



Mugwump

By TOM
BENJAMIN

Journal

Another week, another demonstration, another refusal from the provincial government to revamp the student loan program.

On Wednesday several hundred Universite de Moncton students occupied the lobby of the Centennial Building to continue the attempt to change the aid plan. The immediate results of the demonstration were the same as last week - Premier Hatfield and Youth Minister Ouellette reiterated their stand against changes in the program.

The difference in this demonstration is that students intend to occupy the building until some changes are made. Instead of leaving after having their demands refused by the government, the students plan to force the issue.

The U de M students should be commended for a well-planned demonstration which began Wednesday. Several organizing committees worked diligently to supply food, transportation and liaison with other students.

But no matter how well organized those students are they cannot easily obtain what they need most - support from other university students, especially UNB, the largest university in the province.

The government is beginning to realize students are serious in their demands, but officials still seem sure they can pass the blame for the present loan program to the federal government.

Ouellette, on Wednesday, confirmed figures prepared by the Atlantic Federation of Students which indicate an improved loan program would cost an additional three million dollars annually. That sum is certainly a small investment to make in the future of this province.

Earlier this week columnist Charles Lynch said Canada has become the most socialized country of the western world, and New Brunswick is the most socialized province in Canada, with the exception of Newfoundland. He based these comments on the amount of government involvement in the economy.

The government here has intervened in the economy with some disastrous results - notably the Bricklin venture - but has failed to actively enter areas which could benefit the thousands of university students in the province.

For a province described by Lynch as one of the most socialist in a socialist country, New Brunswick has done remarkably little in the field of education - especially student aid.

But the province will have a hard time justifying its present stand on the student loan program as the demonstration gains momentum.

Students from Quebec universities are raising money and are sending people to support the students.

UNB SRC president Lic. Jim Smith says he intends to hold meetings every day with UNB students until more support is raised for the demonstration.

Students at STU have also planned a mass meeting to discuss the situation, which will probably result in a large STU contingent joining the demonstration.

The students plan to remain in the Centennial Building over the weekend, and both food and blankets are being supplied.

High school students from across the province are also supporting the demonstration, and apparently some plan to enter the building also.

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Demonstrating students at the Centennial Building are winning praise from some unlikely sources. Vincent Fox, a cleaning contractor for the building, praised the students in last week's demonstration for their cleanliness. The demonstration resulted in no extra work for his staff, said Fox.

City Police Detective John King also had a favourable attitude toward the U de M demonstrators on Wednesday. King said he expected no trouble with the students, although city police would be on hand throughout the demonstration.

"They (the students) are here for a purpose," said King, and apparently he felt the students are mature enough to accomplish their purpose without the necessity of police intervention.

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There are several positions open for anyone who wishes to become more involved in the student government of this university.

SRC spring elections will be held Feb. 18. Several persons have already indicated their interest in running for positions in the most important student election of the year. Both the positions of president and comptroller will be open in the election, as are several representative seats.

Nominations are also open for three student senate seats, with the election to take place in conjunction with the SRC election.

Applications are also open for three persons on the SUB board of directors, and the SRC is seeking applicants for the post of applications committee chairperson.

Proctor speaks up for Jones boys

Dear Editor:

In the past your newspaper has often exhibited an inability to provide this campus with high quality journalism, the hallmarks of which are accurate and responsible reporting of newsworthy events. This inability was never more clearly demonstrated than by your editorial in the January 23 issue of the Brunswickan entitled "Childishness Displayed."

In that editorial, Mr. Editor, you brought your journalistic competence into serious question by taking it upon yourself to publish highly defamatory statements about the residents of Jones House Men's Residence while grossly uninformed of the true facts surrounding the episode in question. I'd like to take this opportunity to expose the inaccuracies of your article and to attempt to rid the name of Jones House of the taint you have placed on it without the slightest justification.

In your article you placed the entire responsibility for this episode squarely upon Jones House when in actuality at least four other men's residences were involved. Of approximately 150 students who participated, perhaps 25 were from Jones House. So why were we singled out for abuse?

In your next paragraph by failing to give your readers any background information, you made those students who participated appear as marauding barbarians who descended upon Tibbits Hall to rape, pillage and

plunder! Our visit to Tibbits was intended as a friendly retaliation for a similar late night raid by Tibbits pranksters upon each men's residence the night before as part of the festivities of Tibbits House Week. The Jones students left our residence with nothing more harmful than shaving foam and computer punchings. Serious damage done was minimal and accidental, which brings me to the paragraph where you made mention of the girls who found it necessary to visit the infirmary. This was the result of a very unfortunate accident which all those involved regret. An unmarked bottle of caustic liquid bathroom bowl cleanser was left in one of the Tibbits washrooms. A freshman resident, who I must point out was not from Jones House as you erroneously reported, picked up the bottle without realizing what it was and tossed the contents towards a group of girls in the hall. The burns they received were not serious, I understand, although the damage that could have occurred was considerable. Very wisely, they were sent to the infirmary. It should also be noted that two men from Jones House had clothing ruined and risked injury to themselves when they jumped in front of the girls to protect them from the shower of acid.

This editorial was a slur upon the name of Jones House and also of the Residence system in general. You insinuated that resident students are somehow above the law and that we will not be held responsible for damages done to

the residences. Not so! All such damages done to a residence are paid for by the House Committee out of house funds.

The men of Jones House are highly indignant, Mr. Editor, and rightfully so. We are the first to stand up and take our share of deserved criticism. But the caustic comments launched at us in your recent editorial we did not deserve! Accordingly we feel fully justified in demanding an apology from both you and your newspaper to be prominently published in the next issue of the Brunswickan. We are not content to suffer as a result of shoddy journalism!

Wayne E. McLennan
Proctor
Room 214 Jones House

Jones not hoodlums

Brunswickan:

With no respect to your Editorial entitled "Childishness displayed", I suggest you reprint the feature with the new headline "STUPIDITY, UNPROFESSIONALISM AND LIBEL DISPLAYED BY BRUNSWICKAN". Whoever wrote the article did so without any knowledge of the facts, without concern for the bad feelings he has caused within and without Jones House, and with no clues or journalistic aptitude whatever.

To begin with, there are not over 100 men in Jones, let alone 100 who would take part in such a raid on the women of Tibbits. However, there were over 100 guys who made that fateful trip to Tibbits, guys from four other residences as well as Jones. Once these four residences arrived, they were joined by several ladies from the Dunn. That brings the residence count to five, so why were we singled out by the Brunswickan to be the scapegoats for the entire incident?

There were several girls treated in the infirmary for burns received when a member of another residence (we know which one, but what gives us the right to single it out?) threw Straight-Flush at them. I do know also that at least two Jones House men got hit with the stuff when they stood in front of the girls and got in its way.

I was one of the 70 or so gentlemen from Jones House who did not go on the raid, but I was in the library when they were getting ready to go, armed with shaving cream, confetti, and computer punchings. Nothing More.

I live with these guys, and we are not the bunch of hoodlums you make us out to be.

As a member of Jones House, I will accept responsibility for any house activity, even though I did not take part. However, your article is a complete misrepresentation of the facts and we will have no part of it.

I demand that a retraction and apology be printed in next week's issue (with headlines as large as those for the original piece of fiction), as well as this letter so that people will know the truth about the story.

Yours sincerely but unthankfully,
Louis Bernier, Jones House

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Brunswick stands accused

Dear Editor:

My opinion of 'The Brunswickan' as an official student publication deteriorated entirely last edition when I came across the editorial entitled "Childishness displayed".

It was obvious that the writer of the article had received the information about the "visit to Tibbits Hall" from someone who heard about it from somebody whose friend had talked to a person who had heard that...

The fact that the article appeared in the editorial and the fact that it was twisted beyond truth makes me seriously wonder about the abilities of the editorial staff to run a paper financed in part by our own SRC fees.

It becomes obvious, when the issue of pubs in McConnell Hall is mentioned, that this article is the biased raving of a frustrated student looking for the slightest chance to cut down the residence system.

I seriously recommend that the next time the editor decides to write a story without stepping from behind his desk to obtain the facts and clarify unclear details, that he be assured that nobody stands to be hurt or offended. By the contents of the article, if he wishes to go ahead and write a story from his imagination then he should be sure to specify that it is fiction.

(i.e. "The 3 Little Pigs." If such a story is within his realm of understanding.)

As I am quite sure everybody except the editor must be aware of, the incident in question involved a minority of the members of most

residences, and some members of other houses caused unfortunate accidents which sent a few girls to the infirmary.

The issue does not end here, however. For the 70-80 or so members of Jones House who did not participate in the "visit to Tibbits", this article is not only slander but it is an unwarranted insult.

Fact is that the editor of 'The Brunswickan' wrote a drastically false article in which he accuses over 100 members of Jones House of taking part in the "visit to Tibbits"; of sending several girls to the infirmary; of being boys not men; of applying one set of standards and operating under a more convenient set ourselves; and the editor expressed hope that the members of Jones House be punished accordingly for the actions.

I think the editor, personally, and The Brunswickan as a whole, stands to be accused of the above and much more if they do not make immediate moves to clarify the issue by printing a lengthy article which explains the true events of the incident in question and by extending their apologies to our Don and the Board of Don's along with an apology to the members of Jones House itself as soon as possible.

If 'The Brunswickan' ignores their serious error and does not fulfill the responsibility of mending this error then it can only lose any respect due to it as a student publication.

Jack Mailloux