

David Miller

I think that I have something to say about the SRC this week. An editorial a few issues ago coupled with comments from Editor Werthmann, expressed rather strong dissatisfaction with the SRC. Much of that dissatisfaction is still there, but I honestly believe that things are getting better. Cheers to Councillors Hildebrand and Bleakney for the motion to repeal SRC honoraria.

This student has been advocating their repeal since they were first introduced, and those who voted in favour of the motion are to be congratulated for being honest with themselves and with the student union.

SRC has certainly been getting a lot of bad press in the past two years, albeit most of it richly observed.

The unfortunate part about bad press, is that although it strives to "keep things honest" it tends to unduly inhibit any concrete decision making.

I believe that people have been discouraged from both running for positions and making decisions for the fear of bad press.

In fact, as I recall the first time I ever heard the term used at UNB was when Roy A.F. Neale was considering running for his third consecutive term as SRC president. He didn't for what was termed at the time as "bad press".

As the staff strip in the comics put it last week, in another month's time "you will not have Jim Smith to kick around anymore".

Every president in my memory has left in some sort of a haze of disappointment and political ill-will. I will categorically state that almost all of this ill-will was most assuredly not deserved.

It is a matter of extreme annoyance to me that people who have never gotten up off their butts in their lives, sit around and criticize the SRC.

What more is student government but students? People make honest mistakes, and if those mistakes were made honestly, then to hell with the armchair quarterbacks who criticize knowing only fragments of the picture.

If the situation continues, people in student government will begin to avoid more and more the making of any decision whatsoever. I would find this an impossible-disasterous, and yes, expected state of affairs.

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Here it is, less than one month after those two foresters were killed on the Trans-Canada Highway, and if anything has or is being done, it is being done most quietly.

At the last council meeting before Christmas, I made an effort to ask SRC what was being done. At the time, it proved almost impossible to get an answer. Only councillor Michael Bleakney seemed interested in giving me an answer to the question of what was going to be done.

President Smith made it clear that "he was not sitting on his ass" and that something was being done.

I think not. I think that those two students were killed, accidentally no doubt, and that other students both high school students and university students will be killed yet.

It is conceivable that steps will, in the long run, be taken to prevent Forestry students from being killed going to Forestry labs, but this is only a partial solution to the overall problem.

By all appearances the upper part of the city of Fredericton has been developed with little regard for pedestrians.

...My point - how quickly we forget.

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Had a thought about the Pope this morning. Wonder how he feels about male birth control pills. In the original paper "Humanae Vitae" by Pope Paul VI, the point is made that it is a sin [a Catholic sin] to prevent conception knowingly. The next paragraph goes on to say that the rhythm method is OK. I have had the thought that the latter two statements seem paradoxical, but this is not the issue here.

In any event the encyclical states of the woman who takes the pill "it is to be feared that the man who, growing used to anti-conceptive practices, will come to think of the woman as an instrument of selfish pleasure".

I ask the question, will be encyclical be rewritten to account for this new technology? Can we expect a statement to the effect that "the woman growing used to male birth control will come to think of the man as an instrument of selfish pleasure"?

In the same vein, it was released today that some school boards in Prince Edward Island have refused permission to allow representatives of the Planned Parenthood Society to speak in their schools.

This is absolutely preposterous, and it would seem that those school boards do not have much feeling for the pregnant teenager.

If the Planned Parenthood Society said things which the schoolboard disagreed with, surely a compromise could have been reached.

Maritime politicians made industrial 'Frankenstein'

New Brunswick, along with the rest of the Atlantic Provinces, saw the beginnings of an industrial development policy in the early 1960's which Doyle said had developed into a "Frankenstein." He said that most other provinces and states in North America did take as much interest in industrial development as the Maritimes did, so they had no examples to follow.

Doyle said Maritime politicians were concerned over the large amounts of money sunk into industrial development every year, but economists, civil servants, and politicians have no alternative policy proposals.

"Newfoundland and Nova Scotia far outclassed us in blunders and PEI couldn't afford to," Doyle said.

Doyle said the Bricklin would be the next big story to uncover in New Brunswick politics, although he said it was still too recent a story to study in detail.

A history subsequent to the one covered by Doyle in his book would start with the Great Depression, he said.

The Depression saw massive unemployment, soup kitchens, work gangs at 40 cents per person per day, and forest fires deliberately set so the government would have to hire people to put them out. The Conservative premier was Leonard Tilley, son of the Famous Sir Leonard Tilley. He was often compared to R.B. Benoit.

Tilley was followed in the premiership by the Liberal A.A. Dysart, the first Irish Catholic premier of New Brunswick.

Dysart began a program of rural electrification and road paving. Until this time, Doyle said, there were only nine miles of paved roads in the province, running from Saint John to Rothesay.

J.B. McNair, soon to become premier, opened up a scandal when he accused the provincial Conservatives of promising the provincial contract for oil to a Montreal firm in return for support in the upcoming provincial election. Doyle claimed this was of particular significance to New Brunswick politics at this time as K.C. Irving had been supporting the Liberals since their victory at the polls in 1935.

However, this actually cost the Liberals to lose votes in the 1939 election, although they still won. Doyle said people were offended by the attack on the Conservative leader, F.C. Squires.

Shortly after the election Dysart decided to retire, and he chose McNair to be his successor. However, he consulted the former Conservative premier J.B.M. Baxter before the choice was made.

McNair, who was premier until 1952, was often compared to a Baptist minister, Doyle said. This was the period when Irving was building up his commercial empire, acquiring tax concessions, crown lands, railways, and newspapers. He was "a very strong Liberal supporter," Doyle claimed.

Doyle described the 1940's as a quiet period in New Brunswick politics when there were budget surpluses and no scandals. Social

welfare programs were introduced and McNair worked quite closely with the federal Liberal government of William Lyon McKenzie-King.

Doyle said Dalton Camp was a student at UNB when in the 1940's and was working for the Liberal party. Also of note was the fact that in the 1944 provincial election the New Brunswick Liberal party hired a professional advertising agency. Doyle said this was the first time this was done in Canadian politics.



Art Doyle

Photo by Jack Trifis

The Conservatives, led by Hugh MacKay, barely survived. However this changed after Camp switched to the Conservative cause and in 1952 when Hugh John Flemming became Tory leader.

Doyle described Flemming as a small "C" conservative, and said he was one of the few premiers to leave the province less in debt than when he had come to power. Flemming caused a slight stir when, as minister of public works, he ordered the engineer who was responsible for rebuilding the Lincoln road to re-make his plans three times so that less trees would be destroyed. He also attracted attention when he had the road from Fredericton to Juniper (his home town) paved.

Doyle said the Liberal party was in "pretty rough shape" during these years. When Louie Robichaud became Liberal leader it was considered an upset, as was

his subsequent election victory in 1960. Doyle said he -- Robichaud worked hard for his victory, "travelling over 100,000 miles the year before. Doyle said Robichaud was without money most of the time.

Two powerful men during the Robichaud years, said Doyle, were Charles McElman, executive assistant to the premier, and Nelson Rattenbury, party fund-raiser.

Opposition to the government mounted in 1963 when Robichaud gave large concessions to South Nelson Forest Products. Therefore the election of that year was fought on the issue of industrial development. The Liberals won handily.

Meanwhile the Byrne Report was compiled and finished. This report, recommending radical changes to provincial finances, led to the Equal opportunity program. "This created a storm in New Brunswick like nobody had seen in decades," said Doyle.

Irving in particular was upset as he would lose property tax concessions. Very soon afterwards the New Brunswick press turned on the government. "It was a very tough time for the premier," he said.

"It was in this atmosphere that the Conservatives looked for a new leader," Doyle said. They were dissatisfied with Sherwood, leader at the time. J.C. Van Horne and Richard Hatfield were the two leading candidates. "Charley came back and ran against Richard Hatfield and trounced him soundly," Doyle said.

Robichaud held a fall session late in his term. "Meanwhile Charley's promises mounted to about 125."

"It was the politics of the 20's all over again in New Brunswick," Doyle said. Robichaud won the election by five seats which were won with less than fifty votes each. Van Horne then left New Brunswick for a holiday in the United States.

Doyle said the last three years of the Robichaud administration were "anti-climatic". "It wasn't very long before it became clear that nothing much was going to happen." It was time for a new government, said Doyle, and this is what happened in 1970.

CHSR changes schedule

As a result of a series of executive meetings over the Christmas vacation, CHSR's programming will be changed to improve service.

Director Alan Patrick has stated that the changes will be gradual, and in some cases unnoticed by the listener, but he asks residence students to "give us a listen and see for yourselves (that) there isn't a difference at CHSR 700 on your dial."

In the news department, the changes involve the presentation of news capsules to be read on the

half hour, in addition to the regular major newscasts at 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

An effort will be made to coordinate the music being played at all times of the day. The type of sound will be more or less specific to the time of the day and will be augmented with a CHSR playlist and top 30.

Director Patrick stated that a series of specialty programs will be instituted featuring a different type of music with the appropriate background comment.