

MUGWUMP

Norris fiddles while the students

FREEZE

OR

The Bruns gets a Snow-Drift

by Aime Phillips

It was so cold in the SUB this weekend past....
How cold was it?

It was so cold in the SUB this weekend past, that it snowed inside the office.

Yes, with midterms on the go and finals on the way students at UNB are up their ears with studying and assignments. And what with the recent snowfalls, they're up to their ears in snow, too. Students will have to study some place other than in the SUB, though, because on weekends the building isn't heated. Or at least it wasn't last weekend. Just to show everyone what the conditions were like in our office last Sunday, The Brunswickan captured on film a snow drift which had formed on one of our window panes inside the office. And yes the window was shut as tightly as it could be. I would invite you to come in and gape at our extraordinary feat of nature, but of course on Monday the office was 10 degrees higher than comfort permits, and the snow has long since melted.

I'm assuming that Kim Norris, SUB director, was not in the building over the weekend. If he had been, he would certainly have done something about the heat (or lack of it).

Now we just have to deal with the threat of falling icicles strategically hanging above the SUB side door, ready to impale even the most conscientious roof-gazer.

I also wish somebody would replace the light bulb in the light outside the SUB side door. It's been out for a least a week. This would accomplish several things:

- 1) At night I would be able to see when that icicle is about to split me in two.
- 2) Going down the stairs after dark would be a less traumatic experience.
- 3) With any luck, light would help me make an educated guess concerning the deepness of the slush puddle at the bottom of the stairs.

On to other matters...

Happy Mulroney Resignation Week. I don't have anything personal against the man, God forbid I should offend any PC people, I just never forgave him for the whole GST thing. I wasn't old enough to vote for him or against him during the last election, so I'm going to blame all you *old people* who voted. In any event, it seems pretty obvious to me that since Mulroney is resigning, he won't be eligible for any Unemployment Insurance benefits.



This student was unimpressed with the cold condition the SUB was in this weekend past. Notice the snowdrift resting in the corner of the window pane. photo by James Rowan



OPINION

The opinions found in this column are not necessarily the views of the Brunswickan

Mad as Hell

by Mark Ireland

I AM MAD AS HELL AND CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! This is how I felt when I last surveyed the wasteland that is the Canadian political scene. Actually, for some strange reason, this is what I shouted through the end of a telephone receiver supposedly linked to the local Ombudsperson's Office.

"Well you should be glad you don't live in Yugoslavia or Somalia!" Beep... Voila! My reply? How shocking, how absolutely shocking! Here I was (still mentally trapped in the 80's), hoping for a polite, politically correct put down. Your know, something akin to: We're so very sorry Sir/Madam, but we simply cannot tackle your problem in isolation and ignore the rest of Canada, so your concerns will just have to be put on hold for a while. Rather, I've just been made to realize that to be heard I must dig my way through mounds of fertilizer and crap, pretending to be oh so jolly, while the worms gnaw on my ass!

What has gone wrong? Where do simple minded people like ourselves go nowadays for some semblance of public accountability? Why is the light at the other end of the tunnel nothing but the lamp of they wait to trip you up? Lucy? Lucy, something's burnin' in the kitchen!

Why is he so angry, you ask? Well here it is, in spades! Here is the extra mouthful that will no doubt choke the camel! Did you not hear about the recent provincial initiative to eliminate student bursaries? You must also remember the initiative to impose a 3% surcharge tax on student loans introduced by the federal government last year, right? You have also heard of so-called 'education freezes,' tuition hikes, have you not? Most of all, you must have read the recent Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) newsletter in which it was described the latest federal government action to curtail the six month grace period previously allowed students to repay their student loans, right? So, why aren't YOU mad, too?

O.K., so you require more. What has happened to health care? Certainly you've read about recent proposals to increase premiums, have you not? What about a \$100 million plus politically-coercive referendum? Have you considered the \$2 billion plus "invested" on your behalf in Hibernia oil? Oil that so far eludes all technology, and would at best cost \$50 a barrel to produce, i.e. at \$200,000+ per worker? What about UIC vendettas?

Welcome to the 90's friend. 90's where the brain is power and education is not anymore a key, but a hammer with which to break all locked doors, and those that are unable to grab hold of this tool shall be damned! But isn't it highly ironic that in such a new and frightening frontier your governments are cutting deep into education budgets, refusing student grants and calling in student loans. Do you mean to say that your governments care nothing about you, the citizens they represent? Don't they, out of sheer greed, desire to have their students competitively prepared for this daunting reality of global competition?

It seems painfully obvious to me there is a very sinister conservative agenda aimed at keeping this country uncompetitive. For, how else can you explain the indifference to Canadian students displayed by MP's who meet in secret to adopt controversial education bills? This should be a matter of public issue, should it not? Yet I fail to understand why the procedure of passing such a bill with such wide range effects would require only five minutes of consideration by same-party politicians? Why meet in secret in the first place? Is there no government willing to rationally explain these callous actions to concerned students; no government willing to give students the right to address these issues? Don't they even care that students of today will bear the burdens of their actions in the future? WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE, FOLKS?

I thought that I was supposed to be happy that I do not live in Yugoslavia or Somalia, but yet I fail to see the fundamental difference in actions taken arbitrarily by so-called "leaders" in their respective countries. Actually, the only difference is that apparently power-crazed politicians here do not need AK-47 assault rifles or helicopter gunships to dictate their will. For what else do you call legislation designed to force money out of students, but extortion? What do you call legislation which tells certain members of society whether they can attain an education or not? Frankly speaking, telling a student that he/she cannot be granted educational opportunities simply because they lack the funds is indeed dictating their futures, plain and simple! What's worse, is the very persons that are denying students education are now demanding that these students-the future backbone of the economy- (and other persons in society who have already suffered from being unable to get the proper education) forgo all other form of assistance that would, in some tiny respects, make up for the loss they are sure to endure. That is, their right to collect Unemployment Insurance. You have no doubt heard of the spineless act that robs such people of any assistance if they seek to better themselves by quitting one job for another. Did anybody even stop to think that a person might quit a job so he/she can attend some kind of training institution, such as university? Imagine being a sexually harassed person held back by a job that absolutely refuses to release its grip on you. You finally reach the point where you're able to break free of this debilitating situation, and then you fall victim to these kinds of legislative dragons? Leave your job and be damned; refuse to leave and there's hell to pay! What kind of life is that? Don't these people realize that if, despite your long-suffering and personal sacrifice, you're fired from your job (through no legitimate fault of your own) anyway? Oh well, you simply do not qualify for assistance; after all, the employer is GOD.

Students, you had best learn to pray to the eternal employer and fast, even if you are not an unfortunate victim of sexual harassment trying to better your life through education, and your prayers have actually landed you a job. Consider the situation where you have just completed your university studies and you're filing your income tax return. You realize suddenly that, hey more than half your salary just disappeared! Poof! AH well, that's cool you think, since you have a healthy sperm count and you're looking forward to a beautiful baby sometime soon. You can afford to pay such taxes if it will give your child a chance, perhaps even a little advantage. Then it hits you. Where are going to get the money to pay for his/her education? You're already straddled with the interest you must pay back on the student loan you acquired a few years back. If you can't afford to pay back the interest now, what happens later? How you wish that Hibernia oil would start gushing up through the Newfoundland waters; you could certainly use a helping hand in the form of "investment." I mean that's why the government spent so much money on the damn thing, right?

If that makes you depressed, don't even think of hopping in your Ontario-made Japanese car and go for a bit of fresh air! They don't make them babies in Canada anymore. The Free Trade deal called for Canada to sacrifice jobs in the auto industry since 65% of car parts are made in the United States. Damn! So you'd better hop on public transport-nothing wrong with that, it's just that you don't know anybody in town to watch you let off steam! But how did this happen? Aren't you supposed to be living in the best country in the world? Hold on a second, isn't this here the land of Canada, where everybody is equal under the ice? Certainly you can't be thinking of Canada, you must be in America. You feel so much like a poor American now, don't you? No medical insurance, exorbitant tuition rates, more suicides, etc., etc....What has gone wrong? Who are these people playing me like a cheap string puppet? Who are these monsters parading around in Gucci suits, alligator shoes and Mercedes Benzes, slashing here, and there, freezing this and that, eating up the students' bread? Now, DON'T YOU FEEL MAD AS HELL? CAN YOU TAKE THIS ANYMORE?