



mugwump journal

By GORDON LOANE

The decision last Friday to discontinue the football varsity program at UNB comes as a real shock. The Red Bombers have been a fall tradition at UNB for many years. It is a shame that the university administration cannot find \$45,000 for the program. Various people are really upset about this decision. Hopefully something will happen in the next couple of weeks to save the Red Bombers. This week the Brunswickan, in cooperation with the SRC are running a questionnaire to determine whether students wish to support the football program. I ask everyone to fill in your response and return it to the Bruns office. It is time to show your concern.

SRC President Kevin Ratcliff is considering a referendum on the issue perhaps to be held this academic year. However, the results of the survey will determine this.

A caller to CHSR-FM open line this week raised an interesting question about the Red Bombers affair. What would happen if all the football team decided to go elsewhere to university and hence to a football program elsewhere? Say 20 team members decided to do so. Simple mathematics suggests that the university is out nearly, \$20,000 in tuition money and at least double that figure in government grants to the university. Now that seems like a bit of money lost to the university, don't you think?

A conversation I had with Howard Goldberg, UNB manager of conferences and food services proved interesting, as talking to Howie always is. Beaver Foods are spending \$25,000 on new vending machines as part of the new contract signed with the university. Now, I say it's really about time. Some of the machines I've seen are in poor shape and some just don't work, period. Let's hope the new machines improve the vending machine service somewhat.

Beaver Foods are conducting a food survey in the residence system and the SUB coffee shop and cafeteria. If you get the time fill one out and tell Beaver officials what you think about their service, etc.

Plans are afoot in the SUB for renovations. But I have a personal concern. There doesn't seem to be too much consultation with various members of the university community as how to proceed with renovation plans. I suggest there are several members of the administration whose views are important. Mere students have not been asked to date and this concerns me. In conclusion, I'm not highly critical about what the SUB Board has proposed to date but let's talk about the plans together and soon.

The used book and textbook buy-back starts April 8th. If you need extra money to go home or get that summer job, then check it out. Not all people qualify, it depends on what books you have.

Since this is my last mugwump I cannot help but be personal at least for a few lines. I would like to thank every student on this campus for supporting our paper for another year. Your letters to us, phone calls and conversations helped to make the Brunswickan important each week. To people who really need to be thanked are the twenty or so staffers who each week help to make our paper a reality.

soundoff

Ex-councillor comments on Thorbourne loan

Dear Editor:

As a concerned student and ex-councillor I attended last Monday's SRC meeting to see how the new councillor's are fulfilling their overwhelming mandate. I would like to share that experience with your readers.

I was pleased as punch by the vigilance shown by freshmen reps Gerald Finnan and Steve Covey in pointing out some very suspicious budget reallocations by both the Law and Wildlife Societies. Councillor Covey was worried that these groups had inflated their speakers budgets so they could later use the funds for other purposes and that such reallocations violated Student

Union financial policy. Way to watch the nickels and dimus boys.

Naturally, I expected the same tough budgeting and policy stance to be maintained when it came to approving the unanimous Administrative Board recommendation that ex-president Perry Thorbourne be made to repay nearly \$2,300 in illegal overpayment he received last summer and promised to repay in the fall (we all remember how good Perry is at making promises).

Nay, devoted readers, thanks to the Dynamic Duo the motion that requested that their buddy the ex-Prez repay his ill-gotten gains (as required by his promissory note) was narrowly defeated with the voting

assistance of reps David LeBlanc and three voiceless eunuchs. It should also be noted that the entire executive of Kevin Ratcliff, Lloyd Tozer and Akumu Owuor (chairman of the AB which suggested the move), courageously abstained.

I close this letter with a suggestion to all the Clubs and Societies that feel they got short shifted by the rigors of the AB this fiscal year. Remember the generosity of

councillors Finnan and Covey; next year skip the AB and go to council. They seem mighty free with your money.

So it goes

Michael Norman Hughson

An open letter to council

An Open Letter To The Members of the Student's Representative Council:

As a former member of the SRC, I must say that I was appalled and shocked by your decision at this week's Council meeting to erase the outstanding \$2,300 debt of former SRC President, Perry Thorbourne. I just cannot understand how a council can so blatantly contradict the actions of a past council. I am referring to the 'crisis' which we experienced in September concerning the notices of motion to impeach our former President on the charges of dereliction of duty: when these motions were defeated, and Thorbourne was to complete his presidential term, he agreed to sign a promissory note (to the tune of \$2300.00) repaying the money which he "borrowed" from the Student Union during the summer months. He signed the note due to a request from Council that, if he returned the money, the SRC would write it off as a loan (although the majority of us felt otherwise.)

I realize that it is always hard for a new Council to step right in and attempt to understand what is happening. It has been said before, and it will be said

again, that an orientation program of some form should be established for new Council reps. However, since there is not one, the least any incoming reps can do is contact their out-going rep so as to get a better understanding of how council works and a briefing of some of the major issues which surfaced during the seating of the out-going council.

Perhaps no one has taken the time to tell you that the decisions you make have an influence on all the students at UNB. The Student's Representative Council is not an elitist organization; it is no longer prestigious to be on Council, mainly because no one is really concerned about what you do. Most students use the terms "petty politics" and "farce" when referring to our illustrious SRC. That is a fact which we must all accept and learn to live with. Another fact which we must all accept is that your actions and decisions should reflect the attitudes of all the students at UNB. This is difficult as most faculties have too large a population to allow for direct input from the students you are representing. This is a downfall of student government at the University of New Brunswick and until it

is corrected, the SRC will continue to project an image of an insignificant organization.

Forgive me if I sound overly self-righteous but you must bear in mind that I once sat where you are sitting and I can understand your conflicting feelings of power and helplessness. What I cannot understand is how you could vote against a motion which demanded that the former SRC President pay off his outstanding debt. Do you realize that by your "act of forgiveness" you have just given a student of UNB \$2,300 of our money? And do you realize that this \$2,300 is being added to an additional salary of \$125.00/week which the former President had already received while in office? Can you see the idiocy of your action? When everyone is talking of budget cuts and a shortage of funds, you have handed a large sum of money on a silver platter to an individual whom your peers and colleagues have already deemed unworthy of any form of gratuity whatsoever! Do you realize how many students would love to have \$2,300 given to them out of the funds of the SRC?

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