



Mugwump Journal

By RICK FISHER

So we have a Provincial election. Right off the bat I think the odds favour the Conservatives. They have been in power for four years and are trying for another mandate. Odds are greatly in favour of a government asking for a second mandate in the Maritimes. Just recently both Premiers Campbell and Regan were re-elected.

The Conservatives just won two by-elections, the economy seems to be going well and the federal government just gave the OK for financing for the Nuclear Power Station at Point Lepreau.

The normal slogan for an opposition as a catalyst for their hopes to become the government is that it is time for a change. The Liberals have to come up with a great platform and excellent candidates for even a chance to upset the Conservatives.

I don't think that the Conservatives' pockets are full enough yet as that usually happens during the second term and they will get beaten after that.

Neither of the parties has put forward its platform and it will be interesting to see each. The Liberals have been accusing the Conservatives of unimaginative government, but I tend to think they are both alike and I think their platforms will bear me out. Last election the platforms were almost identical.

Elections are a good opportunity to get involved and learn at a closer view how our electoral system really works. I think it makes little difference who you work for as you should be able to learn something working for anybody.



I think that the events of the past five or six weeks should tell the SRC something important about their election systems.

The problems they have had are not just dismissed as easily as charging people before the SDC. The real problem underneath is that their constitution is too inflexible. Now it's true constitutions sometimes have to present problems, but not as many as the SRC has encountered in the last month or so.

I think it should be possible to hold an election in two weeks on this campus. At the Monday night SRC meeting a returning officer is appointed and the positions are declared open on Wednesday. The Brunswickan and CHSR would publish and broadcast the positions closing the following Wednesday and then the lists of candidates could be published and broadcast. The election would be held on the next Wednesday.

Total time taken just over two weeks. I doubt that there is any major obstacle to changing, in some manner, their constitution because events have necessitated it. Another suggestion in the case of ballot box stuffing or any other impropriety committed on election day, the rebalancing should be held a week later while the election is still fresh on people's mind, not a month later.

Another change the SRC has started in regard to its constitution was a suggestion several years ago that the vice president and assistant comptroller both be elected in the Fall elections, but it didn't go all the way through.

The SRC has changed the appointment of the Assistant Comptroller to the fall, but he is still not elected. I think the person who holds that job should be responsible to the students and not members of the executive. He is a powerful member of the student union having equal signing powers with Comptroller and Business administrator.

This problem originally stemmed from changes made to the Administration Board's constitution a few years ago in which several seats on the board were made available to non-SRC members. That was a good move, letting other people sit on the body. What was not noticed until later and not changed was the provision that the Assistant Comptroller had to be a member of the AB. Previously he had to be an SRC member, now he does not.

Considering the amount of power the position could have I think that for next fall the constitution should be changed so that the Assistant Comptroller is elected with the Vice President.



Finally one suggestion I also think is good, is letting students become security guards for the University.

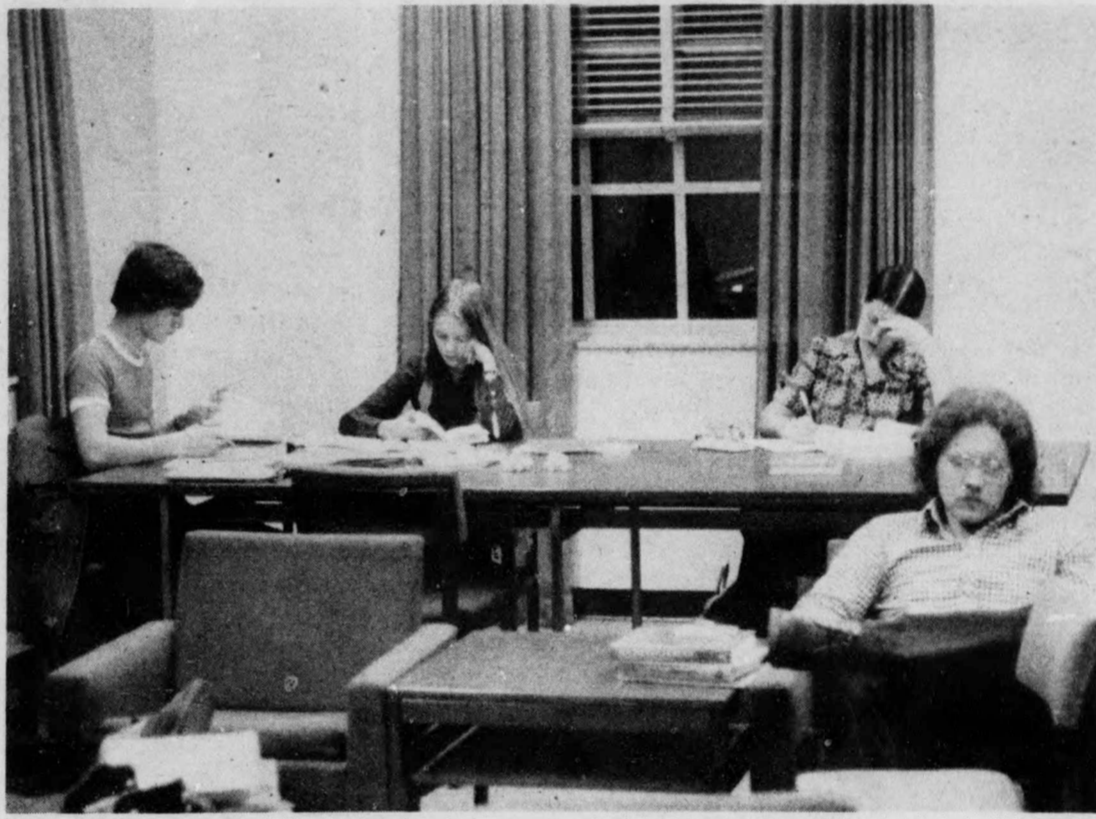
This would give students valuable money to help put themselves through university. It would also give them experience, and judgment.

One of the biggest problems would be, what would happen if a guard caught a friend: would he turn him in? I think he would.

The trend is definitely toward such a move as many American universities have tried this approach with good results. Even closer to home was the experiment with two law students becoming policemen for the summer. Now if students can become policeman why can't they become security guards?



Study rooms and hours disputed



One of our readers is not impressed with the number of study facilities on campus.

Dear Editor:

In this letter I'd like to point out three things which ought to be corrected or could be improved. Several people whom I have talked with agree with me and support this viewpoint.

1. On the weekend preceding and the weekend during XMAS exams 1973 the library made absolutely no changes in its regular weekend hours. Saturday afternoon they closed at 5:30. Sunday they stayed closed until 1:00 p.m. at which point they opened one basement study hall. At 2:30 the remaining floors of the library were opened to students. Approximately 150 students were lined up at this time waiting to enter the library. When I asked why no changes were made in the library hours, a member of the staff told me they hadn't realized that there would be an extra demand of the study facilities! This was in the middle of mid-year examinations. During final exams the situation was somewhat better, but I still think numerous students would have used extra hours if they had been available. With an increasing tendency toward one term courses there is not that much difference any more between mid-year and final examinations.

2. The university residence office provided last year the grand total of two study rooms for student use. I found them very useful, especially for discussion purposes. Apparently this number was too many because in the middle of final exams last year, students were informed that one of the rooms was now being used as a storage room and no longer available to students for study purposes. My only comment is "Typically UNB. Everything else first and students and studying last."

3. The SUB is equipped with numerous small and medium and large sized conference rooms. These rooms are often (usually?)

vacant, especially during exam periods. They could be ideal for study purposes on nights when they aren't booked for meetings. However, the SUB director informed me "such a procedure was highly irregular" when I pointed out to him that the rooms were empty and asked him for the use of one of them. I went to the SUB after checking the three rooms available in the library and the one available at the residence office. Maybe a change in procedure could be effected here especially during exam periods. The SUB does after all belong to us, the students. And while talking about expanding the SUB maybe we could start by making more efficient use of what we do have. Of what use is a room that is empty

and cannot be used when someone wants it?

For a campus the size of UNB four or five study rooms seems hardly sufficient. The library is a great place if you wish to write and essay or research a book, however there are very few places to discuss a group project or discuss a course with a group of other people. And it is hardly appropriate to kick your roommate out because you want to have a discussion, especially during exams.

Thank you for printing this letter and I hope the Bruns does as good a job this year as it did last.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Waseem
C.S. 4

French entitled to bilingual education

Dear Editor:

I would like to rebut the article of recent date entitled, "French high school a farce?"

1. French Canadian's are entitled to a bilingual education, if their number and presence in this city is sufficient. Two hundred and fifty students plus an additional 30 or more per annum, definitely justifies the presence of such a school in the capital of a province where the French Canadian's number approximately forty-five per cent of the total population.

2. I cannot agree with you more, when you say we need integrated schools, bilingual schools where half the subjects are in English and half in French. I know, I spent my high school years in one.

3. In order to preserve the French language and culture in America, Quebec has opted for Bill 22. Bill 22 states that French is the official working language of that

province, and that newly landed immigrants are to educate their children in a bilingual environment, and nothing more.

4. Furthermore, to say the French language and culture is dead, is about as ludicrous as you can get. The French language and culture has never been more aware to you, thus more alive today that it has ever been.

To be bilingual is to truly understand others, to culture one's self. People like you Mr. Edwards, being either radically pro English or pro French, are the reasons for the disunity in this country. People like you are twenty years behind the times, its about time you wake up. And to you Monsieur Edwards, I say, "know your facts before you quack".

A bilingual Canadian and damn proud of it.

ninth year of
Oldest Official
A member of
Press. The
Brunswick's larg-
is published
on campus of the
Brunswick. Opinions
paper are not
of the Student
or the Adminis-
ity. The Bruns-
d in the Student
ge Hill, Freder-
Acadia Printing
subscriptions, \$3
d in cash at the
Permit No. 7.
rates available
307 Davenport
and rates available