



Mugwump

By TOM BENJAMIN Journal

These are difficult times to be a student.

A concerted effort to improve the student aid plan in this province has met with no success to date.

The federal government's economic restraint program has wiped out thousands of summer jobs in this province.

It is likely both tuition and residence fees will be raised for next year.

Students have less money, yet will be expected to spend more to get an education — a paradox that only the government seems to find logical.

Despite concerted efforts it appears that the housing shortage will be even more severe next September than it was last year. Do you feel discouraged? So do I.

These are difficult times to be a student.

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Candidates in the last student government election appear to have learned some tactics from federal politics.

In an open forum just prior to the election some candidates took the opportunity to blame many of their political misfortunes on the press at this university.

Now I would be the last person to downgrade the power of the press, but I find it unreasonable to blame all campus political calamities on this publication.

It seems to be in vogue for every losing candidate to blame his or her misfortunes on the fickle nature of the press.

At the same time candidates make little or no effort to co-operate with the press, and at times appear to attempt to make responsible political coverage even more difficult than it usually is.

Candidates bitch and moan if they do not receive what they feel is adequate press coverage, then they refuse interviews.

What are we supposed to do — invent stories to make candidates look good?

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Apparently the administration is considering methods of improving upon what has usually been the biggest fiasco of the academic year — registration.

Their problem is quite obvious. How can you register thousands of students in two or three days, and still manage to have a two-hour lunch break for all the professors involved?

Ideas being tossed around at present include having students register in one or more of the academic buildings — Tilley Hall, for example.

The idea is worth some consideration, I suppose, at least until the provincial fire marshal hears of it.

I think the present system of registration is still the best, although there is a need for some major changes.

A shorter lunch break, ample opportunities for pre-registration and more assistance to registering students could alleviate many of the problems.

The biggest bottleneck at registration this year was at the lineup for paying tuition fees. Many students registered in less than an hour, only to wait for hours to pay fees. Surely this problem could have been solved by having several more persons authorized to receive cheques.

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In one of its more sensible moves of the year the outgoing council at last Monday's meeting shelved an honoraria proposal which would have made substantial changes for only one office on campus — the comptroller. Guess who wrote the report.

The proposal was intended to base honoraria awarded on the amount of responsibility of the job involved. That certainly is a good criteria for honoraria, but the author of the proposal apparently did not understand the true amount of responsibility involved in the positions he was discussing.

However, there is still time this year to devise a system of awarding honoraria which would be equitable for all those involved.

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The new councillors seated at Monday's meeting started their terms of office with a move I fully endorse.

One of the first items of business presented to the new council was a motion supporting the Molson's boycott. As you know, Quebec student newspapers are calling for a boycott against all Molson's products because of the treatment of workers at a furniture plant owned by Molsons.

Council passed a motion supporting the boycott, and the stand of the Quebec Federation of Labour on the dispute.

Hopefully council will follow up the motion with letters of support to the QFL, and an end to the sale of Molson's products at all campus events.

Many students have said they feel such a boycott is irrelevant on this campus, as the tactics of a Quebec company have no effect here. They seem to forget the support we received from other provinces during the demonstrators for an improved student aid program.

SOUND OFF

Assistance sought for victims

Dear Editor:

As is often the case, a natural disaster - in this instance a series of devastating earthquakes - has brought a previously little known Third World country into the Canadian headlines. I would appreciate the opportunity to bring to your readers' attention some background information about Guatemala, and also OXFAM's role there, before, during and after the earthquakes.

Guatemala, a small country with a population of about six million,

was once the home of the Mayan civilization, renowned for its architecture, sculpture, ceramics, weaving, astronomy and mathematics. This civilization was brutally crushed by Spanish colonization in the sixteenth century, and the descendants of the Mayans, the indigenous Indian population who make up just over half of Guatemala's present population, are now among the poorest people in the Americas.

Even before this latest blow, the mortality rates, at 16 per 1,000,

were the highest on the continent. Most of the country's doctors were located in Guatemala City - in the countryside there was only one physician per 23,000 people. Seventy-five per cent of all Guatemala children under five were said to be malnourished. Eighty-seven per cent of all Guatemalans are subsistence farmers. They grow corn, beans and squash on depleted small plots. But much of the land - estimated at 62 per cent - is currently being used, and not very efficiently, by argo-expert land barons, whose plantations ship out of the country coffee, cattle and bananas.

Most of the Indians live in isolated mountainous areas, where the soil is poor. Help is only just beginning to reach many of them, and it is becoming clear that they probably suffered the most during the earthquakes. Their existence was precarious before, and it appears likely that most of the relief efforts will be concentrated in the towns.

OXFAM has been supporting long-term development projects among the Indian population of Guatemala for many years, especially in the Chimaltenango area. After this latest disaster has faded from public attention, OXFAM will still be there, supporting the fight against the persistent conditions of poverty - hunger, malnutrition, disease, poor housing, unemployment - which constitute a permanent disaster for millions of people.

At present the international OXFAM relief team is concentrating its efforts in the villages of the San Martin and Tecpan areas. A team of fourteen doctors and nurses has been flown in. Houses made of plastic sheeting have been put up for over 30,000 people, and several tons of blankets have been provided. The relief team has also been organizing emergency feeding and water supply programmes, and has been working with local food co-operatives to deal with food shortages.

The OXFAM team has now put out an urgent appeal for 200,000 sheets of corrugated iron for roofing. The rainy season is very close. Without adequate shelter, the death toll may soar again.

Your help is vital. Donations for OXFAM's work in Guatemala may be sent to Box 18,000, Halifax, N.S.

Sincerely

Lloyd A. Fraser
Regional Director

Correspondence desired

Dear Editor and Staff:

Our Chapter of the Jaycees is located behind the walls of the State Penitentiary and the membership is composed entirely of men incarcerated at this facility. We recently initiated a new project entitled "A Brighter Day," which we would like your campus paper to help us make a success.

There are a great number of men here that do not have friends or relatives on the outside with which they may correspond. Our brighter day program is designed to fill a void in their lives and brighten their day each day at mail call. There is nothing more discouraging than the lack of communication with the outside and receiving mail is one of the most important things in an inmates life.

We would like for you to print a few names of prisoners in your campus paper and thus encourage students to write to these men. We feel that college students are at a time in their lives just as we are, that since they are planning their future, they may be able to help

some people help improve themselves. This is one of the goals of the Jaycees and we are working for the improvement of all persons involved.

Please let us hear from you regarding this request at your earliest convenience. We are listing below several names of men that would appreciate someone to write to and correspond with. We would also like a courtesy copy of your campus paper. Thank you for helping us help someone here have a brighter day.

Name	Number	Age
Floyd Head	88245	23
Leon Henderson	88900	24
Mike Henderson	88250	19
Coy Hill	84695	21
Freddie Hill	87123	25
Richard Hill	80214	32
Allen Hoggrow	91226	33
Terry Hopkins	84321	31

Yours In Jaycees
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Scholarships discriminatory?

Dr. J. M. Anderson, President
University of New Brunswick
Old Arts Building
CAMPUS MAIL

Dear Dr. Anderson:

Today it has come to my attention that the University of New Brunswick is offering scholarships that contain conditions which discriminate on grounds of race, sex and/or religion. At this time, on behalf of all the students on this campus, I respectfully request of you that a program be immediately initiated whereby this type of discrimination ceases.

The reason the change should be carried out at this time is because, some scholarships are to my understanding in direct conflict with the New Brunswick Human Bill of Rights.

Some of the scholarships recorded in your calendar that I feel could be considered discriminating are: the Boyer scholarship, the Alumni Entrance scholarship, the Tom & Parker Memorial scholarship, the Miramichi Highland Society scholarship, the Otty Charlotte Francis scholarship, the Otty Norval Hallet scholarship, the Smith, Gertrude Winnifred Scholarship, the University scholarships for Women, the Wilmot, L.A., scholarship, Fredericton Society of St. Andrews scholarship, Hanson, Rupert D. and Jack C. Memorial scholarship,

the Alumni scholarship for Undergraduate Students, the Dow, Asa, scholarship, the Hanson and Richard Burpee scholarships and others.

I am trusting you with this information, in the understanding that action is forthcoming, I anxiously await for your reply.

Sincerely,
Gordon Kennedy,
Vice President

Illa was a serious candidate

Dear Editor:

There seems to be some confusion regarding our candidate, ILLA, in the recent SRC presidential election. We would like to clarify a few things.

1st. The dog was nominated by Gary and David Bryanton.

2nd. Illa was a serious candidate. We felt she was the only one could compete with Jim Smith, because if Chris Pratt has trouble beating a Coke machine in his house vice-president election, then how did he expect to win the SRC Presidential race? Dale Saulis

was the fourth candidate. He summed it up very well when he stated: "If you don't vote for me, vote for the dog." And to his surprise people did vote for Illa instead of him.

3rd. Illa was not used as a protest vote. She obtained adequate initial financial support and soon donation poured in.

We wish to thank everyone, on behalf of Illa, for their moral and financial support and especially all those who voted for her.

Gary Hall
David Bryanton