

# EDITORIAL

## Ombudsman

TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

IS THAT THE QUESTION?

Whether or not the University of New Brunswick should have an Ombudsman is a question that has been tossed around, back and forth, between the university and students for years.

Theoretically, with qualities of ability, integrity and impartiality, an Ombudsman would serve to help students solve any problems they might have with the university and/or its regulations. Of course, there arise many questions: Who has the ability, integrity AND impartiality to act in the capacity of an Ombudsman? Should an Ombudsman be a student or a non-student -- which would better serve student interests? With such a small campus, as compared to other Canadian universities, does UNB really need a full-time Ombudsman? Should an Ombudsman be paid as such? Already the questions seem overwhelming.

Presently, UNB's Dean of Students, Don Eagle is acting in the capacity of an Ombudsman *and*, at the same time, acting in the capacity of Dean of Students.

Dean Eagle has worked (and successfully) in the capacity of a part-time Ombudsman but he says, "... I have yet to be convinced that there is a need for one." However, he also goes on to say "... I am quite prepared to accept a decision of the university and work with one." As well, Eagle raises the point that, with such a small campus, a full-time Ombudsman might not be necessary.

What about a part-time one? Fees still have to be paid, whether they be for full- or part-time service.

Impartiality is fine and dandy in theory but most often wears thin in practice. Thus the argument is raised as to who would (or should) incur the cost of paying an Ombudsman...the university or the students? As it stands, the Senate of the university has approved that a part-time students' Ombudsman be appointed from either internal or external candidates. And that the cost should be split evenly between students and the university in the interest of maintaining impartiality.

Gee, it would seem that all the necessary ingredients are in the works ... except the money.

We all know, or at least we have been told, that student funds are depleted to the point that we are in debt. We also know, or have been told, of rumblings from the SU offices that a student fee increase might be implemented in the near future.

Surely, some of these proposed increased fees could be channelled in meaningful directions. Maybe even into the pocket of an Ombudsman who is able, full of integrity and, above all impartial.

Something to think about, eh?



Mugwump

By VALERIE WHITE  
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Journal

Well here it is Friday again (I know you hear me say that every week, but it's such a good way to start off.) Anyway, I am in my glory right now because the New York Mets won the World Series--yes I am a Mets fan. It's safe to say that now that they've won. And what a game too! Even the pitcher got a hit!! Too bad Boston--maybe next year, (but I doubt it).

I have a lot of compliments to pass out this week so I might as well get started. First of all congratulations to the UNB Woodsmen teams for their great showing in last weekend's competition. Both men's and women's teams came out of the woods looking pretty good. I was also glad to hear that the Foresters were able to have their annual Hammerfest. It was quite a success from what I hear; I am only sorry that I missed it. It was nice to see that past difficulties didn't stand in the way of that annual tradition.

And a big pat on the back for the UNB Red Sticks Field Hockey team for their victory in the AUSA competition held here last weekend. Big surprise there, right folks? Just because they went into the competition with a 10-0 record had nothing to do with it. I wish them good luck in Toronto this weekend as they compete for the CIAU title.

You all know, today is Hallowe'en. As all of you goobers out there (oops, I mean goblins) get ready, remember that Hallowe'en is for fun and games--It's not a free for all invitation to go around vandalizing property (or people for that matter). And speaking of Hallowe'en, the Harrison House Pumpkin Sacrifice was last night. I still can't figure out why it isn't tonight, but I guess that's beside the point now. It's sort of a strange ritual, but I must say it certainly is interesting. And it seems to get spookier every year. Well at least it gets me in the mood for Hallowe'en. But I still don't know what the point of the whole thing is.

Shame! Shame! Shame! on you naughty little boy who wouldn't walk our editor from campus to her residence the other night. Luckily there was another gentleman around who was happy to do so in your stead. It's nice to know that at least some of the men of Jones House are honouring the escort system established within the male residence.

Would somebody please tell me what the point is of planting all of those scrawny little shrubs around the outside of the SUB? I suppose that they are there to prevent people from sitting on those concrete ledges which just happen to have a 25 foot drop on the other side. If you (the gardeners) really think that those pityful little shrubs will do the job, then more power to you. Go ahead, get plant happy. But if you really thought that the situation was that dangerous, then perhaps you should have erected a guard rail. I wonder how well those shrubs are going to grow in November?

Well it's OOZE Cruise time--Again!! This time the thing is going to go through. I don't care if I have to go by myself, I will not be disappointed again. I'll go through the whole thing and have a lousy time if I have to. So there!! But seriously folks (for all you Marks' borthers fans out there) the Ooze Cruise is a happening time. I would hate to see any graduate miss it. Just think, if all goes well, this is the last chance you will have to do this!

Before I go I will have to thank the girl from the Star Trek Club for trying to trek no no, track me down. I know I am a hard person to find but I did get your message and I will definately be at the meeting on Sunday night. Seven o'clock in room 103 of the SUB, right? I hear we have a chance to see Leonard Nimoy--sounds fascinating to me.