

S.P.A.R.C. comments on policy

Dear Editor

Please print the following letter in your newspaper column. We believe it is an important public message and we thank you in advance for printing it.

Wendi Nixon
S.P.A.R.C.

Letter to Residents of New Brunswick Regarding Adolescent and Children Policy:

We, a group of Social Work students from St. Thomas University calling ourselves S.P.A.R.C. (Social Policy, Action and Research Committee), are formed to respond to current social policy issues. We support the contents of the letter written in February, 1983 by Judith Avis, former President of the N.B. Coalition of Social Workers regarding the Adolescent Parent and Children Policy, and felt compelled to express further comments. Now, after having researched the subject including interviews with several pertinent people, we feel sufficiently prepared to make the following comments.

We believe that the core of the Adolescent Parent and Children Policy is inextricably a moral and

economic issue. Because of the explicit and implicit messages inherent in the policy, many contradictions become apparent. Young parents, the vast majority of whom will be female, will receive training in parenting skills and them be prepared to enter the work force. One cultural message we receive regarding parenting is that women should remain outside the work force and stay at home with their young children.

In most cases doctors will require such consent up to age 18. Many of us are no doubt uncomfortable with the thought of providing a 'child' with adequate birth control information, yet our 'children' are becoming parents in numbers large enough to be the focus of provincial legislation.

It appears that too often, social policies are directed toward 'fixing up' obvious problems to the neglect of formulating preventative measures. The Adolescent Parent and Children Policy is designed to prevent child neglect by providing child care training but we must ask ourselves as parents, educators, physicians and

members of the helping professions; who is responsible for the PREVENTION of adolescent pregnancies?

This policy, however, helps to clarify that the young mothers under discussion here will not be allowed the luxury of experiencing their children's early years at home.

We offer the second contradiction in this policy in the form of a question: will the long-term savings to the province by having these teenage parents dropped from the social assistance roll, by becoming 'productive' members of society, of-

ffset the short-term costs of administering the training programs and the projected subsidization of daycare?

A third contradiction we see is that, although these young parents will have their parenting skills enhanced, the added pressures of being a single working parent will offset any improvements. Working parents are all too familiar with the pressures.

The fourth and final contradiction expresses itself when we inspect the policy and the realities of sex education and availability of birth control in this pro-

vince. This policy makes adolescent parents the focus of restrictive and labelling legislation yet does not avoid or prevent unwanted pregnancies. We must all ask ourselves if adequate sex education is provided through the education system OR do our educators assume that parents are providing such necessary training at home, and vice versa? Are parents aware that teens have only limited access to birth control aids from the drug stores and need BY LAW parental consent up to age 16 to obtain birth control aids from a physician?

CSL not appreciated

Dear Editor:

To most people's surprise the event was co-sponsored by the Campus Services Ltd., the service wing of the Student Union. The service we provided was never greatly appreciated, as we went out of our way to accommodate the engineers in their week of activities.

We booked the band, Terry Hatty(Ram), for the event which was enjoyed by all, as well as looked after many arrangements with Keddy's over the phone.

A verbal agreement was made between Scott Thomas, president of EUs, and Campus Services Ltd., for CSL to co-sponsor the event 50-50 profit-loss, with a maximum loss of \$500.

The agreement dictated that Campus Services Ltd.'s name appear on all posters, and set ticket prices at \$10 per couple.

I was very enthusiastic about the event and went to great efforts promoting it, until I learned that the tickets were being sold for \$15 per couple for engineers and \$18 a couple for non-engineers.

In a telephone conversation with Scott Thomas I restated the conditions of CSL's co-sponsorship. He disputed the agreement and gave me no opportunity to suggest a compromise between CSL and the engineers.

As a concerned student I sincerely hope that if Scott

Thomas is ever elected to the President's office he will not deal with others, either students or administrators, with the same lack of courtesy and co-operation as he did with myself.

Hanging up the telephone during a business conversation is a very childish act and no way to resolve a problem.

I trust the person elected

to the Student Union presidency will show a bit more maturity and restraint, and will not hang up the phone on President Downey the first time they do not see eye to eye on an issue.

R. Darren Evans,
Comptroller,
Student Union Inc.
Treasurer,
Campus Services Ltd.

MacKenzie express thanks

Dear Editor:

We, the Men of MacKenzie, would like to take this opportunity to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the following for their most gracious help with the organization of our Trick-or-Treat Afternoon for the kids of the Moncton Head Start:

-Jeff Irwin and Moosehead Breweries for their help with transportation.

-Beaver Foods and the staff of McConnell Hall for providing food for the kids.

-and above all, the Ladies of The Dunn, Tibbits, MacLeod and Vanier for buying the kids candy, helping us control the kids, and keeping each and every one of them happy.

Again, thanks to you all; you made it a great Sunday afternoon for all the kids, both big and small.

Candidate photo published

Dear Editor:

In the Brunswickan of October 21, 1983, you published the campaign photograph of a candidate in the upcoming Student Union elections. I request that my campaign photo be published this week in the interest of justice and unbiasedness.

I trust there shall be no problems with this.

Chris Chapman
SRC Forestry Representative
Candidate for re-election

Editor's note: The photo in question was published on October 21, the candidate announced his candidacy on the 26.

Separate politics and pleasure

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Student Body of Engineering, I would like to draw attention to the exceptional job done by the Engineering Undergraduate Society on Engineering Week '83.

Under the leadership of Scott Thomas all events went smoothly. Some events like this year's Coaster Derby and the Pub were in my mind, the best to date. For those students who did not know, UNB has one of the best Coaster Derby tracks in North America.

Considering the politics that were played by both John Bosnitch and Darren Evans against the E.U.S. (on behalf of Scott Thomas) I think the executive did a great job. All week the present S.R.C. conflicted with the E.U.S. for examples,

items that were to appear in the Bruns never appeared, the C.S.L. went through bands, stating each time the band was booked, before finally getting a band for the gala. John Bosnitch stated the C.S.L. would back the E.U.S. on the gala and cover 100 per cent of the loss, it then went to 50/50 to a maximum of \$300. (Mr. Evans then wanted the E.U.S. to sell tickets at \$10.00 per couple. Good thinking Darren, we would only lose \$1100 on that one event)

In closing I would like to thank John Bosnitch and Scott Thomas for not wearing any political buttons at the gala. It is too bad that other candidates cannot separate politics and pleasure.

Colin Corey
An Engineering Student