

## Taxi hike proposal extremely unrealistic

The city of Fredericton is not an industrial center. Many of the local businesses owe their survival to the presence of the provincial government and the Universities.

Most of the businessmen are in business to provide a service to the employees of these large institutions and to the students. There are many different types of 'service industries' serving us in this city, from clothing and grocery stores right down to the city's one laundramat.

One of these 'services' trying to make a living from both workers and students is the taxi industry.

The taxi business is getting so good here that most of the taxi companies have got together and formed the Fredericton Taxi Association. At least one taxi company, Trius, does not belong to this group.

A couple of weeks ago the City Council gave first reading to a new by-law regarding taxis and taxi rates. The second reading is scheduled for Feb. 13. This ridiculous bit of legislature is supported by the Taxi Association.

Granted, the existing by-law is very outdated and virtually impossible to enforce, but the newly proposed law that the Taxi Association is attempting to force on us is disgraceful.

We cannot see how our City Council can give even the slightest bit of serious thought to this proposal in its existing state. Apart from giving the Taxi Association some seemingly omnipotent powers, it brings forth a rate structure that is so unrealistically expensive that it is absolutely out of the question.

The taxi companies do not need these new rates to stay in business. The present rates must be fairly decent as most of the companies are continually buying new cars each year.

We are not necessarily advocating that the taxi rates should not go up at all. If they must go up, we feel some realism and common sense should be in the

by-law. Increased rates should also be contingent upon improvements in service.

If the law is passed as it now stands it will cost \$1 to travel from the campus to downtown and \$1.50 from the campus to the mall.

Members of our City Council probably all have cars. They will only have to use taxis now and

then. But, many working people and students must use taxis on a regular basis. We cannot afford this proposterous increase.

Mr Mayor—take note! What may be good for the owners of the taxi companies may not be good for the rest of the citizenry. They have few votes in the next municipal election.

We have many more.

## FEEDBACKFEEDBACKFEEDBACK FEED

Dear Sir:

Paul Theriault's letter to the editor in the January 26th issue of the Brunswickan struck home; particularly his reference to what he termed the 'Montreal Mafia'.

Does it exist? Is it very strong? Does it matter?

I went looking to try to find some answers. All my figures are approximate and come from the Student Directory.

1. 40 per cent of the candidates for the SRC in the upcoming elections are from Quebec.

2. 60 per cent of the candidates for the jobs of President and Comptroller are from Quebec.

The Brunswickan itself gives some interesting figures:

1. 54 per cent of the 'Chiefs' on the Bruns staff are from Quebec.

2. 29 per cent of the 'Indians' come from Quebec.

Do these figures seem high to you? Some may, and some may not, but when you consider that last year only 11 per cent of the total student population was from Quebec (1972-73 Calendar) and it is probably close to that this year, then all the percentages are in fact high. So at a casual glance, the answers to my first two questions seem to be yes. My third question contains a lot more food for thought.

It is my feeling that the outlook on life of the people of

the Maritimes is distinct from that of the rest of the Canadian population; particularly, it is radically different from the outlook on life of the English of Quebec (87 per cent of the Quebecers whose names I came across were primarily English speaking). It is also my feeling that the SRC and the Brunswickan both create a climate of thought which is accepted and followed by most of the students on this campus. The situation thus arises where you have a minority with one set of values having a great deal of influence and control over a majority with another set. Without any further consideration one must admit that this is an unhealthy situation. But it needs further consideration because if the values of the people from Quebec are 'better' than ours then we can learn a lot from them; not as a community, but as individuals we can learn by what rules we should run our lives.

If you, the student, feel that Maritimers ought to change their values and need help in doing so then on Election Day you should vote into power those people who can do that - among others, the people from Quebec. If you feel that everything is Heaven already or that if it isn't we can do the changing ourselves then you should vote to put the SRC back in the hands of Maritimers.

How do I feel? That's my business and my ballot is secret

Andy Pletch

Dear Sir:

I don't want to address this to anyone in particular on the Bruns staff as it might embarrass them. If anyone read the Bruns last week they might have caught a letter from a fifth year Forester who complained about the lack of any nonderogatory articles in the Bruns about Foresters. The person might also have noted on the third last page of the Bruns, there was a short article about the UNB Woodsman's team winning in Montreal. If he had read the article he would have discovered that the competition in Montreal was *International*; in fact it was the *largest* of its kind in Eastern North America and it received *extensive* coverage by radio, TV, and the press. It seems, though, that these facts do not rate more than a single picture and less than thirty lines of coverage. (This was only half of the original article that was submitted and as a Bruns reporter stated at the time when she read the original article that it was rather short; I would like to know what happened to the other half of it?)

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