

Woozy's Promised Article-Questions and Opinions



I have been rather negligent in keeping up my columns in the Cadre. As a matter of fact, I don't believe I've done one for about a month. At the time of writing this one, I am influenced by what might be called indecision; that is, I know what I want but am finding it quite hard to decide what the rest of the student body of this university wants.

Today (Friday), the maintenance workers went out on strike. This union is not a large one having only forty-seven members, I believe, and is not endowed with great amounts of money or high-priced negotiators. What it does have is a group of people who have worked for a long time and are now approaching an age in life where they do not want to (and some should not have to) worry about where the money is going to come from. They are not your average strike; they show consideration for students in particular by not attempting to disrupt campus life to any great extent. What they are counting on is the support of the students. Some time ago, representatives of the union attended a student council meeting and asked us to support them in their demands, they did not threaten; they asked! Student Council promised these people support by a unanimous vote.

Well the time has come to see if we are as good as our word. It will no longer suffice to pledge support, but we must make that support known. The exact procedures to follow are unclear to me at time of writing this because Student Council is to meet on Sunday and it is hoped that some plan

of action will be drawn up there. Please remember one thing, these people consider students their main source of support. We live in an age where we like to say we are Freedom-loving, non-materialistic individuals who are not bound by the almighty dollar and the Man. We preach for a society where all men are equal. Don't you think it's about time we fought for a more even distribution of the wealth, or are our idealistic and youthful goals stated tongue-in-cheek?

Elsewhere in SU affairs, our general student union meeting Thursday at 1:30 was a flop. No more than 50 people showed up; thus we did not have the 10% of student population necessary to hold the meeting. It would appear that everyone has decided to let their student union function along at its jolly old pace. The opinion expressed by Dave MacRae in his editorial last week will certainly serve as an excellent "out" for you too. He stated that "...if the average student is apathetic, why shouldn't he be. When the meaning of involvement is to go through a lot of headaches to achieve an irrelevancy which some other will work on anyway, why bother? Since Student Union is irrelevant, then why bother to even vote?" (In reference to last week's senate elections in which 250 out of 1485 voted) To begin, to call this "logic" is an insult to any philosopher and also to anyone who has one ounce of independent blood running through their veins. As long as there are people who have the foresight and the imagination and the ambition to try to make this

would a slightly better place to live, there will always be someone who is not content to let others determine the cause of events for the country, the union, the club, or the family. To say that someone will look after you no matter how apathetic and unconcerned you are is not an example of maturity. It is my opinion that university is the place where you must accept responsibility for your actions and show a desire to shape your own life. If you cannot do this, then you should not be here.

(Once again, this is my opinion only).

It is easy to explain apathy towards student union but please explain the apathy towards academics, towards supporting our athletics, towards our university clubs, towards our debating society, (what debating society you ask? That's right, what debating society), towards drama presentations on campus, towards support for social events (other than getting drunk; which we all like to do), and the list could go on and on. Is it safe to say that we can say "oh well, someone will do it." Well, no one is doing it and a lot of these organizations and functions are dead or dying? Are these not the heart of a university? or is a university like the A&W where you drive in, pick up your knowledge and drive out. That is what is happening now. People either come at nine and leave Friday morning. The place is dead, you say? No wonder we have unquestionably the least spirit of all schools in the maritimes, including kindergartens.

What is the answer? Perhaps a little pride in this place. Native islanders have long thought of themselves as "second-class" citizens in comparison to these "Upper Canadians" "Yanks" and this attitude has extended to UPEI. We consider ourselves second best before we begin. Maybe there are plenty of reasons for this. Maybe we should decide we don't want to compete with Acadia and St. Mary's athletically and Dalhousie academically. Perhaps we should stop making excuses for our school and ourselves and show a few brains and balls and demand our university for what it is; and what we would like it to be; not what we expect it to be. It's difficult to find any one answer

to this problem but I believe this would be a start.

Socially things look great (if they are not all cancelled. One of the bands for Oktoberfest (Shakey Al Blues Band) split up) but an equally fine band, consisting of former members of Catfish Hodge and Mountain. They also have a guitarist who used to back Leon Russell. I have not heard them but they should be pretty good. Cooper Bros., who have just released a single, and Time Space Continued; an eight piece band from Philly, are the other two evening attractions. We hope to have a German band for a beer fest after the football game (God knows we'll need it) but I don't think I really care - give it your best boys and beat St. Mary's.

We also hope to have coffee shops on Friday afternoon. If you are interested in helping with the coffee shop - that is by playing or helping generally please see Paul (Neuf) Broadbent.

Remember, Downchild Blues Band is coming on Dec 4th and I'm not sure yet but I have been making arrangements to get Valdy for a concert at the Confederation Centre on November 30th. However the Social Committee wants to have a Christmas Dance on Dec. 2nd and doesn't feel that we could handle these three events in such a short period of time (money problems) and so close to exams. Myself, I could think of no better way to spend a Sunday evening sitting at the Confederation Centre listening to Valdy. I would really like to have some outside opinion on this so please let me know somehow soon if you would like to have Valdy in town.

My hand is getting sore. Drop down to the Student Union offices. We need people to help with Oktoberfest. I'll be out practice teaching this week so leave your name with Tom Hayward, Ray Shalala, Bill Chandler, Rick Huyck, or Jane MacCormac. Also try to make it to the Panther Lounge on Thursday afternoon and we'll try to find out just what's happening around here and try to decide what is happening and what should happen. If you read this whole article - thanks. If you skipped though to - #*ç&\$)\$\$#.

Gerald "Woozy"

MacDonald

U.P.E.I.S.U. President

P.S. Have no fear, under 18ers, dry events are on the way. Classes?? Why not suggestions instead of criticism; this means you too, Marion.