

# editorial

— some thoughts to keep in mind

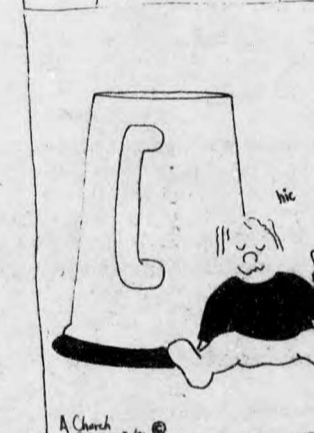
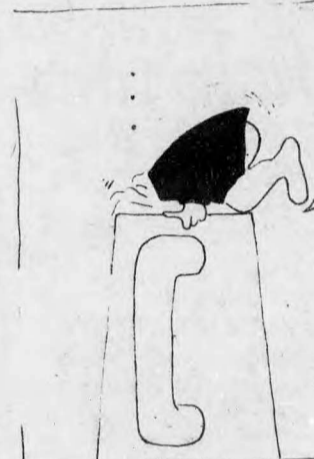
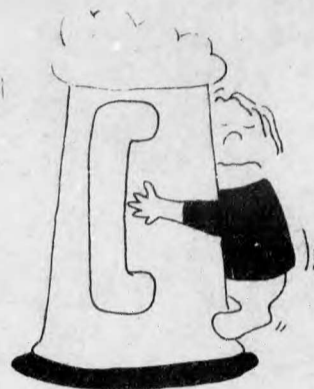
"THE GARDEN NEEDS WEEDING, BOY!"

Everyone has something that bugs him, something that sticks in the back of his mind. Mine is the university degree. Not that I worry about getting one - that is only a question of time. What sticks in my mind is the fact that when I do get one, it won't be worth anything. Imagine, one spends 4 years (or more) and thousands of dollars to end up with what-a-useless piece of paper which states that Joe Doe has his B.A. A decade ago, this degree would have been enough to get a good steady job. Nowadays there are only two things one can do with a B.A. - teach or go on to graduate work (which only postpones for a number of years the same dilemma.) The teaching pocket can only absorb so many each year and the same with graduate schools. What then happens to the remaining B.A.'s? Failing to find a position in the intellectual echelon that they should, they are relegated to such menial tasks as dishwashers, gas station attendants, garbage collectors, package-boys in grocery stores, etc. etc. This is also the unfortunate yet inevitable fate for a great number of MA's and Ph.D's that the universities turn out each year. "Why?" one asks, "Why does my BA etc. mean so little?" The answer to this is two fold. A B.A. is a general education, a dabble-dabble in everything from English to Sociology. This general education is all and well if the society is geared for such an education. But the 20thC industrialized society of North America isn't. It's a specialized society where one needs to be a specialist in a certain field to be sure of a job. Sad but true. But even this is not a total answer, for one finds even some specialists (particularly those in the Humanities and Arts) without jobs, simply because there is no place for them in the social machine or their place has been done away with. The second part of the problem pertains to the quality of the education one receives. As it is now, when one graduates from a college or university one has a general but limited education in everything. But it is for the great part of too poor a quality to allow the individual to get a job or to even encourage his interest in furthering his education. And why? Because it has become a vicious circle. Poor quality university graduates get hired as teachers and professors of the nation's youth and send out before them each year graduates who are of just as poor a quality (and in some cases of a poorer quality) as themselves. The problem just perpetuates itself.

One asks then, How can we change this? How can we get out degrees to mean more? The answer is both simple and complicated. The simple answer "Overhaul the whole university system". The universities are turning out pre W.W.II graduates into a post W.W.II society. It's a shoe, but it just doesn't fit. I said the answer was both simple and complicated. The complicated part is "How do we overhaul the system?" "What do we replace it with?" It's not so much a question of replacement as of weeding. The North American university system is like a garden that has been left on its own to grow wild. There are too many weeds in the garden. So many that the flowers are being smothered and are dying. I say, weed out the garden. Let some new light in, give the flowers a chance to grow and to deposit their seeds. And allow those seeds to take hold and grow.



February 15th is the last day you can withdraw from a course without having it count as a failure. See Registrar's ad on Page 6 for details.



Booze weekend bubbles and bubbles and bubbles and ....

Practically speaking, up grade the university. Make stiffer entrance requirements, screen students and professors who want to enter the university. I'd be the last one to deny someone entrance to college. Education is a right not a privilege. I agree, but one must prove that one is qualified to have this right. With the secondary schools turning out more and more students every year, the university system cannot just open her doors to masses of students. There must be some sort of selection. As totalitarian or marxist as it sounds, it is a necessary procedure. If not, the rising problem of unemployment resulting from immense quantities of poor quality graduates will surmount itself into a social revolution in the near future.

## A "SHARP" LOOK AT UNEMPLOYMENT

To any of you students who are planning to seek employment this summer, a word of advice: forget it and simply register your name with the Unemployment Bureau.

Anyone who has followed the news and the papers for the last week or so will see that the prospects of employment in Canada in the near future are very few, and diminishing. The official count now stands at 538,000 unemployed with "a substantial increase" foreseen before summer ever comes around. The Hon. Mitchell Sharp hastily denies any connection between this official count and the some 756,000 Canadians now claiming unemployment insurance benefits. Now really Mr. Sharp! If the actual unemployment figure is not as high as 756,000, but is in fact at the 538,000 level, I have only one question to ask, "Why are the remaining 218,000 people drawing unemployment insurance benefits if they are not, as you imply, unemployed?" Either your source of information is inaccurate or the Unemployment Bureau is handing out free money! If the latter is true sir, please add my name to the list of the "Unemployed". I could certainly use some money.

## CARNIE '71 A BOOZER BUT A SUCCESS

From all reports, Carnie '71 has been a success. That in itself is a surprise to many students, particularly those who have been here long enough to remember other Carnies, like the disaster of '68. Why was Carnie '71 different? How did the Carnival Committee under Bob Poore manage to pull it off? The answer appears very clear-booze. Almost every event (mainly indoor events) had bar facilities. And the number of people who turned out for these events was the largest for almost any event ever held at UNB. People were actually turned away from the doors - while the numbers within far exceeded the fire limits. Yet despite all this drinking and chug-a-lug contests there were very few cases of "gross-showmanship" or fights. People seemed to be content in just drinking and socializing. Perhaps what drew them out in such large numbers was the fact that they could drink and socialize without having to trot off to the "john" for fast and frequent nips. If you accept this, then it's almost prophetic to foresee that future winter carnivals will have bar facilities at every event to ensure their success. It's a sad vision but unfortunately it's probably true.

## FEEDBACK

In the last edition of the Brunswickan, I made an appeal to students of UNB to help me contact homosexuals and lesbians on the campus. Due to lack of space I could not go into enough detail to explain what I was trying to do. I have been approached by several people who have complained that I am trying to turn the Brunswickan, into a sensationalistic "skin rag". This is not or was it ever my intention to do this. The examples I used were specific in nature, but the point I failed to get across was that interviews with anybody who is of interest to the students can probably be arranged. This includes professors, students, members of the administration, and private citizens who students feel are of interest to them. Any suggestions that are forthcoming would get full consideration and if possible interviews would be made. Gary Constantine

# BRUNSWICKAN

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