

To End Apathy - Get Student Union Involved In Important Issues



dave macrae
editorial

It's election time again. That time of year when three people of eight will be chosen to represent the entire student body by perhaps one-quarter of that body. And typically, people will raise that great evil, Apathy, (and you can hear the capital better in their voice)- as the reason why only one-quarter will vote.

In these elections, 3 of the six available seats, two science representatives and a Board of Governors member, were filled by acclamation. Of course, once again, Apathy is at fault.

To those students who are INVOLVED, it is easy to rail against the average

student who is not INVOLVED too. It makes it easier to explain the perennial shortage of bodies. Apathy is at fault. Therefore you egg, goad, bother fellow student until he will join the INVOLVED elite.

Yes, it is easy to do so, to fail to examine the causes of Apathy, and instead to rail against IT, hoping that IT will go away.

To put it succinctly, there are two possible answers to the question "Why are students apathetic?" Either students don't give a damn or council isn't worth a damn. The former has been the most frequently expressed answer, but

let's give the latter a fair hearing for a change.

Last fall, the Cadre ran some interviews with students asking students what the council meant to them. One said he had gotten a rebate on some drugs the year before. No other could think of anything. One returned with another question "What's a student union?"

The following week, then-president Gordon Campbell returned with a list of what the student union had done for them. He said that without the student union there would be no yearbook, Pig'n'Whistle, Fall Festival, Winter Carnival, Medical Plan, Radio Station, or Cadre. True, but with the doubtful exception of the last two, all of these are administrative or social functions. In other words, they have little relationship with the reason why all of us are us, nor do they relate to whatever we may do when we get back into the real world.

Amazingly, a large number of students find that

it is much more satisfying to go to a Pig rather than organize one. The latter is nothing more than a power trip- the nigger kings clinging to the few crumbs given them by the administration and devoting all their time and energy to them, trying to forget that they are, after is said and done, still nigger kings.

Thus, 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, then why bother.

The logic extends farther. Since student union is irrelevant, then why bother to even vote? Does it really make any difference if the person who gains the job will then make such important decisions as "Should Fall Fest have a German theme again?" P.S. Don't get me wrong. I am not for apathy per se. It does, however, make sense to ask- apathetic to what?

Get With 'IT'

We would like to comment on the recent letters written to your paper concerning "IT". It has caused considerable controversy around the campus and here are our views:

In regard to Martha the Mink's letter, we girls agree with her to a certain extent but not with every Tom, Dick, or Harry that comes (Ed's note: ??) along.

As for the four football players; in looking at their win-loss record, we suggest that they concentrate their physical exploits on the field, at least until the season is over.

Afterwards.....

As to their implications regarding female jocks - have they looked in the mirror lately? Also, from what I have read about the Lady Panthers or Pantherettes, they have a lot more Inter-collegiate wins to their favor than the male jocks.

Just Being Fair

Needed- Dry Pigs

Dear Editor,
Although U.P.E.I. is a young university, it is years behind the times. We refer to the discrimination against that part of the student body which is under 18.



Dear Editor,

This note goes to Freshmen girls from us Freshmen guys.

Hey! Have you forgotten us; we're the ones who used to be closest to your hearts, but now that we have come to the university we have been thrown aside for upper classmen. It seems that you have all gone starry-eyed for older jocks, but remember that they will pass on some day and you will be left in the rain because we will have our own crop of Freshmen girls. So make it easier all around. Freshmen, take us bake under your wing and nurse us through the next four years.

Signed:

Freshmen guys
P.S. Come on, upperclassmen, give us a break and get it on with older girls - that is if you can handle them.

Ours is the only university in the Maritimes that excludes members of its own student body from attending events like Pig 'N' Whistles. We realize that there is a legal reason for this but we would like to see every second Pig or at least one per month organized in such a way that anyone could attend. Since the Barn is on two levels it would not be too difficult to confine drinking to the Panther Lounge. We know it can be done because it was done during

Freshman Orientation Week this year.

The president of the Student Union has not yet written his promised article explaining where our \$40 fee is going, but we feel that part of it is financing the Barn and the Social Committee. This is another reason for making some of the Pigs open to the entire student body - we all paid our fees.

Margaret Sims
Donna Smith

CADRE



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