale per day we could not hope to meet the loss which is sure to be incurred by the next presentation of the Entertainment Committee. (We certainly hope the Entertainment Committee isn't in charge of the cookie sale.)

Let's face it, the Entertainment Committee has been a flop. Mr. Copeland has functioned as a Robin Hood in reverse with a definite lack of the Midas touch. We feel Mr. Copeland's resignation as Entertainment Committee Chairman should be accepted. He has blundered deplorably. This is not a matter of saving face, but of saving money. We also feel that this Committee should be dissolved and future programs cancelled. Obviously there is no demand for it on this campus.

Sincerely,
Muriel-Ann Walker,
Bus. Ad. 3
Beth Watters, Arts 3

Editor's comment: We are led to believe that the performance by Oscar Brown has been cancelled. That solves the initial problem you mentioned.

The cookie sale was, at least a step in the right direction. We can hope that the entertainment committee will try to come up with something a little more lucrative in the future. There are better ways to make money than cookie sales.

Brunswickan

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