



OPINION...

By Melanie R Hawkes
Managing Editor

Well, yes I'm back. The Boss is back; and I am gleefully utilizing my "new whip" I received from the Bruns staff for Christmas. I'm glad to be back, but I must admit, who can complain about 41°C, sunny weather?? I will complain about the 30 hours it takes to get from one continent to the other, though.

Ever notice how when one thing goes wrong, usually everything goes wrong. I mean, one might as well get it all over within the one day.

Here's a good scenario.

Get up in morning. Key won't open car door (froze after washing car previous night). Finally get door open. Car sounds like sick cat and won't start (forgot to plug in car last night). Plug in car and get cab to school. Come home later and car works. Bonus!! Drive out to airport to meet customs officer to search through trunk (maybe drugs, man!!). Trunk won't open, realize left key on fridge. Go home totally fed up. Have massive headache and refuse to do any home work that night. Go to bed, but neighbour decides to have a party. Look up flight schedule to see next possible flight back to Australia.

Needless to say, most of the problems arise due to my own carelessness (or should I call it stupidity).

Did you know the university is capable of spending \$15,000 on the SUB but is unable to find significant funds to help four students from the UNB Debating Team represent our university in Scotland. Needless to say, many of our other university clubs and societies are ignored regarding financial support.

Wouldn't ya know it, we get snow practically all fall and winter and when the time rolls round for winter carnival and the popular snow sculpturing competition, it looks like the snow's going to either melt or wither away due to rain. Ever try water sculpturing?

Ever try to get help from a Government service? Then try Canada Post! A staff member has left messages for about 14 weeks now, and has never had the message returned in order to make an appointment. Just typical!! Doesn't surprise me that bags of mail are found in public lavatories.

Did you know Stephane Comeau is resigning from the Student Union Executive for personal reasons?--he's pregnant!

I'd really like to complain about student apathy; but I really don't give a damn any more.

One thing I will complain about is the continuous number of letters we get from Matin Yaqzan defending himself. And the letters are always over 300 words! Just wait and see; this comment will probably incite a terms worth of letters from him.



SUBJECT: Gates to UNB Campus (1990 Graduating Class)

I have nothing against a graduation class banding together to express their joy and relief at having successfully survived four of more long, arduous years of university study. What I am categorically opposed to is the colossal amount of money being raised and spent on building gates to our already crowded campus. Before you get your "short and curlies" raised please read on. I am merely expressing my thoughts and opinions on the subject!

Surely in this era of necessary cuts in social spending (by ALL levels of government) the graduating classes of today's universities might use their names, dollars and talents in slightly more humane and socially responsible endeavors than construction of another useless piece of architecture. This is not to say the architecture is not creative and beautiful, but rather I find the concept of little or no functional use.

When social spending is slashed we ALL suffer. Effects are seen across the board as hundreds of necessary and worthwhile agencies are affected and are often forced to close. These negative effects often lead to battles for the few remaining dollars that do exist and to escalated competition among the non-profit organizations for essential private funding. The results of this might hit home like a ton of bricks as you and I are inundated with literally hundreds of appeals for dollars every time you turn around! Perhaps if more project-oriented, innovative and enthusiastic teams, such as the 1990 graduating class of UNB, would apply their talents, time and efforts to projects such as renovating or expanding seniors' home, day-care centers or even a shelter for battered families, we ALL might be a little better off economically, socially and morally.

The comparatively few successful projects that do exist to counteract these effects (the bed-push to St John in the fall for instance) attract positive support from concerned and conscientious individuals but this is often just a beginning and they are often few and far between. continued support is essential to ensure success of these endeavors. The main point established here is that many more innovative projects and programs are required, especially here in Atlantic Canada, if we are to maintain our existing regional (or even national) standard of living and achieve the goal to assist our fellow man.

If this year's graduating class still wished to leave their mark for the future by means of a construction theme, then I think the suggestions mentioned earlier would suffice. The public statement of accomplishment could be marked (as is customary) with a commemorative plaque or cornerstone.

Another issue or them that could/should be tackled is that of the environment. The graduating class could "adopt a park" (or lake, zoo, farm or forest, etc.) and use their funds and resources to ensure a future for a vital part of our planet. Again, a permanent identifier could be applied in the form of naming the facility after them or something of the like.

I acknowledge that my suggestions might fall on deaf ears for this year, but I hope that future projects will emphasize the importance of doing things for the good of humanity as a whole because remember that ultimately we ALL (including YOU) will be the beneficiaries.