

EDITORIAL

Spending the dough frivolously

by Allan Carter

Sometimes one has to question the motives of the university. Just recently, members of UNB's Board of Governors received letters from the university secretary asking each member if they, and a friend, would be interested in tickets for the showing of the *Phantom of the Opera*. The BOG's next meeting coincides with the show which is to be held on March 25. The BOG consists of 45 members and tickets are valued at \$32.50 each.

In a news article this week (see page three), University secretary Stephen Stropole explains that if demand for the tickets exceeds those provided as complementary, then money will have to be found elsewhere to purchase the other tickets. However, what still remains unclear is how many tickets the university received as complementary and where the money for the other tickets will come from.

Indeed, about \$3000.00 for tickets in order to "thank" volunteer BOG members for attending six meetings per year may seem to be a very acceptable initiative. Stropole argues that he feels the complementary tickets are simply a way the University can compensate its BOG members who volunteer their time to sit on the Board.

But Student Union VP External and BOG member Tammy Yates does not share Stropole's sentiments. She argues that the BOG decides on the amount of student tuition every year and now the "university intends to buy theater tickets with that money". Furthermore, Yates is also not impressed with the university

spending money on alcoholic beverages for BOG meetings.

On principle, Yates makes a very good point. Tuition fees increase every year and this year the university is striving to cut cost anyway it can. Practically every department and faculty at UNB have been asked to cut back their budgets. Further, services which the university provide that greatly benefit students are being operated on shoe string budgets, such as counselling service, the International Student Advisory's office and the UNB teaching center. The economic outlook for post secondary education is bleak given the weak financial commitments from both the provincial and federal governments.

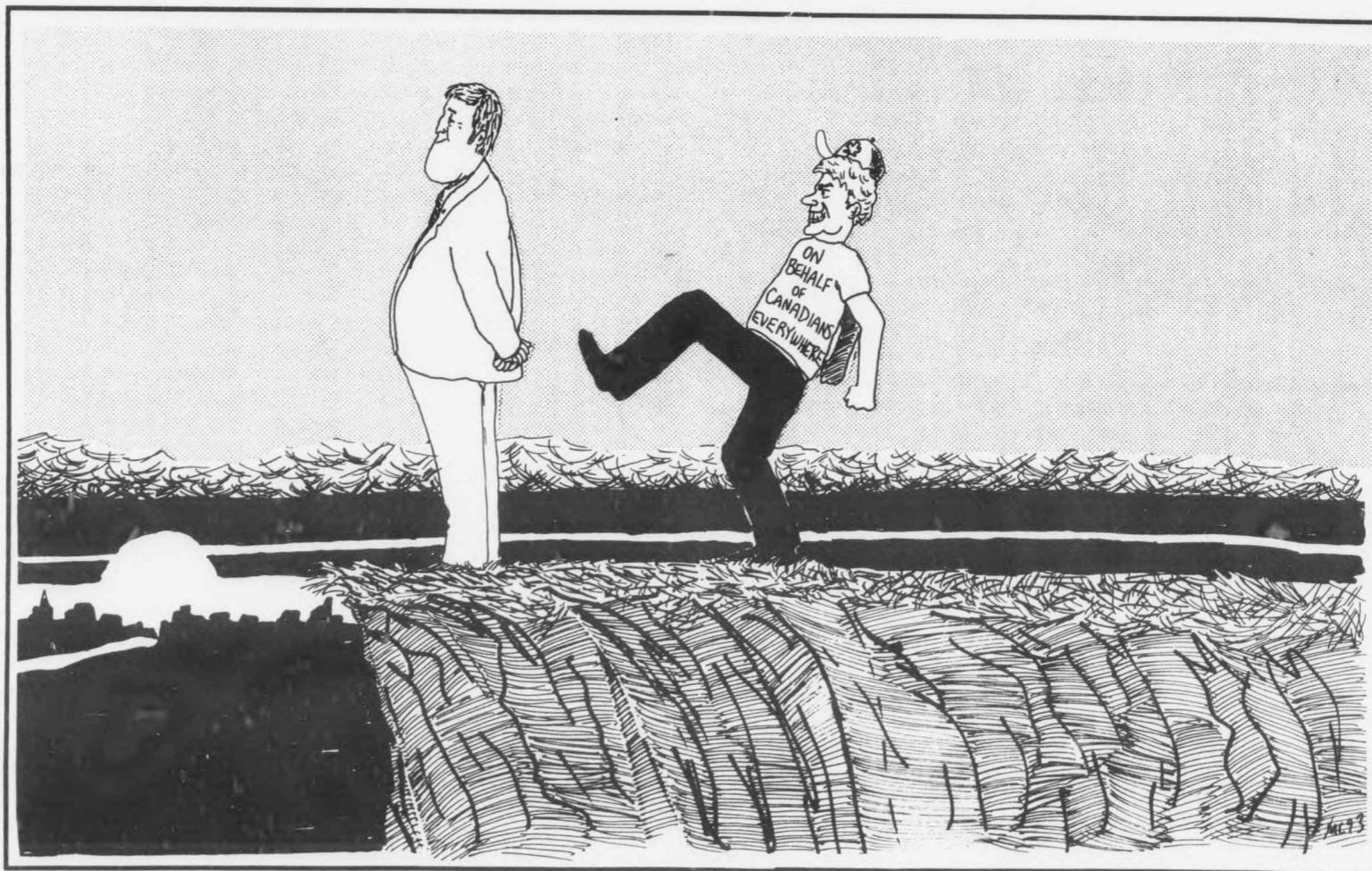
The university is sending a contradictory message to its staff members and the students. On the one hand, the university is informing the community that economic times are tough and tough measures have to be taken. Yet, apparently a substantial amount of money can be found to "thank" BOG members who meet a modest six times a year to really only rubberstamp decisions already made. I'm sure Counselling Services or the UNB Teaching Center would enthusiastically welcome the money which the university has spent on tickets for the *Phantom of the Opera*.

However, all is not lost. As a BOG member, Yates has decided to request tickets for the show so that the Student Union can raffle them off with the proceeds going to a bursary fund for needy students. The other BOG members who have also requested tickets should do the same.

In fact, the BOG should take a good look at the money which is being frivolously spent to accommodate them with alcoholic beverages during long-day meetings.

In fact, the BOG should take a good look at the money which is being frivolously spent to accommodate them with alcoholic beverages during long-day meetings. In most governments and some business corporations such expenditures are not allowed. Why should the university be allowing it? Certainly providing lunch for the members is reasonable since they meet all day, but providing alcoholic beverages is totally unacceptable.

Perhaps the amount of money being spent for tickets and alcoholic beverages for BOG members is minimal, but budget cuts and tuition hikes affect every UNB community member. They should also affect BOG members as well. In this week's issue another news article deals with the unfortunate story of a married student couple who had the heat in their home disconnected. The couple were waiting for a loan so they could pay their overdue heating bill. One of the students involved remarked that "there's not much money going around". This is a statement that the university and the BOG should keep in mind the next time they decide to frivolously spend student money.



Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication
Established 1867

Editor-in-Chief
Allan Carter

Managing Editor
Aime Phillips

News Editor
Karen Burgess

Entertainment Editor
Alastair Johnstone

Sports Editors
Frank Denis
Bruce Denis

Offset Editor
and Graphic Artist
Mimi Cormier

Photo Editor
Kevin G. Porter

Distractions Editor
Jeff Czopor

Features Editors
Chris Lohr
Petula Jurasek
Dave Burt

Technical Co-ordinator
Eric Drummie

Business Manager
Jayde Mockler

Advertising Manager
Tara Froning

Advertising Design
Bill Traer

Typesetters

Rose Knox,
Kathy Makela, Lisa LeBlanc
Janet Glendennin

Proofreader
Veda Bowlin

Staff This Issue

James Rowan, Bill Traer,
Debbie Bartlett, Kathy Makela, John
Valk, Tristis Baird, Adrian Park, Jetholo
E. Cabilete, Marc Landry, Heather
Labrecque-Havens, Luke Peterson,
Gordon Loane, Brian Nicholas N.
Cameron, Desiree Harrison, Kourosh
Mohseni, Sherry Morin, Jamie Colvin,
Michael Smith, Mark Minor,
Mark Savoie, Jonathan Stone

The Brunswickan, in its 126th year of publication, is Canada's oldest official student publication. The Brunswickan is generally published every Friday during the school year by Brunswickan Publishing Inc with a circulation of 10,000. Membership is open to all University of New Brunswick Fredericton students, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute.

The opinions contained in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Brunswickan.

The Brunswickan, while being an open forum for the viewpoints and opinions of all UNB students, may refuse any submission that is judged to be racist, sexist, libellous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for brevity. Letters generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length and must contain your signature, student number and phone number, or it will not be printed.

All copy submitted must be double spaced, on ONE side of the page only and must be legible. If we can't read it, we won't print it. The Brunswickan now accepts copy on 3 1/2 inch disk, either Macintosh or MS-Dos format.

Articles printed in The Brunswickan may be freely reprinted provided proper credit is given.

The Brunswickan is printed with flair by Maritime Web in Moncton, and impeccably delivered by Tiny.

Subscription rates are \$25 per year. Second class mail is in effect -#8120

National advertising rates are available from Campus Plus at (416) 362-6468.

The Brunswickan
Student Union Building
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 4400
E3B 5A3
Phone: (506) 453-4983
Fax: (506) 453-4958