

Political Perspectives



BY R. HUTCHINS

The University of New Brunswick, like many institutions of higher learning has expanded over time to cope with society's demand for qualified high-tech personnel. The university has attempted to attract as many PhD's as possible, hoping to boost the school's research ability and ultimately its stature and respectability. The question I would like to pose in this column is whether the emphasis (especially in lower level courses) should be on a professor's level of academic achievement or on his teaching ability. It is obvious that a PhD does not guarantee a professor's expertise in the communication skills necessary to lecture. Therefore, what checks and balances and ultimately assurance do the students have that only the best "teachers" end up in the classroom? The answer to this question can not easily be found.

The students in many courses are given evaluation forms at the end of term which are supposed to be indicative of their professor's performance. Unfortunately the results of these questionnaires are not made available to students and the decision process seems to die with the individuals' evaluations. This is a perfect example of the inefficiencies associated with individual departments. If a department sees that one of their teachers is not highly rated by students but is highly qualified and tenured why do they not use his skills in the area of research where he can be more effective and less of a burden to students?

Many department are presently burdened with expensive payrolls and cut budgets. The only person that really suffer from this are the students. New staff can not be hired, even though they (ie. lecturers) would be in a much lower salary range, because of the policies of tenure and seniority. I agree that professors need job security but not at the expense of quality teaching.

The only example I can give of this situation is my own department of political science. Since last year we have lost ± professors with no new ones hired. The reason for this has been cited as budget cuts. The scenario that has evolved is that professors have taken on added course loads and key courses have been dropped outright. This can not be blamed on my department itself but the administration of UNB. The university has put much of its incentive into hiring research-oriented personnel who are obviously more expensive and to pay the bill has cut back on staff in general.

I do not believe the students should suffer because of an administration that has grown fat and overqualified. As a final argument, a checks and balances system should be implemented by each department to make sure that: - 1) A higher level of emphasis be placed on teaching skills and lecture preparation 2) that no courses are slashed from the curriculum to satisfy university budget cuts and 3) more emphasis be placed on "evaluation" forms completed by students.

I realize that this evaluation of a distinct problem is generalized. The reason for its being written is a reaction to course-cutting by the administration cited by rising costs in wages and equipment. If the university really wanted to save money it would hire research people for research and lecturers for the classroom. Instead we find highly qualified, expensive people teaching 1000 level courses where communication skilled lecturers would be more effective and less expensive. I do not wish to downgrade any professor's ability to teach but if it means courses being cut to pay for their expertise in research then something must be done!

AIESEC

BY PATTI LENIHAN

Since AIESEC has been in operation at UNB for only a short period, there are many things to do to establish ourselves within the business community.

Our international organization for students of business, economics and computer science aims at developing skills and creating business contacts.

We have been sending letters and going on visits to make ourselves known within the community. The response has been

favorable and we have even been invited as guests to the Small Business Fair Breakfast, held at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel.

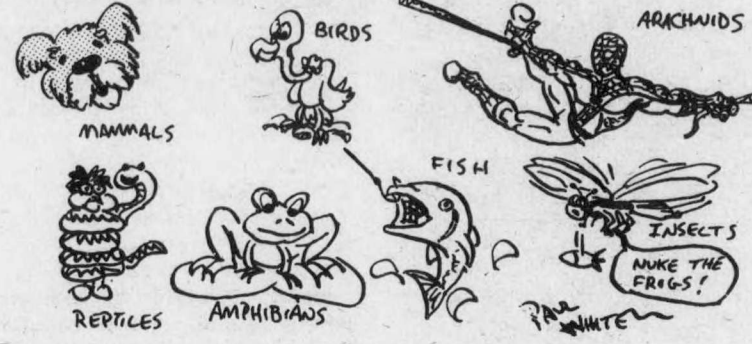
Presently, our various committees are involved in the planning of a business luncheon. This is scheduled for the end of November and it promises to be a huge success.

As we are a nonprofit organization, plans are underway for various fund raisers. With this much activity, our group is well on the way to success. If you

wish to become involved or simply ask questions, you are more than welcome to stop by our office. We are located in the SUB at the Orientation Office.

JACK MC'CLOSKEY'S CANADIAN WILDLIFE

I'VE BEEN THINKIN' THAT, EVEN THOUGH YA ALL READ 'CANADIAN WILDLIFE' EVERY WEEK, YA MIGHT NOT KNOW AS MUCH 'BOUT ANIMALS AS YA SHOULD. SO, I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO EDITACATE YA 'BOUT DIFFERENT GROUPS AN' CLASSES AN' SUCH. HOWEVER, I LOOKED FOR ONE OF THEM FANCY CLASSIFICATION CHARTS BUT COULDN'T FIND ONE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH! THEY WAS ALL WRITTEN IN T.H.E. WRITIN' YA SEE ON COATS OF ARMS AN' STUFF; YOOK! YOW! PIG-LATIN! WHAT INFO I DID GET WAS SURPRISIN'! I NEVER KNOWED THERE WAS SO MANY CLASSIFICATIONS! I ALWAYS THOUGHT "PHYLUM" WAS SPELT "FILE 'EM"! I'M STILL GONNA TEACH YA, BUT IT'S GONNA BE AT A LEVEL YOU CAN UNDERSTAN' AN' I CAN HANDLE! OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WE'LL LOOK AT:



The St. Thomas University
Guest Lecture Committee
invites you to hear:

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan
Minister of Justice
speak on

THE CONSTITUTION AND ITS
EFFECTS ON MINORITY RIGHTS

DATE: Monday, November
7, 1983

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

PLACE: Edmund Casey Auditorium
ADMISSION FREE



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