

# REACTION

BY John Boswitt

The ability to reason is the difference between man and the animals. With that definition in mind, let's talk about the latest news from "The Planet of the Apes"...the UNB SRC. For at least the past year and a half, the Student Union has been faced with a definite need for changes in the SUB. The only questions that needed answers were: What changes? and How much are we willing to spend? Needless to say, recent events have proven the SRC to be utterly and absolutely incompetent in even beginning to deal with this problem.

Last year, the SUB Board supposedly went through the proper public procedure to get a plan for renovations and submitted it to the students by referendum. The real fact of the matter came out at the November 16th vote when 70 per cent of the students steadfastly voted NO. The students hadn't had any input whatsoever in the planning process. To tell the truth, no such consultation ever took place last fall, or even this spring. Anyone who says otherwise is simply put...a liar.

Without a doubt, the whole process has been entirely bungled. Let alone not asking the students, the student government showed their contempt for new ideas by rejecting out of hand every single proposal put forward by student groups and concerned individuals.

Some of us had still naively believed that things could actually change for the better. Just two weeks ago, I put forth a motion seconded by Liz Lynch (rep-at-large) which passed through council. The motion fully guaranteed that no plan could be put before the voters until they had been asked to contribute suggestions for its formulation. Secondly, it was made absolutely clear that no extra fee surcharge could ever be imposed on us unless the amount of the fee was specifically based on the actual cost of renovations. Had the arguments ended there, by now we could have already begun to lay the essential groundwork for renovations!

What happened? Well that is an interesting story. First of all, at the time of the decision, seeing that they were about to lose, President Finn and his "good buddy" Brent Blizzard stormed out of the SRC meeting. They immediately began to search for some way to overturn the decision...what they needed was to find a councillor who was willing to "change his mind." All the forestry students will be most pleased to hear that it was their rep who took the dive for them. McKay's actions really couldn't normally be condemned because he could claim that he was just trying to represent his constituents. This, however, was not a normal case, because only one month before, he had received (in writing) a statement from his constituents which not only rejected a \$15 fee for renovations but which also rejected outright the existing proposals for SUB changes. What McKay did was exactly 180 degrees opposed to the public stand put forward by those who he was elected to speak for. On the basis of his actions, and his total lack of respect for the students views...I would like to personally nominate McKay for the "General Jarnzelski Award for the Defense of Democracy".

Name calling aside, there exists only a limited possibility of renovations that ANY of us want unless we do something...immediately! In the words of one SRC Councillor, anyone who votes for the newly proposed question of "Will you give the SRC \$15 for a plan we'll tell you about later?", has got to be a "silly fool or a rich student." The first step in finally doing things right is to continue to oppose any arbitrary student levy which is not backed up by a plan and public consultation.

Secondly, and most importantly, regardless of the opposition of those who are continually being bought off by offers like..."don't worry we'll pay for everything"...We must immediately begin to find out what the students themselves really want and only then can we get a YES vote at a referendum.

So much for renovations...

Last, but definitely not least, the STUDENT PARTY has announced its full support for the protest march against the diversion of student's money. Some of you may remember our election platform which promised a fight against tuition hikes. This march is absolutely fundamental to show the government and public that UNB simply cannot operate if funding is withheld. Stand up and be counted on March 23rd to "Stop the Rip-off!"

## Entertainment fee proposed

Should students pay \$10 to bring big entertainment to campus?

This is what students will be asked March 29 as one of the referendum questions.

If accepted, the fee will be paid by all students, and will allow the entertainment committee and CSL to give student discounts on concerts, lectures and pubs.

Had the money been available this year, an impressive list of performers might have been able to come to UNB, said Kent Guptill, Campus Services Limited general manager of promotions. Agents for numerous individuals and groups approached CSL but were turned down because not enough up-front money was available.

Following is the list of those who might have been able to come:

September: Peter Frampton, Cheap Trick, Devo.

October: The Monks, the Broadway Production of the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

November: Rita Coolidge, Powder Blues, J. Geils, Martha and the Muffins, Rough Trade.

December: Alice Cooper, Doug and the Slugs, McLean and McLean.

February: Bill Cosby, George Carlin, Chuck Barry.

March: Three Dog Night, Kloatu, Beach Boys.

April: Marshall Tucker Band, Cast of M\*A\*S\*H on tour, Jane Fonda, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Dr. David Suzuki, Peaches n' Herb, and James Taylor.

Guptill pointed out if the funding is approved, groups of this calibre will be able to attend next year. As an example, there is a possibility of Three Dog Night visiting in early September.

There is no way however, that they can bring any of these bands in without up front money for security. Some groups may constitute a loss while money may be gained on others. With the extra \$50,000 CSL and the Entertainment Committee would be able to give student discounts and still have plenty of money to work with.

Originally, there were plans to bring the Beach Boys to the Aitken Centre; however, Moncton and Halifax pulled out of a deal for a joint tour. Moncton went ahead with their own Beach Boys concert and was able to attract four busloads of UNB students. This goes to prove, said Guptill, that attendance at events should be no problem. The bus trip cost \$20, said Guptill; with a \$10 saving, and with the nearby facilities of the Aitken Centre, the place would certainly have been filled.

Other things Guptill would like to see are monthly planning

calendars of all events. He also would like to see better co-ordination of events. He cited the example of the SUB

being used for numerous pubs one weekend, and none the following weekend.

Guptill said he is tired of

council planning only for things ten years down the road, like the SUB renovations. He said students are here for four years and want to enjoy their stay at UNB. The entertainment fee proposal would bring advantages to the students next year, he said.

## Malaysian focus

By EDDIE TANG

The Secretary's View and Visit to UNB

On March 13, the first secretary to the Malaysian High Commission in Ottawa, Mr. Alias Mohammed, was invited to a reception given in honour of him by the MSS. The main purpose of the reception was to discuss with Malaysian students the recent development in Malaysia and also on other sensitive issues. Mr. Alias, who works with the New Straits Times as a journalist and is also the political adviser to Canada, is a graduate from UNB six years ago. He is viewed as a learned person, a man of tolerance, frank, a good speaker as well as very diplomatic.

Mr. Alias brought up a number of controversial issues. One of which is the issue on education in Malaysia. As we all know, the education policy in our country favours the 'Bumiputras'. Bumiputras make up about 40 per cent of the population. Enrollment for the universities were in favour of the 'Bumiputras'. As I understand from Mr. Alias, this policy is applied to have a balanced of graduates, looking for jobs, from every culture. The majority of the graduates in Malaysia are students who have completed their degree abroad mainly composed of Chinese students.

This policy also gives the opportunity for the deprived, mainly 'Bumiputras' who are financially unsound, for a higher level of education. As every issue decided has a part attached to politics, the imposition of this policy is no different. As the majority of the votes in the country are from Bumiputras, the government need this support. Striving to be an irradical society, the Malaysian government had to impose this policy to get the majority vote of Malaysians so that radical political parties from every race is deprived of the opportunity to govern the country. As Mr. Alias said: "... it will be another Iran!"

Mr. Alias also advised the students not to worry about a degree not recognised by the government. He used himself as an example stating that he has a UNB degree which, supposedly not recognised by the government, landed him a government post in the High Commission.

Under the fourth Malaysian plan, there will be a high demand for mechanical, electrical and computer engineering students. The government also plans to have another university built, but so far the status of the proposed university is undecided. In my previous article "A point to ponder", I had doubts about unity among Malaysians. At least after this reception for Mr. Alias, I am certain that is what the government is trying to achieve: "UNITY". He advised the Malaysian students to hold a closer relationship with the High Commission. The High Commission can be the linked for Malaysian students to keep in touch with the political and economic situation in Malaysia. Any articles requested will be mailed to by the High Commission. If however, there are any views on the inefficient functioning of the High Commission, it is advisable to write to the New Straits Times in Malaysia, to complain about the services given to students in Canada. Mr. Alias also informed the students that the High Commission can be approached for assistance, be it for financial or personal problems.

Mr. Alias wished to see unity, in the Malaysians both abroad and in Malaysia. The problem he said was the competition in this materialistic world. Through our pursue of materialistic items, we are willing to compromise unity for these items. Can we Malaysian students in UNB ever be united? That is for the future to manifest and for the present to work towards.

Taking this opportunity I would personally like to thank Mr. Alias as well as all those who made part of the audience.

P.S.: Regarding my recent article "A point to ponder", I am still waiting for a critique. Am I to be deprived of one or are you all as was said in the article: "Apathetic".