

Apathy: have we found the cure?

It is now well into the year, and the jury remains out on whether the athletics departments new policy, of not charging students to watch their varsity sports teams, will be successful.

This policy met its first test last weekend during the Red Devils (hockey team) home opener against the University of Moncton Blue Eagles. A crowd estimated at 1500 fans showed up, about ten times the normal size during last years campaign. This apparent success is hard to measure however, seeing as the Blue Eagles are the best known collegiate team in the nation, having won two national titles in a row, and that the game was subject to heavy promotion in the local media.

Regardless of how successful this new policy becomes, the

decision has to be seen as a step in the right direction. Where high school teams often have to charge to support themselves financially, the University teams receive funding from the administration, at least a part of which comes out of the students pockets.

The coaches of the hockey and basketball teams, the only two to traditionally charge admittance, have both come out in favour of the move, although both have some reservations about its success.

Don MacAdam, coach of the Red Devils, feels it is up to the students to make the new policy a success. he doesn't expect the students to support a team that's not competitive but in recent years this has not been a problem, the Red Devils holding their own in a con-

ference many believe to be Canada's toughest.

Don Nelson, coach of the basketball Red Raiders is elated at the change, seeing as he was opposed to admission charges when they began in the early seventies. He feels that we should look to a long run improvement in attendance, and won't be disappointed if an immediate surge is not forthcoming. Nelson sees the free admission as one less deterrent to the students if and when the varsity teams become more competitive.

Athletic director Mal Early, with whom the decision lay, is optimistic over the new policy, echoing his coaches' feelings that the teams must remain competitive to expect support.

One disappointing showing this year, has been the attendance at the Red Shirts soccer

games. Seen as the team that would have to fill the void left by no defunct football team, the Shirts have remained very competitive, winning the national title two years ago and challenging again this year. Still the crowds remain sparse, though with the national semi-final being hosted here at Chapman Field, there is still hope interest will increase. The fact that this game will be free to UNB students will hopefully improve these chances.

The bottom line is that the time for excuses by the apathetic souls on campus is over. With high calibre competition, competitive teams (witness our four AUAA titles already this year), and no financial deterrent, there can be no excuses.

The ball is in your court.

Remember the past, look to the future

When President Reagan and President Brezhnev lay wreaths at their respective war memorials next Thursday, I hope that they will think of the future as well as the past. Our generation has some understanding of the grief, the death and the destruction that has occurred during past wars. We should, however, think also of the future.

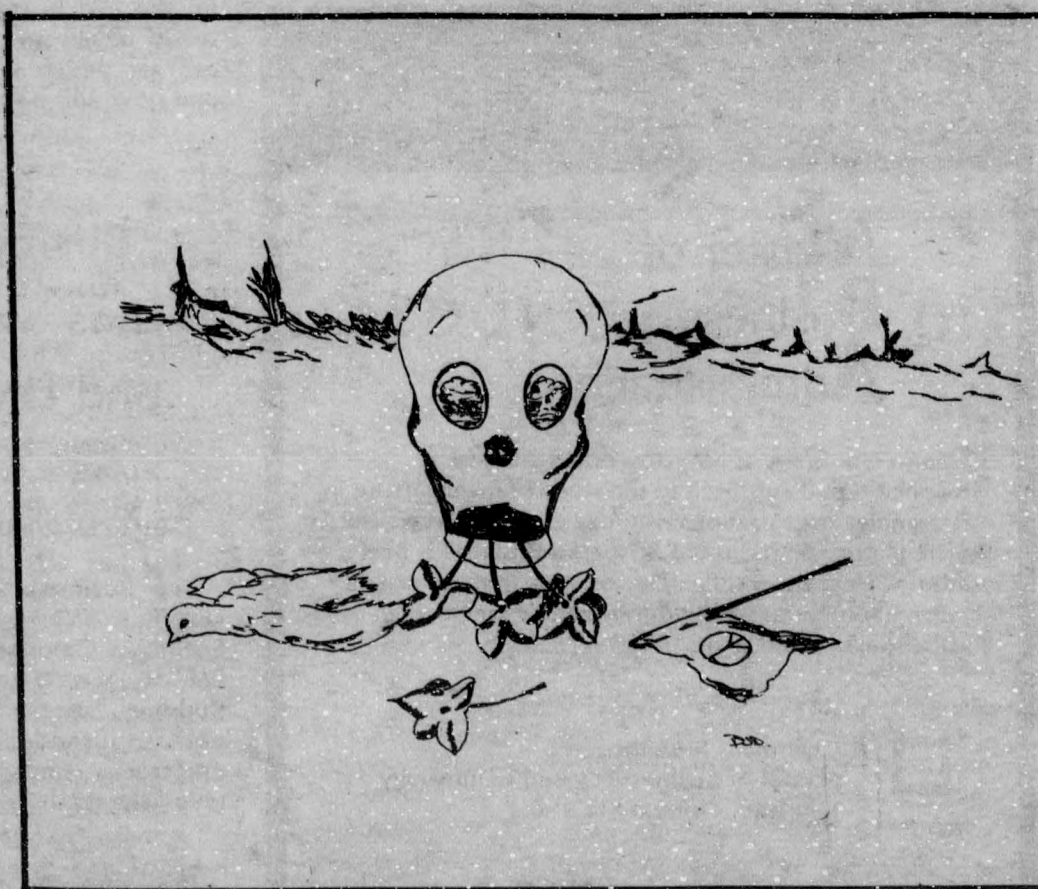
Last week was Disarmament Week. The present disarmament movement began about two years ago. When Reagan came into office, the movement started to grow rapidly for his hardline attitude towards the Soviet Union worried many people. Brezhnev has also done his part to escalate matters. Recently, Brezhnev stated that the United States "is threatening to push the world into the flames of a nuclear war." Brezhnev is now saying that a Soviet military buildup is necessary.

These sorts of comments provided the incentive for the movement to accelerate. Last weekends demonstrations in

Ottawa and other cities show that the movement has finally come to Canada. What most of these demonstrators want is reasonable. A bilateral reduction in the number of nuclear weapons that the United States and the Soviet Union own is what is necessary. This plan should also have international inspectors to make sure that each side fulfills the terms of such a treaty. Some people in the disarmament movement want all the nuclear weapons of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. dismantled. This is a noble goal but it is also a utopian one.

There are people that are against this movement. They believe that through strength the Western World will attain security. I would ask these people to define how many more nuclear bombs must we have to have security. We simply have too many nuclear weapons.

This movement, from the people, still must change many more attitudes. Reagan, has an opinion that many other people follow. He thinks that these efforts for peace are "inspired



not by the sincere, honest people who want peace, but by some who want the weakening of America and who are manipulating many honest people and sincere people."

On November 11 we pay tribute to those who have made

sacrifices to protect our society. Shouldn't our generation continue to protect our society and reject anything that can destroy it. The society which so many have died for should not go up in a puff of atomic smoke.