



Mugwump
ED
By WERTHMANN Journal

There is quite a commotion up here on the "hill" re the article the Plain Dealer ran in their last issue. If you read it like I asked in my last Mugwump, you'd know what I'm talking about. If you didn't read it — well — it's your loss.

Anyway, the P.D. story in question has created a hubbub around the Bruns and SRC office. Jim Smith, defender and fearless leader of UNB students, has sent a rather biting letter to the author and his employers in rebuttal to the said article.

Also, Miguel Figueroa (Atlantic fieldworker for NUS) has also retorted. His letter is printed on this page — so don't miss it. Another rebuttle can be found J. David's column.

To top this all off, I'm sitting here typing away and waiting to get permission to print the article in the issue you are now reading. So if you find it somewhere, you'll know I did get permission . . . if it isn't to be found — well — you figure it out.

+++++

Remember when I mentioned the increase in the AFS fees two weeks ago? I stated that we, the Bruns, didn't think much of it — or something to that effect. (Pardon the digression here folks, for I will explain: Policy of our paper is decided by democratic free vote of the staff — although the Editor-in-chief can veto the decision of the vote. How's that for democracy! The fact is, the staff decided that the AFS increase was unjust; and that opinion was voiced in the Oct. 1 issue of the Brunswickan. As I haven't brought this issue up with the staff since two weeks ago, don't be surprised if you find the following contradictory to that opinion. But this is my column, and I can say what I want. Right?)

I have learned why AFS wants an increase in fees — why they want a budget of around \$20,000. The explanation is as simple (or not so simple) as this:

In order to be able to stand up against government bumbling, we need a strong organisation to represent the students. We now have such an organization in Ottawa, namely NUS. (PLUG — Don't forget to vote YES on next week's referendum.) In the Atlantic, however, there is no local lobby for students. Let's face it, with the piddling amount of money that AFS gets, one cannot expect AFS to stand effectively against government on such issues as increased tuition and housing costs and Student Aid.

I might add here that one shouldn't actually think of AFS's proposal as an "increase". It is, actually, a fee set up on a per capita basis. There is nothing wrong with that. I think that that is a fair and just way of doing it. That way, every student has their own share in the organisation. Besides, other organised student groups charge about a buck a head. (The Ontario Federation of Students charges a \$1.50 per student.)

The truth of the matter is that AFS, if it is to exist at all, will need a much larger budget. Granted, the organisation cannot say right now which way the revenues will be utilized. I realise that doesn't sound so hot! But if AFS does succeed in getting a large budget, it will take a little while to re-organise. At present, there are several proposals. One would be to set up a "head office" which would require some full-time personnel. Another suggestion, my reliable sources say, is that AFS assign certain persons different tasks in each province and give them some sort of honoraria for their valuable work. At any rate, there will no doubt be many proposals on what to do with the budget.

All I can say now is that if AFS gets \$20,000 to work with — more power to them. A weak AFS is as effective as no AFS. Further to that, let me suggest that the trend in Canada is toward "regional solidarity". That is, people tend to think of Canada in terms of the geographical region in which they live. But since we are one (1) country, and are governed to a large extent in those terms, we need a "national" lobby to protect our interests. In order to confront provincial governments and use NUS alone is preposterous. Sure, NUS will be there representing students as it should; but if you think NUS can handle all the work for YOU, you have to crazy! How much can you do for a buck?

So instead of having one organisation working for you, why not have two?! For a total of \$2 a head, you can't lose — of that I am sure.

+++++

I wonder if anyone else on campus knows you, Gene — bar some Bruns staff, of course.

'Dealer' journalism criticized

The Editor,
The Plain Dealer,
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Editor:

I feel compelled to denounce the shoddy journalism displayed in the article by Peter Sherwood entitled "No Formal Support from Students" (Oct. 6, 1976). I am alarmed by the mis-quoting and, further still, the misrepresentation of my views on the topics raised by this reporter in the above article, and am concerned by the destructive tone of this type of coverage.

Concerning the misrepresentation of my comments, there are several points which I wish to clarify and correct. To begin with, I never stated that all, or even a significant minority of UNB students exhibited "bigotry" towards French people, but rather that the lack of appreciation of the student aid issues underlying the Moncton students' actions last Spring tended to enflame certain anti-French sentiments in the community generally. Indeed, many UNB students and Fredericton residents were concerned about the 'Centennial Occupation' because of the militant nature of the action, regardless of the ethnic origin of those participating.

To continue, I never remarked that UNB students were "middle-class" (a meaningless term, in any case), and further, I did not say that they "never really had to

worry about economic realities". Nothing could be further from the truth; students are increasingly aware and concerned about the 'economic realities' of getting an education in this country, of getting decent summer jobs, and of the growing need to resist regressive moves by government to raise tuition, residence, and other related costs to students. My actual statement was that students are not aware of the economic realities of the working world, as most students have yet to enter the work force on a protracted basis.

These blatant misrepresentations of my comments are deplorable and inexcusable; however, it is the negative, destructive effect of this type of political journalism that concerns me even more. Instead of providing a progressive analysis of the reasons for the relative absence of active student support for the "National Day of Protest", Sherwood seems satisfied, in an almost self-indulgent way, to intensify the alienation and distrust between students and working Canadians.

I would suggest that if Mr. Sherwood's interests lie in the driving of phony wedges between students and workers, then he should write his own editorials, under his own name, rather than misrepresenting others' views to get his backward-thinking attitudes across to the readers of the Plain Dealer. In that event, all

Fredrictonians, workers and students alike, could openly judge Mr. Sherwood's politics and criticize them accordingly.

Sincerely yours,
P. Miguel Figueroa
Atlantic Fieldworker
National Union of Students

Ed.'s Note: The Plain Dealer article can be found on page 13.

Spiro pays tribute to a lady

Dear Editor:

Not all readers have met the lady in question — but I ask you, nevertheless, to publish a copy of the note I sent her some days ago. Thanks.

Eliza,
c/o Professor W. Dana Wasson,
School of Computer Science,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, N.B.

Madam:

Permit me to say, after a very long acquaintanceship, that you are — like most females — arrogant, bellicose, capricious, deceitful, erratic, flamboyant, garrulous and utterly enchanting!

With great respect,
Maurice Spiro

McCluskey makes appeal for shoes

I'm disappointed! I came out of the studios of our beloved CHSR today and ran into a real tragedy. One of the DJ's came up to me and asked for a cigarette. Now, being a smoker myself I realized that there is nothing so personally disgusting as not having your own pack of sticks and it takes balls to go up to someone you may or may not know and ask for one. Well, that's a story I could go on about for it has its own merit but the point of this article merely starts from this incident. I say "merely" but actually it's a case of many factors, each leading to the aforementioned tragedy.

Mr. Chris X was standing there, giving polite thanks for my generosity (he really is a nice person when he takes time off from smoking to talk) when I noticed something rather peculiar. For a student he was rather well dressed. My curiosity being what it is I asked if he were going to Convocation this "aft". "No", he replied. "I usually dress this way," so being a polite person myself, I complimented his style. Then, I noticed his shoes. Hm-m-m — black, and spit shined! The only

other person I know of who wears those is Howard Goldberg, but then, he wears a tie too! "Whats this?", I asked. "Oh, these are my father's" he replied. It seems that Chris forked over all his money so as to go to university this year and he only has \$3.00 left in the bank with a full, bleak, dismal, very very poor year ahead of him. It also became apparent as the conversation went on that he had no shoes of his own. He had borrowed the ones he had on from his father so as to be able to be where I found him. "After all, I have to get from there to here, which takes feet, which takes shoes," he said. And you know that makes pretty good sense doesn't it? Being a person of little influence, I thought that perhaps I might be able to do something for this unfortunate fellowstudent. I told him I would get on it right away and see what could be done. Wow! People in the halls were apathetic, the door of the Christian Fellows across the hall was closed, a student senator said he was going to dinner and he would give it some real thought not considering, I guess, that Chris couldn't afford to eat). When I mentioned this he laughed. Imagine! What gall! Last but not

least I asked a few people in the Bruns what they could do (including Sarah my long secret love whom I always considered loving and kind) "Tough!" she said. My God! What does a person have to do around this place to create some sort of sympathy for a fellow human being who on top of being a nice guy, is a student and a DJ (not necessarily in that order).

So I decided to sit down (rather I was quite forceable sat down and made to do so, cause Sarah's love finally started to show through, I knew I could count on her!) and write this article. It is my fervent hope that people who may or may not know Chris X will start up a fund or donate a spare pair of rubber boots or something. Just drop off your concerns at the CHSR or BRUNS offices and I'm sure Chris will get them.

P.S. Thanks a lot. I'd help him out, but my car won't start and I'm going to miss the opening down at the playhouse if I don't hurry up and call a taxi to get me there. I know it's going to cost a few bucks but what the hell I got a good loan this summer. See ya later gang!
John McCluskey
Another Student Senator
But one who cares a hell of a lot.