

Sound Off



Mugwump Journal

By Susan Manzer

It is not often that I would think of donating a whole column to the thoughts of a letter to the editor, but, one letter this week prompted me to do so. The issue, I feel, must be clarified and I intend to TRY; if there are any holes in the argument and you are puzzled then please contact the SRC (i.e. Chris Gilliss) for particulars and figures.

The issue is the upcoming increase in student union fees. First, let's clarify the fact that the increase is not the whim of Mr. Gilliss nor Mr. Galoska. Peter had nothing to do with the proposal and only voted on the issue as did the rest of council, which by the way was unanimous. Mr. Gilliss and the Administrative Board made the original proposal. Much thought went into the increase; it wasn't something Gilliss wanted to do, but he had no alternative than to suggest it to Council. Now, why.

The point about other universities having higher student union fees was made for a reason. In the letter, Memorial was stated as having higher fees. Not so, they have the lowest, but they do not have the Student Union Building. We are the second lowest. The point is that other universities are in the same boat as we are, and have had to increase also; this is not something plaguing UNB alone.

Times are said to be hard for the poor student. But did you know that the students at UNB spend a half a million dollars a year on liquor at liquor-consuming events on campus and that does not include trips to the tavern and the liquor store. That works out to at least \$100 per student spent just on campus alone. I think this proves students can afford the increase to keep up the student services offered by the SRC.

Another area the money will be needed is for SUB mortgage. The mortgage on this building is paid off on a regular \$15 per student basis. We also have to pay interests costs which have been up to 12 per cent of the gross sum over the last few years, so the principle goes down slowly. The present mortgage is expected to be paid off in 10 years.

It's fine not to believe in Activity Awards, and view it as a way to save money, at least not present gold and silver, but not many of these awards are passed out because people have to earn them on a very difficult point system.

Now for the Brunswickan. Why doesn't the Brun raise its advertising rates and withdraw from CUP (Canadian University Press) to off set the rise in cost of printing? The printing of the paper costs \$3000 over last year's total so the advertising rates were raised 25 per cent with unfortunately only 2 weeks notice to the advertisers. Although the present rates are high they are not unreasonable, but a second rise in a year would certainly cause advertisers to consider us not worthwhile and I wouldn't blame them. We had to tell them our printing cost was up tremendously and our advertising rates had not been raised in at least 5 years. The letter writers find this argument justified, wanting us to raise our rates but yet they cannot accept the fact that the student fees have not been raised in 8 years and with rising costs and twice as many organizations submitting budgets, there is no alternative except to cut services and that will be dwelled upon later. As for CUP, we do not only get news service (which by the way you will not read in the Gleaner or the Telly since much is based on similar problems on other campuses in Canada which you may wish to compare or at least contemplate), but also our national advertising comes through CUP which is part of our revenue. It is impossible with limited space to dwell on all CUP does, but it does not just provide us with stories.

The writers complain that, for example, let the Business Society raise their own funds. What about the EUS? Did you know that that organization receives more money from the SRC than any other faculty club? Why not raise your own funds, too, engineers? Other students in other faculties are supporting your group too.

I have to admit the honoraria for councillors is a black mark. But you mention names such as Galoska and Gilliss. Gilliss is very much against it and casted his vote as such. So do not name drop until you know the facts. The Brunswickan agrees with you though. Councillors should not be given \$100 honoraria. P.S. It is not retroactive however.

Winter Carnival was budgeted this year for a loss of \$5,000. Paying events are budgeted to almost break even, but a lot of costs generate no revenue. The hinderance is lack of facilities for events. Carni can be cut if this is what people want or, if not, the costs for students could be astronomical.

As for equipment, the dictaphone and the telephone are paid by Mr. Galoska. Any equipment bought by the SRC such as the stencil machine is to save students money and are usable by all students. Why does the SRC office cost so much? Well, it is a company and a company must have a bookkeeper, full time, and a secretary for the unbelievable amount of paper work plus a part time business administrator as professional experienced advisor on financial matter. These people must have salaries and like everyone else you cannot cut back, they must have cost of living increases too.

Conferences. Parameters are being set now for Conferences. Do not condemn them. They, for instance, gave us a say in our new contract, for one thing, for our national advertising at the CUP-conference. But I could go on forever with examples, I am sure the SRC can justify more.

Liquor increase explained

This is an open letter to all Social Club members.

We would like to clarify the reasons for the recent price increase of liquor and beer in the College Hill Social Club. As of January 6, 1975, the N.B.L.C.C. has raised prices of both beer and liquor substantially. The club has not raised their prices in relation to any increase since July 1973. Liquor and beer have gone up three times since that date. The

minimum wage has also risen twice during the same period the most recent increase resulting in a \$.25 per hour hike in staff costs.

The prices are not being increased to offset costs for the recent renovations, that money will come from the membership dues plus a loan from the Student Union Building.

The price increase are designed to offset increased cost (spiralling cost of supplies such as soft drinks, glasses) and to maintain the club

as a viable operation. Drinks priced at \$.60 for a beer and \$.70 for a mixed drink remain the most favourable in town.

Looking forward to serving you in the near future, we remain,

Sincerely *

Kevin A. McKinney
Director
Student Union Building

John W. Giles
Head Bartender
College Hill Social Club

SRC bungles on union fees

Dear Editor:

The SRC has finally done some bungling that affects every student attending this institution. It raised its membership fees by nearly thirty percent, from \$35 to \$45, and justified it in a Brunswickan report by rattling off seven or eight reasons, of which only one seems to hold any water at all.

If Mr. Galoska and Mr. Gillis expect to impose their whims on us, they are expected to provide logical reasons for doing so. If they don't, very quickly in this case, they should have the decency to resign from office and allow more competent people to hold their positions. Barring that, the upset students should pay their \$35 as usual next fall, to protest an unjustified whimsicalness by our lords in the SUB.

Why do these people think we need a \$10 increase? Because perhaps Dalhousie or Memorial charge more for their fees? Haven't they heard of inflation? - costs using faster than earning ability (especially felt as a student). Forty-five dollars is too much to pay towards the SRC. Times are hard enough for us, merely trying to eat and keep warm during the school year. Every saving counts.

The SRC will be the first to be up at arms if the administration raises tuition or residence dues by \$50 - being about 8 1/2 percent and 5 percent - Yet it is nothing to them to jack our fees by a whopping 28.6 percent in one quiet swoop!

The last fee hike eight years ago was to cover the new SUB's mortgage. Let it be remembered that mortgages get smaller.

Let this letter go over Mr. Gilliss'

"major reasons" for the increase: - Activity awards, made of gold and silver, are going to cost more. Why do they have to be made of gold and silver? We aren't winning the olympics.

- The Brunswickan's printing costs are rising, and national news cooperative membership fees are expected to increase. Let it raise its advertising rates to cover printing costs - and not bother joining the national news cooperative. We nearly all see a Telegraph Journal or Gleaner once in a while to get national news. In the latest issue by far the greatest portion of intertainment came from local input, and I for one would not miss the CUP input.

- Business Society expenses - Let them raise their own fees, but don't expect engineers, foresters, nurses, science students, and Arts students to foot their bill any more than is done now.

- If CHSR is getting less revenue from advertising, the SRC will have to meet its budget. Granted. - Honoraria costs increased. Do the president and comptroller have the gall to cite this as a reason for making us pay more, after they so neatly, retro-actively increased what they thought they were worth?

- SRC office expenses have increased. Why?

- Winter Carnival expenditures are up. Other carnivals used to strive to make ends to meet through event tickets.

- SRC capital equipment expenditures. When will the offices be fully equipped - After Galoska gets a private dressing room and shower off his office, for use while his dictaphone repeats over and over "My secretary will make an

appointment for you." ?

- Conference allowance - I believe the SRC is sadly deceiving itself in thinking conferences all over the country are improving the quality of student life on this campus.

This school provides a reasonable return for its SRC dues now, with the availability of a building for recreation, and a chance to stretch your legs or watch a team stretch its legs. Some people are in a much more advantageous position than others to make use of available services. Does a 30 percent fee increase say anything about 30 percent more enjoyment for us, the payers?

If the SRC increases fees by \$10 in one year, there will be the inevitable strong tendency to spend all the increase the first year. Money will be easier to come by for all activities - But if inflation continues, two years from now, these activities will not be able to do all they had done originally with the hike, and again there is pressure to get still more money from the SRC. This could be prevented, and should be at one.

After initial outrage from reading the Brunswickan report, may we suggest the SRC show its deficit, and then not raise fees by more than one dollar or at the very most, two dollars for one year? This, students like ourselves, tend to think reasonable. But highway robbery due to bad management and to keep up with the Jones' is not!

Yours Sincerely

Signed

Mechanical Engineering Fourth Year Class

Bruce Lockhart
Glen E. MacDonald
Vaughn M. Steeves
Willard D. Johnson, Esq.
E. James McLaughlin
Charles Harvey
Gordon T. Lusk
Normand L. Baucher
J. H. Msdomba
Anthony Nabuurs
Gary R. Baker
Robert J. Richard
Rheal Desjardins
Teryl Robbins
Richard McQuade
J. Vincent MacDonald
George Douglas Mann, Esq.
James V. Geldart
And three other illegible names.

Now what would happen if we didn't pay our increases (and by the way I wouldn't suggest boycotting if you wish to educate yourself here), these are the POSSIBLE and REALISTIC areas the SRC would be forced to cut: The African Student Association (clubs would have priorities as to where in their budget but Africa Night could suffer), Business Society, Carribbean Circle, Drama (cut in performances), EUS (Godivan could go), Forestry Association, Graduate Student Association, India Association, Law Society, Legal Aid, Newman Community, Overseas Chinese Association, Pre Med Club, Phys Ed Club, Rap Room, World University Services of Canada, reconsider Yearbook of ANY kind, entertainment (i.e. cuts in Fall Festival and Winter Carnival, perhaps phasing out of Fall Festival), also self sufficient pubs or sky rocketing prices, no coverage for away sports events or news, in Brun and CHSR, no new clubs wanting money.

If you are really interested in the issue, go to the SRC office and look at the facts and FIGURES please. You'll be made welcome.

Will you get more for your money? Well, where possible. But you won't lose anything. And by not paying you aren't hurting council, only yourselves.