

Comments



Mugwump
Journal
By EDISON STEWART

Good morning. And how is every little thing with you today? If you read your Telegraph-Journal this week, you no doubt know that UNBSJ is right in line to get a hospital. (For those of you who didn't read the TJ, these next few paragraphs hold untold treasures of information.)

Now as you may recall, there has been some discussion in the past several years about having a provincial medical school. Saint John says it's the largest city, and it should have the school. Moncton says it's going to be the capital of the Atlantic Canada, and it should have the school.

Fredericton? Well, Fredericton's the capital, and the provincial university is already here, so why not locate the medical students here too?

Problem: New Brunswick is not large enough for a medical school of its own. Besides, Dalhousie already has one and appears to be taking care of Maritime needs. But the Chambers of Commerce seem to feel our province is in bad need of a medical school (not to mention three international airports).

So the race is on. Fredericton's new hospital is on former UNB land, but then the campus is so far away it would never pass as a part of this venerable institution.

Saint John now says UNBSJ would be the perfect place for a hospital. You can bet your bottom dollar that once the hospital is built (or perhaps while it's still under construction) they'll be pressing for quick action on a new medical school.

Since when do Canadian companies advertise their wares showing the American eagle? Since last Friday, that's when. The Eagle North-Rite Ltd. (a subsidiary, I believe, of North-Rite, an American Company) advertised its "Canadian" coloring markers and pencils in last week's weekend Magazine.

So what were the kids to colour? A maple leaf? Nope.

A beaver? No again.

A provincial flower, perhaps, or (God forbid) a picture of the Queen? No. All wrong.

The folks who enter the contest are to colour an eagle. There it was in all its splendor - the bald eagle, its muscles bulging. Since when is this crop Canadiana?

The bridge downtown is going to be recapped soon, we're told. Anyone who's ever driven across the structure will no doubt notice the tendency of the bridge to swing your car into the path of another. (That wouldn't be so bad, if both cars were going the same way. But they're not.) I don't know of any accidents occurring on the bridge, but if there haven't been any, it's a wonder.

We've got problems with the ID cards again. Apparently several people have been able to get their cards without proof of registration at UNB. In many cases, all that's necessary is last year's card. Some graduates are becoming "part-time" members of the student union, it seems, having all of the advantages and none of the disadvantages. Members of the SRC executive are attempting to rectify the situation, but there doesn't seem to be much they can do.

The first SRC meeting of the year is Monday, if you're interested. It's in room 102 of the SUB, and starts at 7 p.m. While it may not come up this time around, SRC President Roy Neale has some rather ambitious plans to restructure the SRC. The most drastic is the one to abolish the Administrative Board, effectively leaving all financial powers in the hands of the executive. This would remove member's participation in budget-making. It's not very realistic when you look at it.

Some of Roy's other ideas have merit, however. Chief among them is the establishment of internal and external vice-presidents. Presently only one VP - Steve Mulholland - takes care of both jobs. Speaking of the VP, the election for that office should be coming up shortly. If the past is any indicator, Orientation Chris Gilliss stands a good chance of winning. In the past few years, it's been customary for the Orientation Chairman to move into the VP's job.

I realize for many of you the class of '77 is something very meaningful. But as a fourth year boy, it came as a mild shock to see so many people with UNB jackets this past week. Almost all of them had the numbers "77" on the side, and no doubt somebody has a jacket with "78" on it. But for a fellow who leaves (I hope) next April, the class of '77 seems a long time away.

I mean, that's after the Olympics, and for me that's light years away. But I guess we all have to go sometime.

The Daily Gleaner announced Monday it was cutting back on some of its best copy: the cartoons, for example, are gone. But true to form, where the Gleaner falls down, The Brunswickan picks up. All of which is to explain that starting this week, we've got our own cartoons. Doonesbury is seen in his first appearance east of Montreal. The Wizard of Id is also an exclusive as is our crossword puzzle. So remember folks: there isn't any paper shortage here (for now anyway) and it all comes free of charge. We hope you enjoy them.

See you next week.

Compulsory arbitration impractical

EDITOR'S NOTE: What with the railway strike just over and other strikes just around the corner, a discussion on the right to strike seems somewhat appropriate. Ed Finn, legislative director of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers, opposes compulsory arbitration, and says why:

Impractical proposal

To someone not familiar with labor relations, it may appear to be a reasonable proposal. It isn't. On the contrary, it is completely impractical.

Arbitration, whether by single adjudicators or by courts, depends on the existence of objective guiding principles. The arbitration of disputes that arise over the interpretation of collective agreements is made workable only because the arbitrator has a written set of rules to guide him—the terms of the contract itself.

An arbitrator assigned to rule on the justification of a union's demands for better pay and working conditions would have no such objective criteria on which to base a decision.

No businessman would claim that he had a formula exactly weighted to accommodate all the factors that go into establishing a "fair" wage rate. No union has such a formula either. The

advocates of a compulsory arbitration are implying that this problem can best be left to someone who—of necessity, if he is to be impartial—must have had no experience with the firm or union involved.

No standards

There simply are no generally accepted standards of judging what any employee's work is worth in monetary terms—and no conceivable way of devising such standards to fit the framework of private enterprise.

"In the absence of such principles," says Dr. Hugh Clegg, the noted British labor expert, "arbitration cannot be the cure for industrial strife. To hand over the final settlement of all labor disputes to arbitrators would, far from being constructive, be an act of gross irresponsibility."

Most judges and lawyers seem utterly insensitive to the human aspect of industrial relations. When appointed to labor courts, they try to apply laws designed for criminals to the activities of working people.

The labor court established in Britain tried to jail and fine union officials, only to have the penalties set aside by appeals courts and the country's solicitor-general when the sentences triggered widespread walkouts by union members.

Student council ready to open travel office in SUB

By GAROLD MURRAY

The Students Representative Council plans to open a travel agency in room 125 of the SUB. The agency will be operating in co-operation with a local firm, Allingham Travel Agency, Ltd.

SRC Comptroller, Fud Steeves said that this year the SRC is trying to stress services. The proposal for an on campus travel service was made last spring by SRC President, Roy Neale. The development of this proposal is in keeping with the new policy.

The agency will operate on a trial basis until the end of January. Its objective will be to provide quick, competent service, not only to students, but to faculty and staff as well. Through this office students can obtain International Student I.D. and International Youth Hostel Cards. Present plans call for twenty-four hour service.

The SRC will advertise for an agent through The Brunswickan. They hope for applicants with at least some experience. The agent will be paid on a commission basis.

Organizers estimate there will be approximately five thousand dollars worth of business per year. He would also be entitled to extra benefits. The successful applicant will be trained by Allingham Travel Agency, Ltd.

WE NEED WRITERS
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

The primary objective of the office is to assist students with their travel arrangements. As Steeves stated, it will be students dealing with students.

Rats are underpaid mice in disguise

Dear Sir:

As manager of the Gaiety and Capitol Theatres, I wish to express resentment at your reference on Page 9, September 7th, to "rats pulling a pretty good show between flicks".

I wish to have it clearly understood that they are not rats, they are mice. They are retained on staff in order to assist the janitor, thereby reducing our overhead and enabling us to give a discount to students.

After all, the Minimum Wage Act, Chapter 145 (Consolidated to 1971), does not pertain here, and we are therefore demonstrating to our patronage that "a penny saved is a penny earned".

Anyhow, as some of our programs are for the birds, why exclude mice?

Very truly yours,

W. G. Fenety, Asst. Manager

"It shows what happens when you give lawyers who have no knowledge of labor relations the responsibility in this field," said Dr. Clegg. "They don't seem to realize that if you start locking people up in a strike situation, all hell breaks loose."

Canada's version of a labor court, the B.C. Mediation Commission, was also a conspicuous failure. Empowered to deny unions the right to strike and to impose dictated settlements on them, this court was boycotted by the unions in British Columbia, and held in disdain by most employers.

Commission a failure

Instead of reducing the number of days lost through strikes in that province, the commission saw them rise from 407,000 in 1968 to more than 2 million a year in its first two years of operation. It has since been mercifully disbanded by the Barrett government.

In Australia, where compulsory arbitration has been enforced for the past 60 years, the annual number of strikes is five times higher than in Canada.

As long ago as 1917, the International Labor Organization exposed the fundamental flaw of compulsory arbitration in these words: "A free society cannot coerce any section of its population into working conditions which are not freely and generally acceptable."

Only in a totalitarian state can workers be compelled to work against their will. Compulsory arbitration therefore does not eliminate strikes; it simply makes them illegal, which is not at all the same thing.

Says Dr. Noel Hall, the noted Canadian mediator: "There's just no sense in passing legislation imposing compulsory arbitration for every dispute. That would not make labor unrest disappear. All we would be doing is passing a law that otherwise good, law-abiding citizens would ignore."

95 percent success

Another fallacy underlying the call for compulsory arbitration is that the collective bargaining system has failed. It hasn't. It produces peaceful settlements of negotiations in 95 cases out of a hundred. (Remember: we've had only three railway strikes in the past 35 years!) What other process or institution can boast of being 95 percent successful?

We should not expect or demand perfection in any sphere of human activity—and certainly not in such a volatile field as industrial relations.

The federal task force on labor relations came to the same conclusion a few years ago, after many months of study and research. The task force dismissed compulsory arbitration as being absolutely unworkable.

"The right to strike cannot be sacrificed," the task force stated in its report. "The inconvenience and hardship caused by strikes is a small price to pay for the maintenance of the present collective bargaining system and the basic human rights on which it is founded."

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