

editorial

Padding the resumes and going for the gold

There are a few jokes in the world of student journalism about the padding of resumes. When the rewards seem few and far between, the phrase "it looks good on a resume" provides a little comfort. Undoubtedly, it's the same for student politicians, another overworked, underpaid, and under-appreciated group hanging around your Student Union Building.

Listed in the 'Extracurricular Activities' category on our resumes, positions in the student union or student media are understood to be similar to volunteer jobs, undertaken for the purposes of gaining valuable work experience and serving the community.

Ideally, Okay, so let's talk ideals. I like them. I like to think that student politicians and journalists have a unique opportunity to be idealistic. University is an exciting place, offering a range of new intellectual and social opportunities. It is a time of relative independence in which to explore who and what you want to be 'when you grow up.'

My belief in ideals is one of the things that makes it really hard for me to respect Jeff Clark these days. Appointed to the position of VP External earlier this year, Clark served as Chair of the Awards Committee. Among other things, this committee takes applications for Student Union Activity Awards and, based on a point schedule set by the Council bylaws, gives gold, silver, and merit awards to students based on their participation in extracurricular activities.

Two gold rings were awarded this year. One went to Jeff Clark. Student Union bylaws state that "no members of Council... shall use their positions to give unfair advantage, influence or prejudice to the operations of the Union." It's not difficult to see that Clark's position as Chair of the Awards Committee might have given him an 'unfair advantage.' Certainly several other students who submitted applications to the committee have questioned the integrity of the decision-making process.

As well they might. Aside from the letter of the law, which I've been known to disregard on occasion myself, there is an ethical side to this issue. Did it occur to Clark or anyone on the SU Council that since he was eligible to win an Activity Award, he might remove himself from that particular committee?

It gets worse. Two out of the five members of the Awards Committee have said that the committee never met. How can the awards maintain their integrity when the committee empowered by Council didn't even meet? Awards Committee member Joie Hellmeister raised this question in Council, but it was settled in an off-the-record discussion with fellow Committee member, Trish Davidson. We may never know how relevant Clark's conflict of interest became.

Regardless of any actual bias Clark may or may not have brought to his position on the committee, by taking steps to protect the integrity of the awards, Council could have preserved the reputation of the Activity Awards for everyone who receives them, past, present, and future.

Put that on your resume Mr. Clark, and hold your head up high.

Mary Rogal-Black

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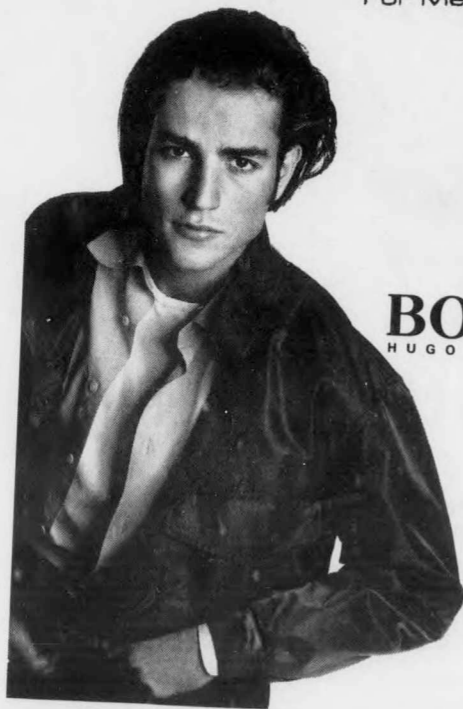
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Mugwump Journal

Hello, students of UNB. Let's get one thing straight: my name is not, as many of you might think, Joe FitzPatrick. This was, in fact, a pen name chosen because Joseph FitzPatrick and Cynthia Kirkby did not fit in one column.

For the record, my name is Joseph Wilfred John FitzPatrick III. I've the third because my grandfather and great-grandfather on my father's side were named Wilfred Joseph - it skipped my father (Patrick James) so it's a bit unusual, but I don't care.

I can say, without question, that no other student at UNB has as much knowledge about the Student Union as it currently exists. I have typed its Bylaws, its Financial Policy, and its Minutes for three years. I alone have a copy of the Bylaws of the UNB Foundation for Students, copies of the agreements between the Foundation and the University and between the Foundation and the Student Union. I have, in fact, more information on the Student Union than it has on itself.

It is for this reason that I can say, without hesitation, that Duncan Fulton, Acting Vice-President (Finance & Administration) has not performed his duties, nor have the members of the Finance Committee (Rodney Chiasson, Jules Michaud, Tara

McKillop, and Derek Ferlatte).

I take exception to the fact that the Student Union will rise by nearly \$3 to allow for an additional \$21,000 in Club and Society spending. This move is particularly questionable given the fact that \$35,000 of the \$85,000 allocated this year remains unspent by clubs and societies.

While several are prepared to allow this to occur on the basis that clubs and societies are

you've repeatedly said that the UNB Student Union has grown beyond the "dances and socials" - why then, does such a large portion of Student fees go towards alcoholic socials, ski trips and seat sales?

Would that \$21,000 not be better spent elsewhere? What about your wishes to do a study about accessibility, student poverty or student debt loads?

It is the duty of the Finance Committee

Did you not realise that the Financial Policy mandates a reserve fund of \$1 per student? Why did you mislead the Council and the Students of UNB by not including all the line items from 1995-96 in your budget?

You gave the impression that funding for Cultural Groups went up by removing those clubs to which you allotted no budget. In fact it went down. Where did you get the revenues for 1995-96? According to the 1995-96 budget, they were \$698,000. Yet you put it down as \$724,000. This gives the false impression that the Student Union budget is smaller this year. In fact, it is larger.

What about the Coke Grant? We didn't get any money from them last year - are you sure the sponsorship is still valid? And what about those enrolment numbers? The Student Union got burned this year because somebody overestimated enrolment. Wouldn't it be more prudent to assume enrolment to stay the same or decrease? After all, the only consequence would be a contingency fund for the next Council.

Mr. Fulton: earlier in the term you blamed the problems with this year's Budget on the previous Vice-President (Finance & Administration). Thank you for allowing this tradition to continue.

Joseph FitzPatrick III meets the budget. Hey Fulton, don't you wish this was a spoof?

the most direct benefits of the Student Union fee, I disagree. I'm in Arts, and I saw Arts faculty societies cut by 33% to \$6,000. At the same time, allocations for Engineering Societies has increased 28% to \$25,000.

I'm sure that the Engineers enjoy this funding, but I object to the equivocation which allows part of my student fee to go towards Pillar Pubs or Business Grogs, or even Political Science Student Association Grogs - is the purpose of the Union to subsidise these events?

Mr. Lamrock, as President of the Union,

to rigorously examine all the applications for funding from the Student Union.

By Fulton's own admission a rigorous investigation where "the questions were asked" consisted of ten minute interviews with each of the clubs and societies. Most of these "consultations" were only with two members of the Finance Committee, Fulton and Chaisson. Many took place with only Fulton.

Mr. Fulton, you have failed to convince me that you have adequately performed the duties incumbent upon you regarding the budget - there are just too many errors.

Good-bye New Brunswick, hello Mexico

To NB in General: The Book of Genesis warns old Hebrews to be nice to strangers as they may be entertaining angels unaware. The equivalent to a mod mini-university: you may be insulting potential investors.

My graduate studies in Psychology included Soviet cinema from the Stalin era; of which I am today sharply reminded by your campus. In the space of ten minutes I was insulted by three militant Feminists; thereby losing further interest in investing in your country.

First was a young female at the HIL reference desk who assumed gratuitously that I must be an idiot, why else would I be here? Great university libraries are staffed by professionals who assume that you must be good to be there. Mini-universities have egotistical amateurs.

Ironically I was looking for Inside American Education by the well-known black educator, Thomas Sowell. Being unfamiliar with

your mini-U, I did not know where to find Comrade Daryv Hall. I got directions from two strutting, quasi-military fembots in the contemptuous sneer of a new corporal to even newer recruits. I am not amused.

I am so dis-amused that I have abandoned all plans for permanent investment here. Why should I, when Mexico has cheaper labour along with Respect such as my mother and father received?

Inside American Education was date-stamped Dec. 1993 by the library, yet the book is in pristine condition; apparently unopened by anyone before me. This does not surprise me either.

Dr. Sowell's theme is the 'dumbing down' of American Education. Unfortunately your library proves the point.

Meanwhile, Adios, M.F. John Lawson.

Good-bye New Brunswick, hello Britain

With only three weeks until their departure, the Maritime Universities Rugby team is feverishly preparing for their opposition in Wales and England.

Coach Rod Thomas is holding three training sessions a week, which includes video analysis and chalk talks. This motivated squad are holding tight to their studies while anticipating the hop across the pond.

Two days after arriving, forty ruggers will clash against their first opponent: Llandoverly from the Heineken Welsh Division Two. All matches will prove to be exciting because the club players in the U.K. are professionals! First XV Captain, Prentice Durbin says, "Because the competition will be fierce, training is of paramount importance. It's imperative that we focus daily with our departure only three weeks away."

The most recognizable opponent will be the Oxford University Select XV, in the later stages of the tour. Not all of the tour will be playing rugby; there will be showcase matches to spectate. Your organizers have acquired Gold Seats for the Welsh Cup Final at rugby's Mecca, Cardiff Arms Park. Before coming home the tour will rest in the seats at Twickenham Park to watch the Middlesex 7's.

With a total of twelve matches both fitness and heart will be tested. Jeremy Barty comments, "To achieve success one must visualize success and I see pints raised in victory!"

The tour members would like to thank Rod Thomas for his devotion and spirit, as well as a thank you to the student body whose support made this tour affordable.

Matin Yaqzan

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