

## Letters to the Editor

### Malmberg makes sweeping generalizations

Dear Editor:

We, as students would like an opportunity to voice our opinions in opposition to Mr. Malmberg's statement that "College Students Are Like Welfare Cases".

Mr. Malmberg has slurred two groups in one 'fell-swoop'. His statement infers that every New Brunswick citizen on welfare has a choice and their choice is to go on welfare. This is an incredible generalization for a civil servant, a person whose salary comes from tax dollars, to be making. He shows his distaste for welfare recipients and students through his choice of words. A question that must be answered is whether or not these are official or defacto government policies.

Mr. Malmberg is the deputy minister of education. If his statement reflects his personal point of view, his ability to do his job objectively is extremely questionable.

Students in New Brunswick are not blind to the "financial reality" of the Maritimes and we understand, perhaps better than anyone, that we have an obligation to pay more than what is our fair share in supporting post-secondary education.

However amidst this, student observed reality, students are faced with increasing costs all across the board. We are undeniably already over extended

financially, and we cannot afford to pay higher tuition fees at the present time. New Brunswick's present tuition is the 3rd highest in Canada, following closely behind P.E.I. and N.S.

The MPHEC has recommended the tuition fees increase be indexed with the cost of living. We feel that this is a very weak and short sighted statement as it shows a startling lack of awareness of the problems which we students in the Maritimes face. The funding formula in regards to New Brunswick Student Aid has remained the same for the last three years and has not been indexed with the cost of living.

The MPHEC have failed to realize that minimum wage in New Brunswick has remained the same for the past couple of years and has not increased with the cost of living. The cost of textbooks and supplies (at UNBF) rise on an average of 15 - 20 percent per year.

Due to Bill C-14, students are now unable to receive any unemployment insurance benefits. Unemployment for students in the summer months is at its highest level ever (15.1 percent) national average.

The world in which we live is constantly changing and we as university graduates will be faced with society's problems. But there will be no hope for achieving

peaceful solutions to these problems unless there is the ability, the expertise, the methods and the desire to find solutions. We will require a population that must be educated as never before. Regardless if we are concerned with global, national or regional problems, the unavoidable truth is that in future years we will require the ability and intellect that only a university experience can give.

In conclusion, we regard Mr. Malmberg's comments as an insult. He condemns students as leeches on the government, the students today who will perhaps be the influence in later years in the business field and with the government. It appears that universities are fast becoming the institutions of the elite. The era of the "right to an education" is in danger of drawing to a close.

We are not asking for handouts, only sufficient funding so that students will not be forced to abandon their desires for a university education simply because of expenses.

Yours truly,  
Robert Palmer  
Science Representative  
Claire Fripp  
Vice President External

### Burnham off base

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the law of diminishing returns. The idea of a 1900 MW wood burning plant is absurd for the same reasons that a coal, oil, or nuclear plant of that size has not been built in N.B. It would be too big to be economically or technologically feasible.

What should be pointed out now however is that several smaller wood burning electrical generators scattered around the province as part of the total energy mix, as suggested by Steve Heckbert, is not absurd at all. In fact, it looks like a damn good idea to me.

Here's why I feel such a system would be beneficial to N.B. It would:

1. be labour intensive (jobs are needed in N.B.)
2. use local resources (good for provincial balance of payments, unlike uranium or oil)
3. have no radiation hazards from the plant (unlike nuclear power plants, as the disaster in Pennsylvania has demonstrated)
4. have no long term danger from waste material (even after 20 to 30 years of study, no safe method has been found to dispose of spent nuclear fuel. This is frightening when one considers the documented increasing incidence of nuclear leaks and of cancers in people exposed to radiation)

5. be beneficial to N.B. forest management by providing a market for all material in the forests, thus allowing N.B. to utilize forest areas currently unutilized due to the encroachment of scrub unmerchantable hardwoods.

6. because of its decentralized nature permit significant use of cogenerated heat, thus raising the generating plant's thermal efficiency (this would conserve fuel by allowing heating of adjacent buildings or greenhouses using process heat. Process heat of large power plants the size of Point Lepreau is presently dumped into the sea, as this heat is in too concentrated a form to be utilized usefully)

7. have little or no emission of harmful substances from the stack such as sulphur, heavy metals, or radioactivity.

8. of course, lastly, be a move toward energy independence for N.B. (perhaps there's an alternative to sending dollars to Venezuela for oil and to Ontario for Uranium).

Before I end this letter, let's have a quick look at J.U. Burnham's fancy statistics. I didn't have time to check all his figures but I did check one. He writes that the annual allowable cut of hardwood in N.B. is 26 million

cubic meters. This is presently true, as stated in the Reed Report 1978. However, if he went back to this document where he apparently got this number from and read it carefully, he'd notice something that he missed the first time. This allowable cut figure is for wood of the high quality that is presently utilized in the province. Since presently (except for the pulp mill at Nackawic) virtually the only hardwood used in N.B. goes to sawlumber and veneer, one can immediately see that this number includes only a comparatively small portion of N.B.'s total hardwood resource. My guess is that it includes about 20 percent of the total amount of hardwood available in N.B., the rest being presently unmerchantable scrub hardwood suitable only for fuel.

How dependable are J.U. Burnham's other figures? It hardly seemed worth checking. I didn't

In light of the frightening disaster at Harrisburg, PA. last week, this letter gains particular significance.

I'm sure that when N.B. Power does energy planning and analysis, they must do a better job than Mr. Burnham did. I certainly hope so.

Tory Thompson

### Separatistes

Dear Editor:

Just recently the UNB French Department has requested that one of the men's residences be reserved for the French students. Is this form of segregation good or bad?

Segregation of the French and English in New Brunswick has been attempted before, and, I might add, with little success. In 1977 the Parti Acadien, a French group in New Brunswick, asked the N.B. Government for the 1/3 of the province which was their's about 70 years ago. This proposal brought about many letters to the Telegraph-Journal and l'Evangeline, the province's only French newspaper. It was an issue that brought about much ill feeling between the French and the English that never existed before to any appreciable degree. Needless to say the proposal was refused.

Another attempt at French-English separation was at the bilingual high schools. Areas in the province where the ratio of French people to English people is about 50 percent had the most trouble. The French parents wanted unilingual schools for their children because they felt that they were losing their language and their culture being exposed to the English element. This issue is still being disputed and it also is causing a rift between the French and the English.

The French speaking people of

N.B. can't be blamed for wanting to preserve their cultural heritage and their language but as illustrated above, causing ill-feelings by segregation is not the answer.

Such is the situation at UNB. The French Department wants to make sure that the French students at UNB feel at home and are provided the best chance not to lose their culture. However, they are not choosing the proper way to achieve their goal. Since as mentioned above, segregation between French and English people causes hard feelings, I think that a French residence on campus would just make life miserable for everybody. It's not unlikely that drunken English students, with their prejudices inflamed by this move, would be constantly harassing the French house.

A further concern would be the overall campus spirit. Since good spirit on campus depends on unity, it can be readily predicted that a French residence would help to kill campus spirit.

Although its intentions are good I don't think the French Department has looked closely enough at what they are proposing. I think if they look closer at the probably results of any French-English segregation in N.B. they will see that it's bad news.

Yours truly,  
Robert Roy

Dear Editor:

A fortunate change in plans has permitted me to visit the fine city of Fredericton during UNB's Graduation week. I would like to call upon your assistance in locating former young men, namely: Robert McCleave, Andre Boucher, Robert Gaudet, John Newland.

I would love to continue what has been described as a "brief

liason" with these particular men, due to the fact that I am no longer seeing the Rolling Stones.

Waiting impatiently  
Maggie T.

### Lost loves

PS. I believe my ten top tips as recently released in a local version of the National Inquirer will greatly assist in providing a memorable evening for all involved.

wound up with a \$134 million loss b) bid to sell \$2 billion more in the form of a CANDU reactor and heavy water plant to Argentina although that country refuses to sign the international non-proliferation treaty which would have them agree not to make nuclear weapons.

c) a growing nuclear industry that still doesn't know what to do with the wastes it produces. Can you imagine installing a new toilet in your house without attaching any plumbing to it. And yet using all the same? We are told "we'll think of something", hardly an inspiring thought.

As many examples show, now at election time, is the only time your MP has to listen to his/her voters. Now is the time to ask for a national inquiry into all aspects of Canada's nuclear industry, from safety to morality.

Robert McCleave