

EDITORIAL

Burgess derelict in duties

Council makes uninformed decision

Monday night, Cal Johnston and I attended the S.U. budget meeting along with almost 100 other 'concerned' representatives of the various S.U. fundable clubs and organizations. What followed was one of the most poorly executed budget proposals in the history of our union.

Here, we had what remained of council, about 12 members who, forty-five minutes before the meeting, were handed the budget proposals which had been approved by the Finance Commission (a.k.a. Doug Burgess and some other unknown female who was not present at the budget meeting). Their recommendations were thus presented to these uninformed councillors for the purpose of allocating some \$200,000. worth of our money. This year Mr. Burgess devised a scheme of proportionately distributing monies evenly between the 50 odd fundable organizations. This breakdown fell into six categories including office supplies, guest speakers, career development, newsletter, and 'other'. The breakdown allowed 90 cents a head, for instance for office supplies, one dollar a head for guest speakers etc. Councillors familiar with preceding budget proposals looked aghast at this new percentage system while onlookers scratched their heads and looked puzzled. It seemed logical, they thought.

Problems arose. How, asked the spokesman for the Physics club, does council justify allocating \$177. for guest speakers for their organization when they have absolutely no intention of having any? Could they not just re-allocate the money to conferences which they need the funding for? Suddenly council was confused and just as suddenly there was a barrage of questions and demands from other organizations asking for the re-allocation of their funds from one category to another. General pandemonium ensued.

Sometime around midnight, quorum was lost before the biggest casualty, CHSR (they were cut \$10,000.) were able to raise their objections. A meeting was called for Thursday (last night) and at press time it is questionable whether or not they will have quorum.

Mr. Burgess has come under some heavy criticism for his performance at Monday's meeting. In fact, CHSR has called for his immediate resignation.

Not only was he often 'flip' in answering questions about his budget, he, on at least two occasions during the meeting, was seen heading upstairs, presumably to a little brown bottle at the Social Club. According to S.U. councillors, these little sojourns to the Club are standard procedure during meetings for Mr. Burgess.

I suppose the weekly \$70. honoraria which we pay him helps supplement expenses incurred at the Social Club.

Tuesday, I was informed by our horrified ad manager that none of our advertisers this year had received an invoice from Mr. Burgess. Concerned advertisers were justifiably upset.

Mr. Burgess, however, has not been in his office for three days so it is very difficult to approach him about anything to do with his responsibility as VP Finance. According to councillors, he pleaded that he didn't have time to fulfill these obligations without a bookkeeper. Three weeks ago, council gave him the authority to hire someone. He didn't. Not only does the Student Union suffer because of his lack of organization, so, too, does CHSR and the Brunswickan who were informed by Mr. Burgess that only he was capable of proper billing (although last year our ad manager did his own billing each and every Friday).

Dare I say it? Mr. Burgess, you are being derelict in your duties.

When Aubrey Kirkpatrick left office (the former comptroller), there was a \$45,000. surplus in the S.U. coffer. Where is it and why have there been cutbacks for virtually every club and organization on campus? One could speculate that the money, perhaps, was lost at S.U. pubs last year, however, Mr. Burgess, there weren't any.

Ultimately, we have Mr. Burgess tucking away \$18,000. into the S.U. bank account for 'Special Projects'. As he claims, someone (i.e. himself) has to make 'value judgements' to decide to which clubs and organizations these 'Special Projects' money will be allocated.

If, as you claim, Mr. Burgess, the money just 'isn't there' in the 6,000 x \$30. to the Student Union paid by us in September, and in the \$45,000. surplus from the preceding comptroller, then what precisely is the financial status of the Student Union?

Although all councillors have access to these figures, I have been informed by members of your council that no one, excluding yourself, has seen them. Are you, Mr. Burgess, the sole individual privy to \$250,000. of our money?

It appears so.

Brenda Paul



...Mugwump
Journal...

by Calum Johnston



What a week. I'm really ticked off, so if this column sounds a little mixed up, it's because of all the morons around here. One in particular. Can you say Dink Budgets? Sure you can. He's supposedly the VP Finance of our "respected" Student Union. First strike: his budget. He and "some girl" were the Finance Commission who arbitrarily cut and reapportioned budgets. Burgess is a cost accountant. All he knows is numbers. He has no human relations abilities, nor does he want any. Burgess feels he has everyone by the private parts because he sets your budget. Be nice to him, and you won't get cut as severely as, say, CHSR, whose budget request was cut by about 25%.

Strike two: over the summer, Burgess wanted the Brunswickan to stop sending out invoices for advertising and outside production, seeing as how they are Student Union invoices. Fine. We'll sell the ads and give the SU all the information regarding prices and they can send out the bills. I don't give a damn who sends out the bills as long as the Brunswickan gets paid for its advertising. Katherine Davidson, our Ad Manager actually liked the idea because it meant invoicing would be easier to do. Seems ideal. Here comes the but. But, we published our first issue on September 13, 1985 and since then no invoices have been sent out. Our advertisers are uneasy and with good reason, seeing as how when the invoices are finally sent out many of them will be receiving bills as high as \$1000. This of course is quite a drain on the cash flow of most small businesses. Thanks, Dink, you're a big help.

Next, at the October 23 meeting of the CHSR-FM Executive Council the following motion was unanimously passed: "Whereas the VP Finance has not presented a financial statement to Council since his appointment, fails to keep councillors and students updated on the financial status of the UNB Student Union, is often not present at council meetings when issues are being discussed, and generally has failed in his duties. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive of CHSR-FM condemn the financial policies of the VP Finance, Doug Burgess and call for his immediate resignation."

Jeff Whipple, CHSR Station Director, sent a letter to Burgess outlining the above motion and went on to say, "While this in no way should be construed as the feelings of our station membership, although I am sure it is, it is the feeling of the Executive, and therefore the Editorial Board, of CHSR-FM that you (Burgess) do not have the confidence of the students and should resign immediately."

Strike three, Burgess. You're out. Or at least you should be.

Today at 2:30 in the Blue Lounge of the SUB, Janice Brown, representing the Conservation Council of New Brunswick, will be discussing environmental issues that the council is presently working on. There will be an audio and visual presentation on ground water contamination will be featured. If any of you are environmentally conscious, I urge you to attend.

Our middle four pages, as you may have noticed, aren't Brunswickan pages. The Aquinian's budget was severely cut and probably won't be able to publish more than two or three issues. In an effort to inform the students of this, the Brunswickan offered to publish a special insert edition of the Akwinyan. We're donating our facilities and materials, and they're paying the costs of printing the extra pages. The Aquinian/Akwinyan staff are a feisty bunch and certainly aren't going to let their paper go down for the count without putting up a hell of a fight. The Brunswickan supports the Aquinian and always will. Good luck, Akwinyanites!

A note to the person who submitted a letter to the editor regarding Springsteen's concert gross earnings. We have mispaled the letter and that is why it doesn't appear in the Blood and Thunder section this week. If it is found it will be published in our next issue, or you may resubmit it. I would like to apologize to this person and wish to ensure him that losing the letter was not done on purpose for any reason.

It's almost 4pm on Thursday afternoon. Our deadline looms only an hour away and someone has just handed me a petition asking for Burgess' resignation. And Burgess is such a sweet guy, too.