

Reader complains of Gleaner, Brunswickan coverage

Dear Sir:

To those friend(s) of mine who may have been wondering, I'm not really an FHS student regardless of what the Daily Crapper of January 19th stated. It was just another example of Fredericton's famous daily searching for knowledge, truth and justice. I guess that the reporter for that edifying journal thought it unlikely that a fourth year UNB person would be concerned over something as mundane as the rights of high school students. Then again, they probably thought it unlikely that a professed Liberal would be concerned over the rights of anybody.

Since I'm on the topic of journalism, I may as well congratulate the Bruns for its fine coverage of the New Brunswick Student Liberal convention held here recently. Just because the convention was hosted by UNB student Liberals, one of the few politically and socially active groups on campus, did not mean that it would be of interest to anybody. After all, who cares about such things as student loans, abolition of the Dept. of Youth, and means of bridging the gulf between New Brunswick's two cultures. Believe it or not, newsworthy events do sometimes occur outside of the confines of the Student Union Building. One would think that the Bruns would at least try to rise above the level of the Irving papers and present its readers with all of the news, not just what it considers to be the news. Another example of this is when the UNB Liberals gave a Christmas party for the mentally retarded kids of the area. To the Bruns staff, this was not news. After all, who ever heard of an "establishment" political group doing anything good.

Recent conversations with a number of people have led me to the conclusion that this campus needs an alternative voice to the alternative voice. With this in mind, I had intended to do a weekly column in this paper which would have dug into issues of concern to us all, attempted to present the views of that supposed mass of sub-freaks, and shaken up a few of the campus sacred cows. However, word came to me through the grapevine (?) that the editor of our illustrious weekly would not be entirely receptive to such a proposal. This being the case, I still intend on using the letters to the editor section to present a weekly bitch-sheet.

So, with this in mind, we'll take a look at what seems to be a never ending round of campus elections. The next popularity contest through which we have to suffer is the election of the

pompous ass society, commonly referred to as the SRC. It doesn't take much to foresee what will happen. A few of the campus trippers will throw together a few ill-conceived notions and ideas into a populist-type grab-bag and try to pass it off as a platform. And as usual, our well-informed electorate (evidently there are a few people who do vote in these things) will vote for the candidates who do the best job of plastering their names all over the campus. — ah, democracy!

Remember the Board of Governors elections? Sure you do. Anyway, during those, it was nice to see our Mugwump boy pushed for true electoral responsibility. He suggested supporting candidates Richard and De Freitas because he didn't know the other candidates. Get serious Ed! A bit of journalistic resp-

onsibility would at least require that you look into what the other candidates had to offer. Just because someone doesn't belong to the campus elite, it does not necessarily mean that they are complete losers. Perhaps if the campus media did a little bit of fairer reporting, a few more capable and sincere candidates might offer for our sickie student elections.

In the same line it appears as if Roy Neale is going to get a second chance. Maybe this time he'll do some of the things he promised to do the first time. However, I wouldn't lay any money on it. Chances are that once he becomes firmly rooted on the second floor of the SUB, our president will continue to over-extend himself. Mr. Neale will probably campaign on a platform of being allowed to continue and

complete the programs he has started. He will stress experience, continuity, and responsibility. This is easily countered though, when we consider that there were not that many new programs started. As far as experience goes, it simply means that he will continue to do things in the same dis-jointed manner. The Bruns has accused him of using the council as merely a rubber stamp. With a new mandate, the councilors will be lucky if he even permits them to carry out that function.

One more matter I'd like to bring up before I finish boring everyone is that of the "Montreal mafia". It seems that, as in most other New Brunswick institutions native New Brunswickers cannot be trusted to run their own affairs at UNB. Just take a look

around and see how many New Brunswickers are in the student "elite". The real low blow, however, comes when we see who the NB government, with all the foresight of a blind cockroach appointed as the student representative to the student aid appeal board. You guessed it sweetheart, our favourite non-native son, the president of the UNB - SRC. So it is that someone who does not have to go through the trouble of getting a loan in this province will be deciding which one of us rates an extra five bucks. It appears that us "poor ignorant New Brunswickers" just do not have what it takes to make decisions in matters which concern us and nobody else! Come on Mrs. Robertson, N.B. students deserve better than that!

J. Paul Thériault

Driver's thoughtlessness causes problems

Dear Sir:

If you own a green Olds Delta 88 with black vinyl top - licence No. 124-926 - Read this:

On Friday morning, January 19/73 I parked my car in the parking lot behind the campus bank and sometime during the day you drove into the parking lot and finding it full decided that you had the right to park at an angle at the end of the parking lot blocking my car so that I would be unable to get out if I got to my car before you left. Sure, you thought I would have enough room to back out but on Thurs. a light snow fell on the already icy parking lot and while I was positioning my car so that I could back out without taking a corner off your car the rear wheels reached the ice and I couldn't move. Some students were good enough to try to push my car back off the ice (for which I am grateful) but I did not have enough room thanks to your car. While being pushed my car slid into the snow-bank and became immovable. I thanked the students for their efforts telling them I wouldn't be able to get out until I shovelled around my car and until the stupid, *? ? ! ! * person that owns that *? ? * car behind me moves it.

After waiting 1/2 hour, I locked my car and walked down town to an appointment for which I now was already late. One thing was in my favor, it was a good day for walking. But I did not drive my car to college so that I could get it stuck, shovel snow for an hour, or walk to an appointment and be late when a ride in my car would get me there on time.

Thanks to your thoughtlessness

I figure you cost me \$30.00; \$5.00 wear and tear on car; \$2.00 wasted gas; \$1.00 wear and tear on shoes; \$10.00 wasted time to walk to appointment, (\$10/hr); \$2.00 cost of shovelling for 1 hour; \$10.00 car rental fee for Friday and Saturday morning.

It is quite obvious that you are a very thoughtless, inconsiderate, and selfish driver (I won't say "person" as I don't know you personally, and that would be prejudice, wouldn't it) as you not only blocked me in but you also inconvenienced other stud-

ents in that they had the privilege(?) of getting off the path leading to the parking lot and rubbing up against your dirty car in order to get by it so they could reach their own cars.

Today (Tues, Jan 23/73) I saw that you had parked your beast in the same place but this time you completely blocked the owner of a grey V.W. who was parked in the same place that I was and today the parking lot

your car. If you don't smarten up soon, you're in for a rude awakening. One of these days you'll block someone who has less self-control than myself (I'm still simmering) and you will return to your car to find it with four flat or slashed tires, maybe even no tires at all, and if the guy is real clever he'll have your car towed away with no forwarding address.

Sign me:
Owner of Brown and White Cornet
Licence No. 5849.

Staff unaware of problems

By DAVID N. McMILLAN

I address these comments to those people who each day use the sole elevator in the Harriet Irving Library.

First: I assume that many of those people who use the elevator are aware that there have been numerous operational problems with it in the past, second: last Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (to-day) the elevator was jamming periodically.

Permit me to give an arbitrary example of what happens when the elevator jams. . . an individual might spend several minutes on the ground floor waiting for the elevator to come down in order that he might get to say, the second or third floor. However this person may not be aware that the elevator has been sitting on the mezzanine just above him for the past few minutes. Since fewer people take the elevator from the mezzanine this person, after suspecting that something is wrong, will begin his

tromp up the stairway. On his way up he may avoid the elevator where it sits (and let someone else worry about it) or he may stop on the mezzanine floor, step inside the elevator, push the appropriate button, manually pull on one of the doors, wait till they close and then finally. . . proceed on his way.

And so it goes. . . on and on. The thing is - that numerous people each day have reported that this problem exists to the library staff.

Does this state of affairs really have to persist, especially when there is only one elevator for us all?

I understand that there have been some people in to study the elevator lately, but if the problem is still there why have signs not been erected on each landing so that those who wish to use the elevator might be informed of the situation.

This is what I could not understand when this afternoon (Tues-

day) I decided to make an appointment with the head librarian (Dr. Gunn) in order to explain the situation as I saw it.

Believe me, getting to see the head librarian is a real battle even if one wishes to take up only a few moments of her time.

I was not permitted to speak with her to-day yet after at least fifteen minutes and finally "insisting" that I would appreciate speaking with her (Dr. Gunn), I was granted two things: 1) information to the fact that no one in that office was aware of any elevator trouble, past or present and, 2) I could see Dr. Gunn three days later at 10:30 am (Friday).

Well to be honest, it seems to me that whatever happens in the future I sincerely hope that there will be a little more attention given to the matter. Hopefully those who utilize the library will be informed via signs etc. . . that attempts are being made to speedily rectify the situation.