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MUGWUMP

So Maggie Thatcher has stepped down. This is stunning news. The woman has had such an impact on world politics that her absence will be very noticeable. The British will spend many nights wondering whether they did the right thing. Truth be known, Thatcher returned a certain degree of respectability to good old "Rule Britannia's" waning image as a world power. But there is a price that has to be paid. Mrs Thatcher really annoyed the class conscious Brits by her assumption of the royal "We" when speaking of her activities. The British still have this big thing for royalty. The fascinating thing about all this is that it is relevant to Canadian life since Canadians are still very into the Queen and all that stuff. Anyway, farewell Maggie, many a poor unemployed Brit can hope again.

Don't you just hate it when Canada seems to wait for America to lead the way in everything? Like what are they waiting for to take the Juno from that bunch of morons called Milli Vanilli? I can't think why they got the silly thing in the first place but then that is life. The Milli Vanilli scam is a wonderful example of the nature of political life isn't it. Think about it: Lip-synching. Everytime you hear a politician talking just think about that will ya?

Fires burning all over campus. Did you know that we have had forty false alarms to the fire department since the beginning of term? We at the Bruns have learnt that about twenty of them were caused by Allan Carter's burning pop tarts. The tragedy is that the two students who have been kicked out of residence and may possibly face criminal charges are obviously two chaps who timed their little game badly. Wiser heads inform us that the pressure has been coming down on the administration to take some firm action - hence, these poor victims.

Turns out that Kevin Bourque is the "darned best president" that Marc Braithwaite "has ever worked with!" Great recommendation isn't it? Kevin may be well served to cut that line out of the Brunswickan and save it. "Now, children remember what I was teaching you about "lip-synching"? Don't you ever forget your lessons, eh?"

We here at the Brunswickan have a fundamental question to put to CHSR. We are having a hard time understanding why the direct line of broadcast that is normally given to us via CHSR speakers has not been coming through since the wonderful renovations of the facilities at the station. We are not amused. We do listen to the station and it is sometimes very helpful to share media tips with our pals upstairs. One need not mention also that the proper working of the system will enhance the image of the radio station down here at the Bruns. That should count for something, folks. please, let's get it together, alright?

This is getting ridiculous! Who decides when Winter has arrived at UNB? Whoever it is, I think they should let Physical Plant in on the secret. It is snowing folks and there is ice on the ground so putting up those silly orange barriers around the Harriet Irving Library is not enough. Please get the wooden platforms down. I skidded again last night. I don't want to fall so early in the winter.

Fletcher and Burns, two of our hardworking councillors got things a bit confused this week. Why they both placed ads in the Brunswickan for the same event is beyond us. however, we figured they knew what they were doing when it was clear that the events were taking place on two different days. Now we learn that the events were not two events after all, but one and the days were just royally screwed up in the very same issue of the paper. Confused? Well, these things do happen. I wonder if the Student Union gives out a blooper of the year award? They should.

The Student Union, I am sure, will be happy to join with us in thanking Gordon Loane, New Director at CHSR for helping them out with the summer minutes. This should be a lesson to all non-councillors who attend meetings. Please take all the notes you can, you never know when they may come in handy.

Andrew Cuthbertson is not a happy camper. This industrious five year old whose sister Sarah likes chicken soup has lost his sled. some ugly university bully of a student deprived the poor kid of his sled on campus last week. Andrew is really mad and has designed a "crime-stopper" type poster concerning the issue. Who the hell is doing all this stealing on campus, anyway? (The Bruns thanks <Mark Lockwood for the lead on this story. He is really doing a wonderful job as VP External.)

Well, I am out of here. my first and last mugwump. Lynne will be back next week from gallivanting all over the States to celebrate their Thanksgiving. Take it easy.

Kwame Dawes

PS. I am the Milli Vanilli ghost singer. I am really pissed that I have lost my job. Anybody need a good singer to make it big for them? Give me a call.

OPINION

The opinions found in Opinion are not necessarily the views of *The Brunswickan*.

Should women "profs" be priority?

"Women profs No.1 priority" - one of the frontpage headlines from the November 5, 1990, edition of *UNB Perspectives* - sets the tone for all of the news coverage received by the newly released study, *Of More Than Academic Interest: Women at UNB*. Having read the study, I am concerned that the emphasis has been misplaced. In the introduction, female faculty, students, and support staff are discussed collectively, regardless of the certainty that it weakens the report's political effectiveness, while the main body clearly implies women professors are the main issue.

Faculty members are privileged to power that neither the students nor the support staff can access. The students have grievance options that the support staff are, again, not able to use. The very framework of the report maintains this inaccessibility. In the 122-page report only six pages discuss support staff, with its female dominated "low-paying job ghetto," and only five out of the total thirty-three new recommendations are directed towards this category of women at UNB.

I am not questioning, or disputing, the fact that more female professors are needed at UNB, but the report itself gives the solution to this problem. The radical increase of women at the undergraduate level has led to an increase at the graduate level. This in turn will mean an increase of qualified women available for teaching positions. This is not to say that there are not underlying connected problems, but if, as the report implies, women professors are the priority, then time will furnish the solution.

Qualifications and salary are a separate yet common issue for each category of women. For faculty, qualifications should transcend gender in that the best qualified person will be hired. A qualitative definition, with guidelines, is needed to avoid possible age and reverse sex discrimination. Most women in teaching positions have not been at UNB as long as the men; therefore, since salaries are inclusive of years in service - as well as qualifications - how can they be equal? From the student perspective, entering university is not a sex-related issue. Entrance is based on individual merit and salary is not a consideration. Secretarial support staff, too, are hired by individual qualifications, but at UNB these specifications - and equitable pay - should be re-evaluated. The imbalance is easily ascertained when a man with a Grade X level of education is paid approximately \$12.00 hourly while a woman with Grade XII, and at least two years of business training, receives approximately \$8.00 hourly.

The secretarial support staff are essential to this university, and the salary inequalities can be tangibly rectified. These women are a group within society of which, as a mature student, I have chosen not to remain a member. The increase of women now attending university can be partially accredited to society's failure to equalize this injustice.

The university, as one of society's more enlightened voices, must assume responsibility for setting a precedent in the matter of secretarial support staff - as a show of good faith to all women at UNB.

by Susan Kennedy

The Student Loan and you.

How many students, in this great social democratic nation, have marks that suffer every year because of lack of finances? Or better yet, how many students get a student loan and then midway through the term realize that they may not make it through the academic year?

The government should give students a student loan that is adequate for the year and not something in which the student has to work twenty-five to thirty hours a week in order to make ends meet. If the student is going to pay back the loan why does the government have to be so stingy with the amount of money they loan out? Another thing, if they are so worried about losing money to students, the future leaders of our world, then why hand out student grants? The government could hand out twice the amount of money, use the grant funds to pay interest and receive the loans back, plus an able, capable leader. In no way is this grievance implying that the student grant system is not a good thing but rather, why give one any money at all if one is not given a sufficient amount to reach their academic peak.

In 1989, during a lecture on the Canadian Student Loan System at TRHS, it was admitted that all of the financial information and data used to measure the loan given is based on the average living costs of a student in the early 80's. This is now the early 90's. One of two things has happened; our present day government does not think that one who is not from the upper middle class should have a fair chance at university or our society no longer cares to do anything about it.

When you apply for your student loan, how much information does the government want on your parents: their past, present and future? Isn't it annoying! In a lot of cases, whether the government wants to deal with it or not, parents can't or won't help their children financially. Again the question can be raised, why doesn't the government give out adequate student loans?

Some will say that the reason for tightening up so much on the student loan system is that to many past students have abused it. Why in the hell should we have to pay for that? Why doesn't the almighty government figure out a way to catch and punish those offenders?

This letter can not be only one sided because there is more than one side to this issue. Any student, who has any honour at all, will admit to enjoying a good party as a form of stress release. They will also admit, where applicable, to being unable to handle money very well. There are solutions to these problems, such as having a financial councillor as well as an academic one for students who wish to take advantage of it, even rich people need accountants.

Yes, this is a problem that many Canadian students face at a more alarming rate every year. It might not be so bad if the government made unemployment insurance more accessible to students who have earned it but they have even stoppered that. Let's openly hope for and work towards a better system in which all students have a fair go at it. We must let the government realize that we, the future, need student loans, not student loads.

by NAUBD