

Mugwump

by
matthew penny

Well, as the old saying goes, we are coming down to the wire in this academic year and for many of us that means graduation [if I get all my courses!!] I've only got one Mugwump left after this one, so I hope to summarize four years at UNB in a two column by one page space.

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As I was saying last week the time has come for the Student Council to reevaluate such high priced entities as CHSR. Why? There is of course good reason for this. For one, in the past year or so we have heard both at CHSR and at the Bruns a growing number of complaints that the off campus students are not getting their money's worth out of CHSR. Of course this is true. The Bruns one can carry home and read at all hours of the day and night. In fact you can get the paper mailed to you. But did you ever try and get a radio station through the mail. It just will not work, and not because the postage is too high.

Almost 3/4 of the students of STU and UNB live off-campus. As a result only about 1/4 of the student population can listen to CHSR at any one time. At this university it is becoming painfully obvious that the carrier-current system via which CHSR broadcasts is just not practical for our purposes. We have to reach the students or they or should I say you are going to soon realize that unless you live on this campus, i.e. in a residence or a lot of time in a lounge, then you are not getting your dollar's worth, which a little while ago is what CHSR has cost the average student on campus. For an organization which goes through about 15 percent of the SRC's budget each year I feel for one that the average student should get a better return for his/her money.

In the same light, CHSR did a listener survey a couple of weeks ago and some startling facts emerged. 1) that the all-nighters are very popular, and 2) that even with the new "advanced" equipment the reception in most places is not all that hot. Even though some reliable souls claim that the station can be picked up as far away as York Street.

What are we going to do about this???

One suggestion voiced by a longtime member of CHSR is that students be given credit with the university for work done and substantiated in the station, so it becomes a sort of journalism school. And of course the same would be done with the Brunswickan.

I have a different, and probably more expensive idea. Due to tech. requirements it is virtually impractical for CHSR to leave the campus via Cable. For instance, the listener would have to have cable, then an extra little hook-up to get CHSR. Who is going to spend ten bucks a month for a radio station when they can get one of the local commercial jobs next to free!!!! Not me, that is for sure.

CHSR, or rather the SRC, should investigate the idea of going off-campus [this in itself has been hashed over there for at least five years!!] via a small FM or for that matter AM transmitter. Without hiring full time people [don't forget we're not that rich] we just could not fulfill the program requirements needed by an FM student station. A couple of big university FM stations have gone bankrupt in the last couple of years as well so I feel this idea can be safely discarded.

What we should do is stick, [well] a small AM transmitter on top of Macleodhouse with a power of between 500 and 1,000 watts. Not much but it would cover the city and probably all the way to the airport. To accommodate the added expense the position of Director and Business Manager would become entities similar to that of the SRC president. A small salary and a restriction on course load so that the Director could literally run the station [as the president is supposed to run the SRC INC.] and so that the Business Manager could effectively bring in excess of 8,000 in ads per academic year.

Of course this is all very far-fetched and would take a lot of money. WE do not need to buy a whole mess of equipment like a new control room just to go off campus. But what we need is a couple of people who are willing to work on a committee to canvas and raise enough money to buy a low power transmitter. Would you listen???? I would.

A final point in this short discussion; CHSR although the people there are trying hard is a stagnant operation. WE have some very old worn-out low power [20 watt] transmitters which one day will die so bad that Walter and the boys will not be able to bring them back to life again. With the amount of people off-campus this radio station, if it is truly to be the voice of UNB and STU, must go out and reach those students. It will take a few years but we must not let ourselves be duped into thinking that CHSR will survive with the trends which have been established in the past seven or eight years. It is time for a change, a radical one, and one that means money, and a lot of it. The station has always been bragged on how much it is worth. What we have to do now is invest some more money and expand again. It's your station, why not use it for all its worth.

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Sorry about the error last week Ted. The piece of paper I mentioned did do the trick and there is no fault in the SRC office. For the most part there is not a nicer bunch [I did get my honoraria].

Hi Carol, I did not think that a cat would eat such as yogurt, or mushrooms?? Did it die after I fed it?? The scars are healing!! Bill...uh...well...mmmm...I am...oh yes here is a Bill Didley humour moment. Why did the Noafie stink only on one side??? Because he couldn't find a can of left-guard. Sorry but the joke is Bill's.

THE BRUNSWICKAN - 7

March 17, 1978

sound-off

Aw c'mon Gary

Dear Gary:

Your comments were pretty interesting to me. I'd like to respond to some of your ideas.

You questioned the effectiveness of a petition. It was thought by those of us who instigated it, that it's best use was that it would get people talking about an issue. The issue being the increases in residence and tuition fees, and the further cutbacks on campus that we're facing right now as a result of inadequate funding. Well, the petition certainly did that. Your letter is just one piece of evidence showing that people are thinking and wondering what is happening next.

The petition worked in a couple of other ways too. It was distributed by your representatives on council, thus getting them out into their constituencies and talking to people. A good sign that you've got a pretty active SRC upcoming.

The petition helped us in Edmunston, too. The papers said "160 students were expected to show up for the Council of Maritime Premiers but only 40 came." Well, they forgot to mention that it was March break across N.B. and that those students who did go to talk to the Premiers had 1200 signatures with them from UNB and STU! The Premiers could not ignore the student concern evidenced by those petitions and for the first time in history, they allowed a public group to speak before them.

As far as what you say about apathy, it's been my contention ever since I was elected vice president that so called "apathy" is a direct result of not being informed well enough about things that are going on. I just wish that people would really READ the Bruns, every article, listen to CHSR special programs, come to council meetings and just generally poke around this place to take part in the goings-on. People are trying to get the information out to the whole campus, but short of calling public forums every time an issue comes up, we have to rely on the media and opportunities that we have at hand.

I'm truly sorry that you feel decisions are being made without concern for the opinions of yourself and others. I just have to say that the SRC and the New Brunswick Coalition of Students are sincerely working for the good of all. If we seem to be making decisions too independently, it's because sometimes things happen very quickly and we are relying on the confidence people expressed by electing us as their reps. Don't worry. The first time any student who holds any office around here steps out of line, they hear about it!

Now, as for your opinion that a 14 percent operating grant is too idealistic let me say this. The MPHEC is an objective advisory board, created by the provincial government itself to tell it (the government) what the universities need to operate. It is an objective board, not a bargaining agent for the universities. The MPHEC asked for 14 percent because that's what we need, not because they thought we'd get 10 percent. An extra 1 percent over the 6.7 percent would be nice, but barely

meets any of the expenses such as faculty raises, acquisition of new equipment, materials, etc.

Your philosophical comments on who should pay for education are well taken. A point to consider though, is that everyone has the right to higher education. When the costs of that education become unrealistic, then you get the situation where only the rich have the opportunity for higher education. We're not asking for a free ride. We're more than willing to pay our fair share. It's just that we're paying about as much as we possibly can, and it's more than practically everyone else in Canada!

The provincial government wouldn't have to raise taxes or do anything very drastic to increase its level of support. They could take the \$4.1 million that they diverted out of post-secondary education and put it back where it belongs for one thing! And that figure is in black and white in the MPHEC statistics. Maybe this would mean they wouldn't be able to pave any roads in Restigouche

county but 10,000 students is nothing to sneeze at around election time either.

Student aid, another issue you raised, is in definite need of revamping. You're right, people abuse the system. But this happens with all systems. You can have direct input into drafting some recommendations by coming over to the SRC office and offering some suggestions to the people here who are working on student aid.

My personal opinion about differential fees is that they are prejudicial. University costs for foreign students here are one of our most enlightened forms of foreign aid. We must not sacrifice our social principles for budgetary savings.

You've raised a lot of basic issues in your letter. Any and all involvement is appreciated. Keep a watch out for further developments. And thanks.

Susan Shalala
Vice-President External
Chairperson NB Coalition of Students

UNB take note

Dear Editor:

I've just read a book, called *The Pierce Arrow Showroom is Leaking*, by Alex Barris, which deals with some of the shortcomings of the CBC. One section of the book dealt with a problem which I think is also typical of UNB. I'd like to quote one paragraph. It reads:

When an organization becomes as large and as spread out as the CBC, it is easier for departments within it to lose sight of what the whole corporation is about. It resembles a harried bus driver who is running behind schedule; fearful of being criticized, he races by people waving from street corners. In his zeal to get back on schedule, he ignores the fact that his primary function is to carry passengers. This pitfall is not one that is restricted to the CBC. It is a danger to any large organization. The trick is to recognize the fact that the pitfall exists and then to devise ways of avoiding it, rather than insisting publicly that there is no such "trap."

If one substitutes the words "UNB" for "CBC" and "university" for "corporation", the above quote provides a pretty good description of the present state of affairs at UNB. I don't think it is necessary to give examples, however 3 obvious ones are: 1) the silly issue this year over library hours vs energy conservation, 2) the closing of the STUD cafeteria, and 3) the incident reported in the Brunswickan last week about the law student who had to threaten to take the university to court in that case, an issue of \$300.00 in legal fees vs \$60.00 in alleged parking fines.

Perhaps if some of the people at this university - from the President on down to the business office personnel, deans of various faculties and chairmen and members of various departments would bear this little illustration in mind, UNB might find itself "on the right track" again.

Jenny Mundy
Student

And yet another

Dear Editor:

After having been here for almost three years and now ready to go back home in just over one month, I am sure you would not mind to have your readers hear what they can about a foreign student's personal opinions of the University of New Brunswick.

May I start by telling you that I am happy that I came to study here at UNB. I think to me UNB has been successful in trying to achieve its objective of offering a well rounded type of education. Specifically too I think that the section of Education department with which I am associated has been successful in making it possible for us to achieve the objective of "developing skills and knowledge in a variety of

technical areas". Without doubt, however, I will say too that this is not the greatest department in UNB where students are directed towards realising their potential abilities. I think there is a lot left to be desired from the department especially by those of us who don't come from New Brunswick and Canada.

I have been impressed by the general plans of the degrees work. Some of my friends do argue that it is no use taking different courses in different departments as we are required to but I think that, as a teacher, this is wrong. I am glad that some more of my friends agree with me that most if not all the courses we have to take at UNB are going to be of some use to us - why do we

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