

Student senator stirs it up

Have you as a student got something bothering you? Well, if it has to deal with discrimination, course/professor relations, who's who, and just about anything dealing with students, then maybe, just maybe, we, the student senators can help. It's pretty apparent that the student body is being confronted with another "mystical body", this one known as student senators. Who are we? What are we supposed to be doing that you vote for the various faces on those blue, green, white and maroon posters every year?

Well good news for you who are interested. The student senators are duly elected students who ask for your support and input on probably the most important governing body of this campus. We are there to represent your views, needs and wants. That's all fine and terrific, how ever there's one necessary ingredient to all this. YOU! I mean, just how the hell do we know what to say, compromise on and at least attempt to change if no one says anything. I do not mean to be all that derogatory to the student. However, how many times have you heard something like: "Oh yeah! He (or she) is a student senator, I think!" OR "I think I had supper with one of them the other day." On the other hand you might have said or heard: "Who the... are the student senators around here." "You never see one or hear of them trying to do anything!"

I won't argue that but I will on the other hand say that as student senators we do hear a fair amount of the gripes of a few people, mostly personal friends, but that is not good enough. As a matter of fact it's not even close to being what it should be! Anyone ignorant enough to say we as a group don't count for much, well, tough bananas friend and it's about time you smartened up! I know I'm coming on a bit strong. I should, dammit! It seems to me and the other student senators that this apparent "sit back on your ass and let things happen" attitude has gone far enough. If the shit needs to be stirred, stir it! Why pay X amount of dollars, some of it to put us as student senators where we are, if you the student body couldn't really care? On the other hand (again) if we don't seem to be doing the job, yell, scream, say something and most importantly, give some constructive criticism. After all, what good is it to tear something or someone apart, (and stop what little progress which could be made) without helping to move on to better things. I hope I've made that clear!

In an attempt to get more student input, more data or facts about student problems and the necessary evidence to put certain people, organizations etc. in their place, there is now a definite gathering place for students. As you may or may not know (you should!) across from the Bruns-

office is the campus ministry office. There, on Tuesday's and Friday's from 11:30 - 1:30 the ministers have been generous enough to offer us their facilities. Our phone number is 453-4972. As an aside, I hope this is only a start. Further, I hope that a permanent office in the SUB can be found. After all, though other facilities such as Little Records or the Travel Office provide functions, our body is of, and for students, for the justification of their being here!

Just a small example of why I feel I am here; for years I have skated at the L.B. Rink, paid my SRC fees which I presumed, along with providing gym facilities did other things. Anyway, now I get the chance to skate at the wonderful, glorious Aitken Centre. Big deal! It's another shack where I can skate, fine, but I guess I won't be skating at L.B.R. for free any more. Granted, I might be wrong, I'm looking it over and if you can help straighten me out, great. It's helping me help you. Remember, I'm a student with problems too, nothing new. Any way, SRC fees are up, L.B.R. looks

out (for some groups at least), it's costing us money to see campus sport's teams and now they want to charge us fifty cents a head (more if you're not a UNB student). Another aside: since Saint Thomas University students through their SRC have made arrangements to use UNB's sports facilities via a proportion of their SRC fees, why should they be charged a buck at our games, and of course vice-versa. Aren't students, students? I'm confused! Why all these exceptions to the rules? It seems there are plans to "tax" us to no end. What I hope happens is that the information will be forth coming from the A.B., the Senate or someone of you. My point in this is that since we weren't charged at L.B.R. why charge us at the Aitken Centre? If some of our SRC fees went towards the L.B.R. convert them to the Aitken Centre. If not, and the University paid the shot (or a combination of the two or . . .) (how?) didn't they get some compensation from the City of Fredericton (Fred's your pal-right?). C'mon somebody, speak up, help me spread the word (please?)

Anyway, that's enough. Though this is a very minor point and you may not think it really important, give it a second, third even c-

fourth thought. Though its only 50 cents to skate in such a beautiful facility, that's not the point. The place was built with cost in mind. If they knew we were going to pay in more than one way, then why the hell not do the thing up right

(that is, put everything in) after all, expenses will get higher before they get any lower so it's going to cost anyway. I dare say that once the tradition has been set, once the bloody thing is paid for, the price of admission will be kept up (for God knows how many reasons - all to help us - right!) Besides what about the detrimental effect on the motivation of students to get out and exercise. Shouldn't the University keep in mind our physical as well as mental development? And don't give me that horseshit about students appreciating something more if they have to pay for it! I really doubt it makes a difference.

Well, don't necessarily lay all these ideas on any other student senator, I felt like airing out an idea or two. But don't forget the reason why this was written and that student senators are available on Tuesday's and Friday's, in the SUB. Our aim is to help you help us help ourselves.

See ya, John McCluskey

They pay that we may stay

Dear Editor:

I read with interest and concern the letter from Mr. Patrick concerning residences in your issue of Guy Fawkes' Day.

I fear that certain factual inaccuracies have been allowed to creep in to this discussion: I can assure Mr. Patrick that no direct payments have been made by off-campus students to the Residence Programme, either by cash, cheque, credit card, or any other

form of direct payment.

The fact of the matter is that the Residence Programme is subsidised not by donation, from off campus students but by the Faculty members of the University, who nobly accept salaries well below the Canadian average, as was reported in one of your recent issues, in order to allow those students who wish to participate in the education experience of residence life to do so at a

reasonable price.

I am sure your readers would wish to acknowledge the great debt of gratitude that is owed to the professors and lecturers who make this sacrifice year in year out.

Yours faithfully,

Neil MacGill
Professor and Benefactor
Resident Fellow of Bridges House

Agrees with Dealer article

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading an article titled "The pampered, privileged world of University Students", in the November 3rd issue of The Plain Dealer. It's hard hitting and factual and ought to make any student with a rational mind recognize he is a member of a privileged few living off the backs of the working class. The student is, to be truthful, a temporary welfare bum.

Of course, students like Jim Smith, David Miller and M. Figueroa would probably disagree, but they are not very rational people. Anybody who has contradicted themselves to the extent that those three people have (particularly in The Brunswickan and Plain Dealer), can only be considered extremely confused, or quite literally, bold faced liars.

But contradictions in the academic world of the university seem quite acceptable, as are conflicts of interest. UNB president

Jack (sic) Anderson is an excellent example being a university president and on the board of directors of the Fraser Co. Pulp and Paper Mill at the same time.

The average student, excluding the three mentioned above, prefer not to talk about issues like this. He (or she) seems quite willing to stagnate in their self indulgence and self centeredness, which only breeds apathy, ignorance, and confusion.

But this can change and this change should start with the student leaders themselves. Miller, Smith and Figueroa must recognize their selfcontradictions and confusions brought forth by their selfcenteredness and self-indulgence as students (and as student representatives). Then possibly they would think twice before passionately and unreasonably criticizing the competence of others, regardless of whom it may be.

Lawrence Murphy
Student

Senator picks up gauntlet

Dear Editor:

I am very upset with how little one of your staff writers seems to know about who governs what areas on campus. It is in my opinion that before a writer like Andy Steeves submits an article he should do a little research.

In answer to his comment that most Engineers "cannot see any benefits coming from NUS" I would like to inform him that the Head Hall poll in the last election voted in favour of retention of NUS. I would submit on this evidence that "the Engineers traditional conservatism" may have a lot to do with peer pressure. It is not possible that there may possibly be a few latent liberals in the Engineering Faculty. If you wonder how I know Andy, I was one of the people who counted the ballots.

The thing that really burns me the most in the article is his lack of knowledge of who runs what around here. The SRC does not have any jurisdiction in student parking, recycling waste paper

from the Computer Center and giving "better night time access to campus facilities. The issues fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate. As far as Saga Foods and the Smoke Shop, these are Private Businesses and we are in a capitalist system. If you want to know what the Senate does or what the SRC does Andy you can reach me at 453-4926 in room 301.

I hate to disillusion you further but the SRC cannot tell the Brunswickan what to or what not to print. This would be censorship in the worst form.

As far as the SUB being the center of campus I would like to point out a couple of things. It is really the Student Union Building, in other words it is owned by the Student Union. Last year the SRC held a meeting in the lounge at Lady Dunn, nobody could hear what anybody else was saying.

Also the SUB is the only place on campus with an adequate meeting room. By the way the Senate meets in T303 almost always.

People who work in any activity are to be congratulated, even if they are not doing a good job for at least they are involved. Those who sit back and only complain should either shut up or become involved. There is more than enough work to go around but more importantly your voice will be heard and your opinion will count. Someday we may suffer a rude awakening to see that we will no longer have a say in any university policy. Senate committees are desperate for students. I am afraid I can't promise you an honoraria from Senate because there is no such thing. Please become involved.

Sincerely,
Steve Berube
SRC Business Rep
Student Senator

More
Sound Off
on page 10



Mugwump

By

ED

WERTHMANN

Journal

... will be back next week.