

# EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Dave Mazerolle

## Budgets and finance and graduating

### These are a few of my favorite things...

Every year, approximately one thousand students graduate from this esteemed institution. The grads, who have put in four or five years of hard study, usher out their time at UNB with barbeques, an Extravaganza, an Awards Banquet, and the requisit Grad Prom. It is traditional at all colleges and univresities to have such social events in the weeks leading up to Encaeia.

Graduating students each year elect a group of people to co-ordinate the above social events and to distribute mementoes of UNB, like T-shirts and mugs. The elected Grad Committee serves one thousand people, making this the largest club or organization on campus.

So why don't they have a budget? The Finance Commission this year decreed the Grad Committee has "no need" to be budget by the SRC. Instead, they loaned them \$1500, to be repaid after the last event on May 24. What is commonly done is that the SRC laons the committee money to put on their events, with the expectation the Grad events make money, or at least break even.

Last year, as is traditional, the Administrative Board (the precursor to the Finance Commission) loaned the Grad Committee money - this time, \$2000. Last year's Grad events lost money. No \$2000 goes back to the SRC. Last year was no freak of history. The Grad Committee commonly loses money, and the SRC commonly moves the loan is forgiveable.

Since the SRC always loans the Grad committee money, and then makes the loan forgiveable, why not end the suspense and just grant (not lend) the Committee its money? Make them submit a budget for approval, of course, just like any other club or organization.

Here's a counter-argument. Why doesn't the Grad committee plan for events that will break even? A responsible Finance commission justifiably hates to throw good money after bad. The Grad Committee is locked into a tradition of having an Extravaganza the night before Encaenia. Since it is late in May, there are hardly any students left in Fredericton. Many graduates don't arrive in town until the day of ceremonies. Grad Class Valedictorian Aubvey Kirkpatrick estimates only about 600 people will go to the Extravaganza. To ensure even that many people will bother to go, the strategy is to book very popular (read expensive) entertainment. Extravaganza constitutes the biggest single loss. Suggestion: is the Extravaganza really necessary for the Grads to leave UNB with warm thoughts of love and remembrance?

As well, this year's Committee plans to give away, to all 1000 grads, free mugs and T-shirts. There is an old rule which is known as TNSTAAFL. That translates to "There's no such thing as a free lunch." The distribution of free goods usually gets abused, anyway. Mugs and T-shirts should be sold at a price just high enough to cover costs.

It is also not unreasonable to expect grads to pay admission fees for large scale events like the Extravaganza and the Grad Prom. Any grad with the true spirit of UNB will forget the expense and remember the special feeling of dancing, eating and drinking for the last time as a group.

There is a way to marry the two opposing views of what a graduation should be and who should pay for it. The SRC should give the Grad committee an operating grant. The Committee, for its part, should start with a fresh schedule of evnets. What events are necessary? What will people really want to attend? When the schedule is hammered out, set reasonable, but sufficient, admission fees so the events break even. Also don't assume everyone even wants a "Grad '85" mug or T-shirt. Those who do will gladly pay a cost price. The Grad committee could thus propose a sensible budget of probably more than \$1500 but less than \$4000.

The Grad Committee should not expect any "free rides" and the Finance Commission should not be so stingy to a thousand students. A very amenable compromise can be reached, one that can work this year and for years to come. Remember, we are all likely to graduate one day.



## mugwump journal

By MIKE MACKINNON



Have you ever noticed how hypocritical a society is when the topic of drugs and alcohol is discussed. The first thing immediately noticeable is the separation of alcohol from drugs, when in fact, alcohol is a drug. This distinction is important to take note of because it is the basis of this hypocrisy.

In recent weeks I have read articles in the *Daily Gleaner* and other papers on the corruptive influence of drugs - in particular, marijuana. One of last week's issues of the *Gleaner* contained a full page feature on marijuana. In addition, there was an editorial calling for tough laws on marijuana because it leads to the use of cocaine and other "hard" drugs. This is an argument I heard when I was a child and one that only the most closed-minded now believe. However, this is not to be construed as an argument for the legislation of marijuana - it is merely one aspect of our contradictory attitude toward marijuana and alcohol.

Alcohol creates both a physical and emotional dependency that is well documented and a source of serious trouble for those addicted to it. There have been steps taken to make the public more aware of the problems of alcohol dependency but has enough been done? While the majority of groups or papers prefer to concentrate on the use of marijuana few are willing to do anything about the widespread use of alcohol. The age of initial involvement with alcohol is becoming lower every year - so why not pay more attention to this problem.

There are other drugs we ignore, and even condone. We criticize and condemn those using "speed", "bennies" or "downers", yet our physicians prescribe "downers" to people every day. Countless people have become addicted to valium, librium and other tranquilizers because these doctors did not care enough to really check out the patient's complaint. It has recently been discovered that these "minor" complaints were not signs of hycondria, but signals of the presense of actual physical or mental problems. Instead of solving this problem doctors simply mask it by treating a symptom in the easiest manner possible -prescribing a pill.

Diet pills are a mild "upper" as are pills that a person can take in the morning to wake up, (after having a sleepless night or taking sleeping pills). Once again the symptoms and not the problem are being treated.

The preceding is not a condemnation of the efforts on the part of those who wish to make the public aware of the harmful effects of marijuana. Nor is it a condemnation of those few (such as PALE on campus here) that are making an attempt to educate people as to the effects of alcohol. It is a condemnation of the concentration on the "harder" drugs and the hypocritical condoning of certain "necessary" drugs. All drugs are a problem, including alcohol, valium, librium and mild "uppers" like diet piils, and we should include all in the necessary education. It is time for us to realize we all are dependent on one drug or another.

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