

EDITORIAL

Open Letter to All Student Editors Across Canada

Dear Fellow Editors,

As journalists, we held an impartial role in communicating the present administration's attempt to de-index the old age pension, an action this country refused to accept.

We served as an informal channel to relay the students' objections to such an unfair policy, and in that proved that public opinion cannot be ignored.

Now we are faced with an issue that hits us in our own backyards and public reaction is despairingly apathetic.

Katimavik, as you are well aware, has seen its ten year existence brought to an abrupt end at the blade of the current federal administration.

Senator Jacques Hebert began his hunger strike on Monday March 10.

There is a strong possibility that his actions could be dismissed as those of an embittered man feeling insulted at having a program he initiated cancelled.

This is why we must overstep our traditional role and accept the reins of this campaign and ensure that it be kept alive.

On Friday, March 14, I'll be joining in Jacques Hebert's hunger strike endeavour and on behalf of the Senator, myself and the Katimavik program I beseech you to work with us in our battle and help launch a nationwide hunger strike of student editors. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ken Quigley
Editor-in-Chief

Editorial as it should have been run last week.

The Student Union Building is owned and for the use of the students at UNB and STU.

To what degree the building is owned by the students may be a point of contention for some, but the fact that its use is for the university community alone, should not be.

This, previously thought, undebatable point was brought to a head three weeks ago when the SUB Board Committee approved, as an experimental project, the holding of an "alternative music" dance in the ballroom of the SUB.

Punk music (synonymous with alternative music) attracts its faithful largely from the local high school students.

During said events there were confiscated beer bottles, under age drinkers, police involvement, drugs, and numerous phone calls from concerned parents, a broken window, non-university students smoking on the carpeted area of the blue lounge, people being kicked out of the building, and finally reports of punkers filtering down to the first floor where they proceeded to "slam dance" with the formally dressed attendants to Caribbean Night.

In addition the event was approved as a non-alcohol party. Some of these patrons had the audacity to take solace in such a fact and even wrote letters to that effect to me. Complaining that I had been harsh on them in the last Mugwump. The irony is that this event was a disaster without alcohol and if it, by some absence of God, was allowed to serve such beverages at the dance, proof of age would be required, all the high school kids would be turned away, the event would have flopped and no trouble would have ensued.

Regardless, such stupidity must not be allowed to occur again!

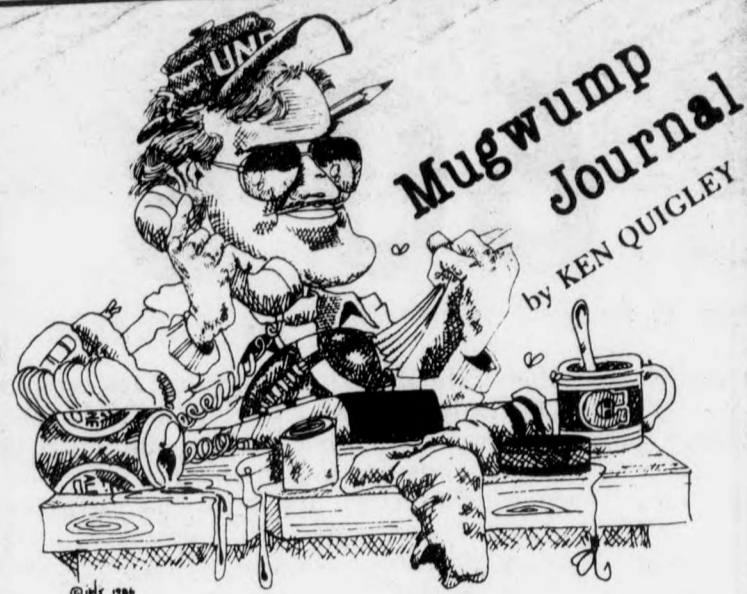
I do not condone the decision to hold the event in the first place. If the SUB Board had held the interests of the SUB and the students that pay for the privilege to use it, they never would have let such an event happen in the first place.

However, it was permitted and now must be analyzed in the context it was first passed as...

An experiment.

One that failed miserably,

As students we must ensure that this costly lesson is not forgotten, and dances or events that are known to attract a large number of high school students, should never be allowed to take place in our SUB again.



Just when one thinks that this university has fallen within the unretreavable pits of wallowing apathy, evidence comes forth strongly suggesting that such convictions may be unfounded.

Letters to the editor this week were tremendous in their number, length and quality. Something I had mustered little hope in ever happening again.

This week I received several letters from people who were both shocked and offended by the editorial as run in last week's issue.

If it had been an accurate representation of my beliefs I would have taken Louis Cardoso's suggestion and resigned on the grounds that I published a blatantly prejudice opinion that did not in the slightest, reflect those of the paper, myself, and/or the university community.

What in fact, happened is a phototypsetting miscue that saw the earlier draft of the editorial go to print. The editorial is scrutinized by myself and, many times, the editorial board. It is often written two to three times during the revision process to ensure a fair and well stated section of the paper. All these said procedures were respected that week as well, unfortunately in our haste, the piece was never checked for accuracy, and when the original draft was output again, no one took notice.

It was to no ones greater shock then my own, upon reading that piece of literature. Out of a mildly apologetic effort on my part I am repeating the editorial from last week as it should have run. If this still raises a defensive jolt in you please submit a letter to the editor. Keep in mind though that the driving force behind the editorial was not contingent on my feeling toward alternative music, but rather my concern for the safety well being and sovereignty of the Student Union Building.

Moving on, the letter by Michael Casey is one that must be taken notice of, for both its artistic and informative comments. Although I harbour differing views, Mr. Casey's opinions are well expressed and hold a vital role in offering an alternative perspective to the UNB students and ensure that the voters to this referendum are indeed well informed ones. Not swayed by a single motion of thought.

I'd like to reiterate a message expressed earlier in this paper, that we not let Senator Jacques Hébert fight our battles for us. The government has backed down to overwhelming public criticisms of the policies before, support the youth cause and we are ensured of seeing history repeat itself. Only when we speak out and demand our rights, as a generation, be observed, will the power carried within us be realized.

Another point, on editorial policy. Our editorials do not have to be written by the editor, nor are the topics exclusively decided by the editor. In fact, input is received from staff every week and the topic selected is usually drawn from such input. An open letter was addressed to the student body a month back. It was signed the "Staff of the Brunswickan" and for those who felt slighted or offended for not being consulted, I personally apologize for the oversight.

On a concluding note, the Brunswickan would like to thank John Shea of UNB Services and Fred Wallace of Modern Building Cleaners for their assistance in getting us a van driver for the weekly distribution of the Bruns.