

EDITORIAL

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No-account accounting at CSL

The auditor of Campus Services Limited (CSL) submitted a draft of his report on December 12, 1984. Mr. John Weatherhead, C.A., studied CSL books dated as of August 31, 1984. His report stated that his examination of these books, "indicated serious deficiencies in the accounting records and in the system of internal control." We should feel sorry for Mr. Weatherhead. An accountant has a certain respect for, and a joy for, numbers that fit the ledger books. The morass that was the CSL bookkeeping is sure to frustrate any right-thinking C.A.

Mr. Weatherhead's final verdict was "I was unable to satisfy myself that the recorded transactions were proper. As a result, I was unable to determine whether adjustments were required in respect of recorded or unrecorded assets, recorded or unrecorded liabilities and the components making up the statements of income."

Incomplete and/or incomprehensible books do not a good business make. And CSL, an important student company that runs a high-volume variety store and books major entertainment, must be run as a good business indeed.

There is of course a natural propensity to lay blame. Rather than find one scapegoat, it is best in this cause to blame the atmosphere. Former SRC Comptroller Aubrey Kirkpatrick was also the CSL treasurer during the time audited. Former SRC President John Bosnitch had a total breakdown in communication and mutual respect. CSL store managers came and went in a dizzying succession; duties of managers were divided among staffers in payroll, inventory and whatever departments. This resulted in a lack of clear authority, a truly defined head for the store. The division of duties meant a little democracy was achieved at the expense of having someone at the helm.

Imagine the situation at CSL last year. Imagine the squabbling, the infighting, the power plays. Imagine the questions like "Who's in charge here?" and "What is happening?" Couple that with some rather thoughtless business techniques, like the store selling cigarettes wholesale to other supplies without accounting for the tax—this leading to an \$11,000 tax bill from the government. Add all these examples together, and you have a fuzzy, amorphous beast that swallows, disguises or hides money in its body.

What is distressing is that CSL's store was supposed to be an example. According to Weatherhead's sadly lacking records, the store lost \$3772 by the year ending August 31, 1984. The figure could in fact be higher and with the operation of the store this fall until December, that is where the odds lie.

The CSL Exchange was supposed to prove students could run an important service to students. When an impartial chartered accountant states "I am unable to express any opinion as to whether these financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles," you have to hang your head for the shame it casts on us all. Student business must not have a great amount of credibility these days. We must work hard to regain the confidence of the city's businesses and our own University administration.



mugwump journal

By MIKE MACKINNON

In recent years the issue of mandatory retirement has become a contentious one and UNB has not avoided becoming embroiled in it. It is incumbent that we as students look at this issue and decide where we stand because it affects us as curricularly as those being forced to retire.

The choice of 65 as the age of retirement is purely an arbitrary decision and one that dates back to, approximately, the Prussian years and the reign of Bismark. At that time the average life expectancy was 49 meaning a larger percentage of the population would be able to work all their lives if they chose. However, the increase in the average life expectancy so that it is now over 65 we are forced to stop working for the last years of our lives.

Mandatory retirement causes stereotypical assumptions and refuses us the right to be assessed for who we are. To assume we are something solely on the basis of our age and to deny us the opportunity of any kind is discrimination. What makes it even more deplorable is that it is legally sanctioned discrimination.

People that have retired are required to live on a fixed pension that, in the case of most universities anyway, is not indexed. This means pension benefits decrease in value each year as inflation increases. Thus to retain economic dignity, these individuals are required to work during those years that should be ones of relaxed retirement.

One unfortunate and contemptible attitude of our society is that people working are more worthwhile than those not. The establishment of a mandatory retirement age means the law is prescribing that an individual should lose self-esteem simply because of his age.

An argument one frequently hears is that mandatory retirement allows universities, especially during times of economic recession, to have younger professors who know of the latest techniques and knowledge. However, education involves more than just what one learns from books - experience is invaluable in the learning process. Mandatory retirement eliminates the valuable insight that is provided through experience.

In the United States the mandatory retirement age is 70 and in Manitoba and Ontario it does not exist. The Charter of Rights and Freedom comes into effect in April 1985 and it will probably make this practice unconstitutional. Government employees in Ottawa are, since the institution of Federal retirement policy, able to work past the age of 65 if they want to. Even with policies such as this and the eventual abolishing of mandatory retirement studies predict that those who chose to work beyond 65 will be only about one percent of those reaching 65. The handwriting is on the wall for mandatory retirement and it is time the University recognize the fact.

The 1983/84 Academic year saw an increase in the amount of damage done to the Social Club facilities. In January, someone deemed it necessary to destroy a toilet in the men's washroom and later to kick in the stall door and punch a hole in the wall. Besides the cost to other members, there is the inconvenience. The following are figures on the cost of the damages for a few of the months during the school year: SEPTEMBER -\$717.00, OCTOBER -\$849.00, December -\$568.49.

The cost of repairing the damages to the washroom was approximately \$1,000.

There are serious consequences to the inebelic behavior of a few. One is the inconvenience to patrons of the club. Another is the cost of damages may force an increase in the prices or cost of membership or result in the establishment of a cover charge. There is also the chance that the Social Club may be forced to reduce the amount of money turned back into the university community. In addition, considerable damage has been done to the old carpet by people dropping cigarettes and gum on it and this detracts from the atmosphere of the club. As can be easily seen, everyone suffers from the immature actions of a few people.

Why should people do such things? What pleasure does someone attain from such senseless behavior? This year the Social Club has a new policy regarding such vandalism and hopefully it will encourage the curtailment of such behavior.

Two final notes for this week:

Note 1: There will be a debate held in the Blue Lounge Friday at 2:30. The topic is Reuben v. Hoffman and No, Jerry Reuben and Abbie Hoffman will not really be there.

Note 2: A committee is presently being formed to sponsor a symposium on "issues in the third world". Should anyone have an interest in becoming involved, please contact R. Hutchins at the *Brunswickan*.