

Sound Off



Mugwump Journal
By RICK FISHER

A lot is going on over the next few days. The SRC is holding its election again. The Province is going to the polls on Monday, and two Canadians will be tax-free millionaires by Monday night.

The provincial election is a quiet one this year. Not many great issues to debate that would topple an existing government. It is difficult when you have been in power for four years to suddenly develop a platform for the next five. One can ask why they didn't adopt some of their platform over the previous years' government. It is always easier when you are in opposition to come up with a platform.

One of the Liberals' policies on property tax reduction was direct plagiarism of the Conservatives'. Their platform offers some viable alternatives, but I wish that they would stop saying that it is socially right. It isn't even close to being socially right.

The NDP have a good platform, but then again they can have any platform they like, including promising all the gold in Switzerland. Some of their platform is usually adopted by the other parties as they try to keep the NDP from gaining power. They come up with some good proposals and some not so good. I hope that they get a few members elected to provide some other opposition to the established. Prospects for that unfortunately are rather dim as New Brunswick doesn't deviate often from the two established parties.

All over the province there are seats that are being very hotly contested but around Fredericton I get the impression that the Conservatives could win them all.

In Fredericton South I am sure that Dr. Chalmers will be sent back to the House. I don't think much of his Liberal opponent Dr. Hurley of the UNB law school as a MLA. I think possibly the best candidate of the lot, NDP candidate Doug Birdwise will place third with independent Harold Marshall polling last.

In Fredericton North Lawrence Garvie, P.C., and Carl Howe, Liberal, are squaring off at each other with Michel Goudreau, NDP candidate also in the running. I'd have to give the nod here to Garvie whom I have heard has done good things in his department.

In York South I like Leslie Hull, the Conservative candidate. The Liberal candidate Bob Strange is just back from being beaten by Rev. David Bishop in the by-election Sept. 30 and I see no reason why he won't get beaten again. The NDP candidate Jenny Munday was asked at the last moment to run and I think she should have politely declined. She's learning a lot in her first run for office but I don't think it will do her all that much good.

In York North, it will be difficult to stop Conservative Rev. David Bishop who just won in the Sept. 30 by-election. Trying to upset him will be Liberal Ronald McGuigan and NDP Linda Hatheway.

In Sunbury the Conservative looks good and he's incumbent Horace Smith. Running against him are Liberal Ted Rogers and Elizabeth Snow for the NDP.

In Oromocto I would think that the Conservatives' candidate Reginald Mabey would be re-elected to the Legislative Assembly unless the Liberals put up a really fine candidate. They found a good man in Leroy Washburn. Many know Leroy from his involvement and care in Bi-campus university activities and those who do have a healthy respect for him as he is a fine person.

Much as I like him, I'm really not sure I wish him the life of a MLA but if that's what he wants, he has the best of luck from me. The NDP has also put forward a front line candidate in the person of James Aucoin who is one of the party organizers.

Saint John is one of the most hotly contested areas in the whole province. Liberal leader Bob Higgins calls Saint John home and is well respected. The P.C. have done their best to give everything they possibly can to get votes there. Little things like Bricklin, Point Lepreau and the nomination for the Summer Games which Saint John lost.

The Liberals have been conducting a really different campaign and I think that it is missing the mark. I don't think that the electorate comprehends the packages. They are using dreamy words like unity and a time when there isn't disunity and better leadership when the alternative wasn't all that bad.

It could be that they might be looking ahead to the next election but they might get shellacked this time and not be able to recuperate.

I saw the former Premier Louis Robichaud in town and heard he was campaigning. Don't think that will do any good in fact it might even hinder the image that Bob Higgins is trying to put forward.

Financial Post and The Toronto Globe and Mail had a few interesting things to say about patronage in New Brunswick politics. They say that they can document evidence in several cases and that doesn't surprise me a bit. There is patronage everywhere, even, God forbid, in the SRC only down here it seems to be more blatant than in other areas.

Persistent prof raises plenty of points pertaining to "Perspectives" piece

Dear Editor:

Hopefully this will be the last time I feel compelled to respond to Mr. Holmes' comments in *University Perspectives*. I will deal with several points in this letter.

(1) The reason that I didn't express my own opinions is that my article was a response to a number of oversimplifications and inaccuracies in Mr. Holmes' article. As chairman of AUNBT's collective bargaining committee I see my obligation to the faculty as one of providing information about unions, certification, collective bargaining, etc. Until this task is accomplished and faculty members are in a position to choose between whether they want a union or not, my personal opinions are not that relevant.

(2) While it is true that collective bargaining at Canadian institutions is in its embryonic stage, this does not mean that significant economic and non-economic gains have not been achieved. At Notre Dame the faculty has just won a 14 percent pay increase in its second collective agreement. Informed sources close to negotiations at St. Mary's University advise me that they have greatly improved conditions related to appointments, promotions and tenure, as well as streamlining decision-making procedures. Moreover, just because experience is limited in this country it does not mean that the U.S. experience is "inconclusive". At the City

Views on

justice naive?

Dear Editor:

Your views on justice as expressed in last week's editorial, seem to me to be rather naive. Your inference that fewer legal niceties could have made room for 'more justice' is not well thought out. I would not dispute that perhaps 'legal niceties' and justice are not, in our particular society, very closely related, but if one is to dispense with them in favor of allowing our august representatives of the SDC to meat out some 'justice', then the potentially cataclysmic results are not entirely beyond the imagination.

Your contention that, "By the time students reach university they should know the difference between right and wrong without having to have specific relations defining conduct" is particularly estranged from reason. The notion that there exists any a priori 'rights' or 'wrongs' would make such occurrences as the disaster at Kent University or, closer to home, the disruption of normalcy known as the 'Norman Strax Affair', just two more straightforward cases of 'right' and 'wrong'.

Although some lawyers may give the opposite impression, 'legal niceties' and conventions probably do not emerge for the purpose of supplying budding Perry Mason's with playthings.

Yours truly,
Michael Dawe

University of New York, the faculty have achieved: increased funding for salaries, travel, research, pensions and health benefits, sabbatical leaves, etc.

They have also increased their political power, been more involved in the budgetary process and developed a grievance procedure with arbitration. (see Terrence N. Tice, ed., *Faculty Power: Collective Bargaining on Campus*, Chapter 10.)

(3) While Mr. Holmes believes I haven't read his article very carefully, he again fails to discuss what I see as the major non-economic issue which collective bargaining can directly deal with. This involves the establishment of formal criteria and procedures for appointment, re-appointment, tenure and promotion, as well as a grievance procedure (including arbitration) which ensures due process.

(4) Granted, showdowns are a very real threat. However, let us not try to distort present problems in New Brunswick with the question of faculty unionism. (Otherwise I'd be forced to remind Mr. Holmes that 95 percent of all collective agreements are negotiated without a strike, etc., etc.). As for the negative impact of unions in the spring issue of *Acadiensis*, (I assume he realizes it's 1974) let me point out there is only one article vaguely pertaining to labour in this issue - a book review on the CCF in Ottawa, Ontario and the Maritimes. It deals with the rise and fall of the CCF, the problem of third parties and socialism. It has nothing to do with the impact of collective bargaining. Mr. Holmes is either pulling our legs or he knows even less about labour relations than he pretends to. Moreover, a more complete assessment of the impact of unionism obviously calls for a more authoritative source than *Acadiensis*.

(5) Mr. Holmes' statistical manipulations to support his conclusions are curious. One example will suffice. In comparing the wages and salaries of university professors vs. all New Brunswick workers, one is forced to the conclusion that we did substantially better. Fine, but what does it mean? It's like comparing apples and oranges; they're both fruit but they look, taste, smell and feel different. The problem with his analysis is that professors operate in a different labour market, i.e. a national market. A more useful comparison can be made by determining how well professors in New Brunswick did vs. their counterparts elsewhere in Canada. I'm pleased Mr. Holmes realizes the limits of selective statistics and crude measures of comparison.

Some final thoughts. I believe Mr. Holmes and I are in agreement about two things: (a) faculty must seriously consider the implications of unionism and (b) faculty should familiarize themselves with experience elsewhere in Canada, the U.S. and the UK. There's another point faculty should consider. Rather than simply perceiving collective bargaining as a response

to unsatisfactory conditions of employment, is collective bargaining a desirable means of conducting university business?

Sincerely,
Joseph B. Rose
Assistant Professor

Liberal tax campaign "funny"

Dear Editor:

It really strikes me funny to hear Liberal campaigns talking of lowering taxes. They really don't give too much credit to the memories of the people of New Brunswick who survived "budget deep" all through the 1960's. Now they're talking about removing taxes, the same taxes they created in the 60's.

I thought it was amusing to compare the two Tax Reform programs prepared by the Conservatives and Liberals both of which were released on the same day. The Conservatives announced a four point tax reform program 1) abolition of the property tax over a four year period (programs of property tax credits and tenant rebates remaining in practise 2) reduction of the provincial income tax by 7 per cent 3) removal of further goods and services from the sales tax and 4) no increase of any taxes for the people of N.B. The Liberals announced they would abolish the property tax in three years.

I have lived here in New Brunswick all my life and I'm very interested in any form of tax reform because I'll probably be living here for a while yet. Before Monday I've got to decide how to vote. After looking at these two programs, I can only say "Sorry, Bobby!"

Student aid proposals smack parochialism

Dear Editor:

The proposals brought before the party leaders by our student reps smack of parochialism and only reflect the petty bourgeois attitude of the student leaders. The student leaders have not dared question the present system of student loans and bursaries which serves as another wheel in the patronage machine for the two old parties. The amount of money a student can extract from the government depends, more often than not, on the amount of 'pull' and the 'connections' a student or his (her) parents has.

Only the naive would believe that a university education is available to all. What is needed is not an increased credit or grant but a gradual elimination of tuition fees and a program of Government-owned low rental student housing. The present system of money handouts to students is only one more source of party patronage. I do not think they should be lowered because a dependence has been created for this type of help. But an

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It must be CHSR. Listen to that clear, uninterrupted static.

X-Weekly

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