

Low Fees Equals Low Budgets

Restraint, austerity, cutbacks... these are words familiar to all of us. It now looks as if the UNB Student Union sponsored clubs and organizations are going to be thinking a lot about these words over the next few weeks—their budgets are going to be slashed to forty percent or less, of what they requested.

The reasons? Firstly, Student Union general fees have been fixed at \$30 since time immemorial (an extra ten dollars goes to the Third Century Fund), while fixed costs have been rising. Secondly, there are more clubs requesting funds than ever before and most clubs are requesting much more money than previously.

Revenues for the Student Union from fees this year will remain at about \$190,000. Last year's fixed costs (which includes Student Union office expenses, CHSR expenses and Brunswickan expenses) totaled \$146,667. This year fixed costs are projected to total \$159,120. Clubs and organisations have requested \$89,187.40. We leave you to calculate how much the Student Union's Administrative Board (A.B.) will have to cut budgets.

The Brunswickan has repeatedly called for an increase in Student Fees. This year we do so at budget time so the leaders of campus clubs will take more note. If something is not done, the Student Union will soon have to stop funding clubs completely.

Why have fees not been increased? It is a politically unpopular thing to do so the SRC has been reluctant to call the needed referendum on the issue. With pending fall elections, now is the time to start lobbying for a referendum question.

Although a certain amount of budget cutting is generally a healthy thing, when it is done on a massive scale it encourages organizations to pad their budgets and turns future budgeting into a nightmare. Massive cutting also makes each organization feel it has been singled out which can generate resentments. Enough antagonism exists around the Student Union without this source of frustrations.

When considering the facts presented, many people may suggest trying to reduce those costs listed under, "fixed costs." This may be done where possible (the Brunswickan, whose budget has not been officially approved may have to take certain cuts), but the slack can not all be taken up from fixed costs.

One of the major functions of the Student Union is to provide activities and cultural events for the students. It is time we, the students, think seriously about increasing our share of the funding of these events. Meanwhile, happy nightmares to this years' club treasurers and presidents — and to the A.B.



mugwump journal

By DAVID MAZEROLLE

Welcome to the second week of the Bruns. We're still disorganized and frenzied around deadline time, and SERIOUSLY understaffed, but we're trying. Anyone who wants to help us out of our morass can come to the Brunswickan meeting in room 35 of the SUB, every Friday at 12:30. Ya mo be dere.

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There are two incidents this week which will have far-reaching effects. The first is the university withholding all the Student Union fees. Without this almost 250,000 dollars, the Student Union will soon be broke. That's broke, with a Capital B. The Brunswickan could survive, since we raise a great amount of our funds through advertising revenues. So it is hoped we will still be around to gleefully chart John Bosnitch's fiery downfall. He must know now how Adolph felt in the final days in the bunker. Bosnitch must now account for all the ten-dollar rebates given out to students during the last school year. That will not be an easy task, since upwards of two thousand students requested and received their rebate. Most who received their money were on a computer list, but some, as long as they ragged loud enough at a CSL employee or John Bosnitch, got their money and the transaction was noted on a slip of paper, the back of a lunch bag or whatever.

The second incident is the university revoking SUB Holdings' liquor licence. SUB Holdings is a student-run company headed by Andre Faust. Or was, since he was relieved of his appointment at the same time as the revoking. The university is now looking for a new manager. If they hire just one man, fine. If they hire a whole company, a good number of students employed by SUB Holdings could be out of a job. The Queen's luncheon this coming Tuesday requires forty licensed waiters. How many of them will come from the already capable staff? Also, when does the company get compensated for the liquor stock and assets the university took over?

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Last week's excellent article on the death of Maple Li was researched and written by Kaye MacPhee and Mike MacKinnon. It was our fault that the name was left out. This story exemplifies the finest the Bruns has to offer in informative reportage of our campus.

In response to Cynthia Larsen's letter in Soundoff, I have no regret for dedicating the issue to the memory of Maple Li. I feel, if the article helps prevent a similar accident it was worth it. A life saved is the greatest tribute to Maple's memory. For a personal and heartfelt account of the tragedy, read the letter in Soundoff from Maple's fatehr Tillotson Li.

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The Queen! The Queen! Next Tuesday, September 25, H.R.H. and Prince Philip will be dining at McConnell Hall (don't laugh; there won't be veal cutlets around for miles) at about one o'clock. The dining hall will be closed to students on Monday and Tuesday, presumably to clean the place up and to secure the building. I would like to propose a deal to the administration: since students are inconvenienced for two days, why not give them the day off from classes?

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One last word, courtesy of Rick Wightman. Rick asks: "Why were the SRC doors painted red/black with the boundary below centre? (Optical centre is 10% above measured centre). I guess it goes to show two things. 1) The unbalanced nature of the SRC and 2) The proportion of bulshitters on campus, by relative political position in the SRC."