

MUGWUMP

by Allan Carter

Another week, another election. I wonder what would compel people to vote for a party such as COR? The election on Tuesday night proved to be quite interesting. It appears that some people in New Brunswick want something new and refreshing in the political scene. However, I question whether or not COR's platforms are new. The idea that the abolishment of official bilingualism will save this province from inevitable doom is an old idea. At least as old as the day bilingualism was introduced in NB. Until COR can prove that they have plans for the other problems that must be dealt with in this province, I urge anybody who has a COR representative in their riding and wishes to talk to them about various issues that they do so in the hated language of NB: French.

There is no doubt that there are problems with bilingualism in New Brunswick; however, the solution COR has for these problems only feed some people's hatred and rage for various ethnic groups and people who speak another language.

Nevertheless, COR's ability to win eight seats in this province indicates that the other parties are forced to do something they should have done a long time ago - recognize COR. The other parties should have attacked COR more often on its racist statements and abolishment of bilingualism, instead of ignoring the party and hoping it would vanish after the election. Now they are the official opposition and they must be recognized. Sad and scary.

Anyway, enough talk about a political party I hate. Let's look at something else I usually hate.

How about rain? Almost all summer the rivers and ponds in New Brunswick were low enough that all one had to do was pull up his/her pant legs to cross one of them. Forest fires were burning everywhere and gardeners and farmers ran around all summer complaining about the lack of rain. But don't worry, it has arrived. A bit late, however. The question is what good is it? On campus it is downright dangerous. All these people floating around with umbrellas which wield the power to poke out another person's eye. In fact one is almost forced to buy an umbrella just to protect oneself from all the other dangerous portable rain shelters. My biggest worry the past few mornings was not getting wet, but getting speared by some individual who in their rush to make it to class does not realize just how dangerous their umbrella is.

Therefore, I decided to take action against all these umbrella holders. A organization is being established to discourage people to use umbrellas during a rain storm. It is called SAU - Students Against Umbrellas. Our goal is to poke tiny holes in every umbrella we see just before a rainstorm is forecasted. We also will be setting up a therapy course for all those students who feel they actually need an umbrella during a rainstorm. Our slogan is: "Let us not be wet alone". These courses will illustrate various methods that can be used so one can avoid getting wet. Such ideas are:

- Stay home and don't leave the house.
- Use a Brunswickan to cover your head and upper body since the paper has no other real use.
- dig a tunnel underground through the city to all the classes you have to make that day.

Personally, I prefer the first one since I don't have a shovel.

I just love Student Union meetings. According to Greg Lutes, president of the Student Union, The Daily Gleaner ran a story about drug dealers on campus. Lutes had been speaking about the bad reputation which some students were giving the UNB student community. I'm not sure if he was suggesting that these drug dealers were students. But since, like him, I have not read the article, I was wondering what the connection was between these unknown drug dealers and a few rowdy students. Then it hit me. Lutes is worried about Student Union revenue. After all where did this large Student Union surplus originate from? I have always wondered what that hazy cloud was floating above the tables at the Student Union meetings.

"Let's have a bit of fun," exclaims one councillor at the SU meeting. Great advice to give a group of councillors on how to spend the student's money.

Another great quote on Wednesday evening from a councillor was: "I have no idea what I've said." Too bad, neither does anybody else.

Oh by the way if the editors of the Collegiate wish to use this Mugwump, they are welcome to do so. But just give us credit and please don't change any of the words. And please don't rely on our spelling we sometimes screw up, royally.

Until next week: stay away from SU council meetings.

OPINION

The opinions found in Opinion are not necessarily the views of The Brunswickan

by Joe Savoie

On May 22, 1991, the Board of Governors of the University of New Brunswick met in order to conduct its usual round of business. Included in this business, as it is every May, was the report of the Finance Committee with recommendations for the student fee schedule for the upcoming academic year.

While the resulting tuition fee increases held no surprises, two new items listed in the 1991-92 fee schedule did. One is an application fee for the faculty of Law, the other is a Graduation Fee, the latter of which is the subject of this column.

In past years, certain expenses were expected of students at graduation time. Photos had to be taken and robes rented. While the University, of course, had no part in the photography business, it did however rent the robes. For a fee, you got the appropriate robe for use at Graduation, which you then returned and received most of your money back.

This year, however, the situation will be different. Instead of renting the robe for a nominal cost, you will be required to pay a Graduation Fee of \$25. The new Graduation Fee was introduced because the rental process with the advent of the GST made it difficult for the University to administer.

The fee, however, while being very small, has a deep implication, not the least of which is the change in meaning; you would now not be paying for a robe, but in essence to get your diploma. Also, who is to say that the fee would not go up in the future.

The Graduation Fee is compulsory, and if you don't pay, you don't graduate, even if you don't attend the Graduation Ceremony. Over the years, the University of New Brunswick has received from me, and every other student enrolled in a four year program, over \$8,000 in tuition and over \$32,000 from the government by virtue of my presence on campus. I've spent over \$2500 at the book store, and paid for parking during the time I've had a car. And now, after four years, just when I'm about to graduate, they tell me I HAVE to pay another \$25 to get out.

But, they will say, what is all the fuss about? It's not that much, just pay it and be on your way. The fuss is that the previous arrangement with regard to the robes was *voluntary*; you paid only if you intended to attend the Graduation Ceremony. Now you *have to* pay, like it or not.

Further, the application of the new fee in this matter could lead one to believe, in spite of assurances to the contrary, that other "fees" will be introduced in order to offset costs. "I'm sorry Mr. Savoie, but without paying the \$10 Exam fee (\$20 for a 6ch course), you can't write the final exam." or, the Prof. says "Golly gee Joe, you've got an A, but I can't give it to you until you pay the CGCRF(Course Grade Confirmation Registration Fee)."

For what I am here, if it is not to graduate. It is, without a doubt, the fundamental purpose of this institution. Applying a fee for graduation trivializes the conclusion of the education process, leading me to believe that it is another inconvenience for which the University either feels it cannot afford, or a non-essential that must be paid for by the user. There is, in my mind, an implied contract when entering university (in spite of the University's catch-all clause requiring students to abide by any rules and regulations as they may arise): pay your tuition, get a passing grade in 126ch of course, graduate. I earned it, I paid for it, I'm entitled.

I can understand the pressure on the University Administration to come up with more money to replace that which has been lost due to government grants cuts. But, if they insist on collecting this, or any other similar kind of fee, they should at least have the decency to make it more palatable. Increase tuition \$6.25 a year. Who would notice after the \$100.80?

Many of the above issues were raised at the same Board of Governors meeting. I thank Mr. Scott, an Alumni representative on the Board of Governors who argued in vain for the removal of the fee from the new fee schedule. The motion died on the floor for want a seconder.

The second motion after that did not. Kevin Bourque was happy to second the motion to have the student Organization Fees schedule accepted. Where was he only 20 minutes previous? Dr. Armstrong described the previous rental situation as "totally unsatisfactory". It is not surprising that he would think the new situation as being better, since no student objected to it.