



mugwump journal

BY DEBORAH GENEAU

This is the last issue of the Bruns before Christmas. I will be inexpressibly relieved and happy when exams are over. This is the worst time of year in the life of a student. Everything comes due at the same time. How depressing...

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Speaking of depressing, UNB students have been given a bad name with yet another Fredericton organization. Students are always complaining about being discriminated against by Fredericton businessmen. The most popular example is landlords who refuse to rent to students. We all know the horror, indignation and genuine surprise students experience at being turned away. This negative attitude toward students is not exclusive to landlords and the cast (to use the word most generously) of Red 'n Black managed to alienate another organization from the entire university community. Nice going - I must congratulate you on a job well done. Too bad I can't say the same about your performance at the playhouse.

While attempting to find a place to hold this year's Bruns Christmas party (which is something I will rag about later), someone suggested we have it in the same place Red 'n Black had their party - The Oddfellow's Hall on Brunswick Street.

It seems the Hall was left in a shambles after the Red 'n Black party. Bathrooms were demolished, beer cups were everywhere, so much liquor had been dumped on the floor that it had seeped through down to the next floor, and, last but not least, practically every window in the place was broken.

There is a word for people who break windows at parties and that word is **asshole**. The caretaker told me it took an entire day to have the hall cleaned up - at the hall's expense.

The Hall had been rented to Red 'n Black for 150 dollars. Now they are demanding 200 dollars and a 200 dollar damage deposit from university organizations. When I asked what the total damages amounted to, I was told they hadn't even been able to estimate that yet.

This kind of irresponsible barbaric behavior makes my blood boil - especially (but not only) because I am directly affected by it. Red 'n Black has succeeded not only in making UNB students look bad, but in damaging the reputation of the university as a whole. Once again - my congratulations!

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Since this is the last issue before Christmas, I suppose I should write the typical status quo Mugwump thanking various people for their contribution and support throughout the term.

I'm not going to do that because frankly, I can't think of anyone to thank. There is one exception, however, and he is Jeff Irwin. On behalf of the Bruns, Jeff, I thank you for the generous use of the Moosehead van for distribution of the paper. Thanks, too, for your refreshing contribution to Wednesday nights.

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Dave asked me to welcome two new writers to the paper - Cal Johnston and Barry Parkinson! Welcome aboard guys and remember to print and double space.

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Christmas is such a nice time of year. It's the only opportunity I get to go home for a few days and really relax. It's also a crappy time of year. Commercialism peaks at aggressive heights while skinny Santas with scraggly beards lurk on every street corner.

Oh well. Happy Holidays! Here's hoping you grow fat over the Christmas season.

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editorial

8-THE BRUNSWICKAN December 2, 1983

"I thought I done good"



The high failure rate in the recent English language competency tests at UNB indicates clearly that something is wrong with our education system. But what?

We are quick to blame the high schools; after all, is it not they who provide the education for students destined for university? True. In fact, it seems high schools provide a disproportionately high percentage of a young person's pre-university education -- and this is where our problem lies. The elementary education system in Canada is severely lacking.

In days gone by, parents were more willing to push their children at an early age. It seems that now adults are too ready to sympathize with their children, rather than push them to greater achievement. This was demonstrated last year by the New Brunswick kindergarten proposal. A large proportion of the public echoed the sentiment that children are not ready, at the age of five, to adapt to the "stresses and strains," of a day of school.

This harmful attitude has been allowed to shape our whole elementary system. Competition among students is becoming a taboo. Writing is almost a forbidden subject. Heaven forbid that a grade-five student should write an essay of more than a page -- it would be too taxing! Students do not have to read whole books -- if they get through one reader a year they are doing well. The brighter students are never given the chance to get ahead; so, by definition, the maximum knowledge that a student bound eventually for university may gain is equal to the amount the least academically adept student in the class can learn.

It is no wonder then that we have a problem at the university level. Changes instituted today in the early education system will take many years to filter up; however such changes must come. The public must be made aware of the problem in order to bring about action.

UNB's English competency test provides one means of increasing public awareness, and the university would do well to continue the test, and encourage other post-secondary institutions to follow their lead.

For those who believe there is no problem, consider the response of a student interviewed by a local radio station after he failed the test. "I thought I done good."

SO

Dear Editor

I would like to see the paper and Film Society be more generous. CUSO of the their screening car Named CUSO organization been working 22 years development years with thousands Third World their work known. public education through locally-initiated

Me

Dear Editor

Christmas again - thinking home and friends Christmas routine forgotten ward to a refreshment

Christmas often no Shopping relatives the place activities. decisions which pay to visit many, which is the rest

Although desire to ourselves don't enjoy much as because we set.

This Christmas extreme involved in gifts - is people, visited to Christmas rather than another, and peace