



Mugwump

By TOM

BENJAMIN

Journal

Students here who thought they were citizens of a free country had a rude awakening early this week.

The government's tactics in ending an occupation of the Centennial Building showed a complete lack of regard for basic human rights.

After reading an act relating to trespass, city police forcibly removed students from the building, and attempted to load students on buses for a return to their own campuses. Sounds a little like deportation, doesn't it?

Police prevented students from using a public telephone to call an ambulance for another student who was injured during the incident. They also herded students outside in cold weather without proper footwear or outer clothing.

When the building opened after the weekend, students were refused access - even those with legitimate business there. Those attempting to enter faced interrogations from security officers and city police before, in most cases, being turned away.

The University de Moncton students were allowed to spend Sunday night at St. Dunstan's church but pressure from the congregation forced them to leave the next day. Does anyone remember when a church was a sanctuary?

After all, these students are not criminals, even though they were treated as such. Speeches to university students often make a point of mention that students are the leaders of tomorrow. Hundreds of those "future leaders" have just been totally alienated from the present leadership. The student vote in the next provincial election is sure to reflect this alienation - unless they succeed in disenfranchising us too.

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The government certainly proved one point during the student aid campaign recently - their negotiators are better at the game than ours. Who else can make an offer one week, and manage to ignore it the next.

One week the government offers to establish a committee with representatives from all universities in the province to discuss student aid, and mentions that increased funding may be available. The next week the government succeeds in having an agreement signed which establishes a committee with only one student. The matter of increased funding also seems to have been ignored.

At present the agreement allows for a government and student representative, with a third to be chosen by the first two. The committee will begin meetings this month - but so what? Now when the government says it is sorry, but it cannot implement any of the student demands they can say students had input on the committee that made the decision. It sounds like only a more diplomatic method of refusing student demands to me.

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The student aid campaign has had little if any success to date other than proving that New Brunswick students can work together. The campaign has been plagued by problems - lack of good leadership, lack of cohesion between francophone and anglophone students, and little co-operation with the student press.

However, the basis is there for success in the future. We all know the problems are there, and now we can start to remove the small obstacles before we meet with the government again.

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An SRC non-election will take place February 18, with the non-candidates campaigning on a wide variety of non-platforms. I find it hard to believe that so many can know so little about this university and the real issues facing students.

Have any of the candidates mentioned student aid (except in a way that is detrimental to students) or the distinct possibility that both tuition and residence fees will be raised for next year?

We have a candidate running for the presidential position who apparently has it confused with the position of comptroller. We have a candidate running on a campaign concerning issues that faced us during the fall election. We have candidates no one seems to have heard of before.

Anyhow, it seems like an interesting election shaping up. My prediction? Jim Smith returned as president with a landslide.

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Dear Um Feiticeiro, or Potato, or whoever you are: we are considering your request for a column and will respect for anonymity. Go to the Social Club at midnight February 18. Sit in a chair facing the door, drink an orange juice on the rocks, and carry a Globe and Mail opened to page three. Then go to a telephone and call me at 453-4983 so we can discuss the matter.

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The writer of a letter to the editor in this paper (see page 15) has launched a misinformed tirade against two national student organizations - Canadian University Press and the National Union of Students.

The bias of the writer is obvious, as is his sources of information. The writer obviously has no conception of what really happened at the CUP conference mentioned - or the aims and ideals of the organizations he criticises.

It appears the writer is attempting to do exactly what he accuses CUP and NUS of - causing rifts between various student organizations.

## Sound Off

### Writer comes under attack

Dear Editor:

I resistibly feel I should respond to the article entitled "Jack Mbiza still missing" that appeared in the last Friday issue of The Brunswickan. For anyone who did not read that piece of unforgivable work, would be well advised to try and get hold of it in order to appreciate what I have set out to condemn.

I must say, reading the article itself is hellish enough but being mentioned it it adds petrol to hell

fire. I happen to be a victim of both.

I think I would be safe to assume that the intention of writing such an article was good but the taste was terribly poor. The writer definitely proved to have no single grain of sympathy at all. If the writer meant to appeal to the readers emotions, there must have been a far better way of doing that. One is lead to believe that the writer was practising to write a horror or mystery novel.

Just to give you an idea what I

am talking about I will give some of the excerpts from the article. The writer starts by saying "On a freezing day at the beginning of January, Jack Mbiza-walked out of UNB for destinations unknown, and has not been heard of since. He left no indication as to his intentions and not a clue to trace him by." (This is not too bad reporting so far). But listen to this: "Was this a re-hash of the Captain Oates trick or were the tempting climes of Florida beckoning a sun-tanned finger?" Hard to believe. The writer stone-heartedly goes on to refer to Jack's disappearance as both strange and illogical and provoking speculation of all kinds.

By and large, I find it hard to believe all the information and surmising appearing in the article. But what perturbs me most is the concluding part of the same article: "...At the end of every corridor of investigation mystery slams shut an exasperating door. He (Jack) may not want to be found, but he probably doesn't want to be found lying under a snowdrift either. As a member of the constabulary put it, come the Springtime, we may find him lying dead in some ditch..." This is what I would term poor taste and a lack sympathy.

I think the author should have known the difference between reporting and novel writing. Surely mystery novel writing practice of that kind of taste should have no room in our esteemed weekly. Most people who have talked to me could not avoid the conclusion that the article was characterised by prejudice and distasteful language that was uncalled for in such unfortunate circumstances respecting Jack's disappearance.

As every one knows Jack is not an American, Canadian, British, etc., but he is undeniably a member of the human race (also a fellow student). Whatever happens to him, the least we can do is to show our sympathy.

I am sure if anybody was connected in blood with the writer the article would portray a different tone altogether! Please bear in mind the fact we are all brothers and sisters in many ways.

I would therefore advise the writer, with due respect, to apologize to Jack's friends and all those connected to him in different ways for the feeling the article may have triggered.

Sincerely yours,  
Wenceslaus Batanyita

### Council causes disgust

Dear Editor:

May I use the pages of the Bruns to express my disenchantment (outright anger in fact) with our student "government".

I have been to a few SRC meetings and the more I went, the more angry and disgusted I got. Everyone should go at least once. I finally said to hell with it and haven't been back since.

Most Councillors don't know what they are doing and further more don't want to do anything (except for themselves). We all pay \$45 in student fees and what do we get for it? The SUB and the Bruns may cost \$20, so where does the other \$25 go. I don't think we should have to pay money for 25 or so people to have a good time on.

The SRC has about one quarter of a million dollars of our money to play with (and play they do) and

we get very little in return. Well the SRC can have its fun this year. Next year they had better budget for at least a \$45 reduction in revenue. I have no intention of paying my fees next year and if the university refuses to register me, I intend to take the matter to court (I thank the Law students for their suggestion). I will have sufficient funds for a limited legal battle but I hope that it will not be necessary.

A friend told me the Winter Carnival Parade had a most adequate float representing the SRC - that being a manure spreader. The SRC does spread bullshit and money but next year they will have less money to spread.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,

David W. Edwards

### Writer urges careful reading

Dear Editor:

With respect to the letters published in reaction to my article on the disappearance of Jack Mbiza, I suggest that the writers of these letters read my article more carefully. The story had its effect: Tired of reading statistical reports, I wanted to make people wake up and start caring about Jack's disappearance, so I wrote it entirely from a human interest angle. I freely admit that to this purpose I used some emotive writing which you have designated as cheap and frivolous, but I have succeeded in making people care. People have read the article and been moved and troubled. They have not been amused. I stressed the fact that Jack was depressed, and in doing so, this may make people more caring about students who are having this kind of trouble in the future. I don't know - it's up to you who are his friends.

Did you not read the paragraph which reads "How many people care whether Jack is alive or dead?" Sure, it was emotional, but I was bothered about the circumstances of his disappearance, hence the article. It is up to you whether you regard my concern as sincere or not.

Now for the accusations of frivolity: we do not know what exactly has happened to him. So, from a purely logical point of view, and for the balance of the story, why focus complete concentration

on heavy tragedy? I daresay the introduction to the story made people interested, perhaps stunned, perhaps offended, but O.K. I got some reaction. What I didn't expect was over-reaction.

So, I am sorry you have been offended, but I think that most people's reaction to this article was one of serious concern - exactly my attitude when I wrote it.

Yours,

Alison King

### Article called crude attempt

Dear Editor:

I have been attending UNB for over five months now and have always enjoyed reading the Brunswickan. Occasionally, there have been poorly written articles but none that compare with the atrocity in last week's issue concerning Jack Mbiza.

The total lack of maturity and concern displayed in the story is beyond belief. The man is missing without a trace and that is the sad truth. Yet, somehow on your staff has crudely attempted to turn it into a cheap form of mystery serial with weekly installments. This disgusting attempt at fabricating

cheap thrills out of a tragic series of events is totally out of line. Do you not have any concern towards the feelings of others or are you only interested in adding some sick form of "excitement" to other paper?

It is a sad enough fact that some people may view this incident with the same immaturity displayed in the article, but for that type of thinking to be publicly displayed is beyond my understanding.

Trusting that any atrocity of the magnitude displayed by that article will not be repeated

Stephen Petrie