

"Not Again! Fee Increase?"

This banner headline at Mount Allison initiated, on their campus, the yearly Battle of the Fees, a combat in which most Councils and CUS students tend to engage themselves. Agrosy Editor, Leonard, has pleaded that their Administration, if intending to raise fees, is duty-bound to make their position known to the student body. Such a statement would be "of tremendous convenience and importance to the student body," he said.

It seems apparent that Editor Leonard is requesting time for students to react in force with more protests and briefs.

It is time that students stopped involving themselves with fee increases. University administrators are too often pen-sketched as thoughtless vampires wanting to drain our bank accounts. They have the student in mind constantly, and the consequences of a fee-hike announcement are more fully understood by them than by students.

Nonetheless we protest, march on Parliament, and become thoroughly excited.

It all ends where it started. Administrations have only four sources of revenue: Federal grants, Provincial grants, gifts and students.

Federal grants are fixed. Student protestation at the Federal level is of small value. Marches are a time-consuming waste and briefs from far more authoritative bodies than students have been shuffled aside. Action from Ottawa is painstakingly slow. Students, university administrators and commissioners have advocated tremendous changes but political winds blow more favourably in other directions. The priority of post-secondary education may seem obvious to us but we're too involved to be objective. After all is considered, the mental and physical health of our nation is more pressing. Our wait may be long.

Equally useless is the protest to the Provincial government, where intricacies of University-Government relations are not going to be changed by a flock of marchers or a hastily prepared brief.

This leads to the final source of revenue, the student. The strongest argument for a fee-freeze is that of University accessibility to those with financial problems. The University cannot afford to cater to those that aren't here. Moreover, the University is not the deciding force in the issue of accessibility.

The concern of the University is to provide students attending with the best possible education available. Certain standards are realized and definite goals established. Out of their decisions on how much they will offer rises a budget. This must be met and if the governments do not supply the required dollars then those that are enrolled should pay higher tuition fees.

Only the governments have power sufficient to alter this situation. As has been stated, favourable changes will not occur due to the student lobby, because it is insignificant. It will occur due to the suasive powers of public opinion.

Man-hours of protestation should, therefore, be directed towards programs geared to inform the citizens of the value of Universities and of their need for greater government aid. This is especially true in New Brunswick where financial assistance from the Provincial government is minimal. Capital grants for construction are unknown.

When the fee increase is announced at this University later next year, let us be prepared to stop and consider the value of our course of action. Let us start now with an effort to keep the people informed about the University of New Brunswick and its needs.

Brunswickan

CELEBRATING ITS HUNDRETH BIRTHDAY WITH CANADA

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The Socials of Wine and Roses

Letters To The Editor

MY DAD, THE EDITOR

Editor:

I would like to congratulate Mr. Bob Edwards for his well-written letter in last week's *Brunswickan*. It is obvious that he put a great deal of work into it, and much thought. It is a pity, however, that he is wrong.

He seems to think that Radio UNB would not exist if the council did not. I was here when Radio UNB was a mere baby, and I saw it grow, and I can assure you that it was built by interested and independent students, not by the Students Representative Council. The first equipment in it was secured through donations, not through the SRC. I maintain that it could have grown without the SRC, and that if it wishes it could separate itself entirely from the SRC. Consider the simple matter of (although at present it is against the station's policy) paid advertising. Certainly it would have members whether the SRC was here or not.

The same is true of the *Brunswickan*. It started almost 100 years ago, before there was any student council.

The yearbook was started in 1938 by a group of interested students. It would have existed without the SRC. I know this because my father was editor of that one.

The Red 'n' Black, Carnival, and other events of great significance are run independently of the SRC, without financial aid from the SRC, except in circumstances which could have been avoided through proper management. The committees in charge of these respective organizations unfortunately have grown to expect the SRC to bail them out in

emergencies, but a bank loan would do just as well.

And so it goes with the other activities that seem to depend on council but in fact exist under a corollary of Parkinson's Law.

The major part of Mr. Edwards' letter deals with the argument that the SRC meetings are only a small part of the council's activities.

This is an excellent point. However it is completely false.

Most council members learn nothing outside the council. Some of them appear for only part of each meeting. Few of them know anything about what they vote on other than what is brought up by council members and by a few rabble rousers in the small group of onlookers at the back (or as we prefer it, front) of the Council Chamber.

Those few who bother to look into council problems before meetings would probably be fighting for better housing, courses, food, fees, jobs, discounts, and all the other supposed necessities of student life, even if there was no Council.

The concessions council offers could be awarded by the faculties or could be let loose to free competition, neither of which would result in a poor product.

I again congratulate Mr. Edwards, but I suggest that he look outward and not try to rationalize his position on council. Just because councillors are elected, it does not mean they are doing any good.

Yours truly,
Gary Davis

Editor:

In your lead editorial of October 6, entitled "Is The

Ship Really Sinking?" you say that "nothing will be accomplished by the withdrawal of UNB from CUS." What, Mr. Editor, is being accomplished by UNB's membership?

Why is not this union of 170,000 students doing something to make it worthwhile for Memorial, Bishops, Loyola et al. (as well as UNB) to remain as members? If a union of 170,000 people is, simply by its numbers, a "powerful influencing force", worthy of our respect and admiration, then it should have something concrete under its belt. What? What have they done, and what are they doing???

I do not think ninety per cent of the students at UNB know of any good reason for remaining in CUS. I think the other ten per cent do not know what CUS is!

I have heard students say "Why don't we withdraw from CUP, CUS, WUSC, WHIFF and anything else we are in? We never hear anything about them, nor do we benefit from them."

This attitude, Mr. Editor, justified or not, reasonable or not, believable or not, is quite prevalent on the campus, particularly among Freshman students.

Instead of telling us in your editorials that a withdrawal from CUS is an emphasis of childishness, why not ask the SRC to have a report presented to the *Brunswickan* for publication telling the students of UNB why CUS should exist and why UNB should retain its membership?

Maybe then your editorial should be republished. Per-