

EDITORIAL

The principal of FHS has a strange idea about what the student strike was all about. Apparently, or so it seems, he feels that those students from his school who joined in the walkout were directly challenging his authority. The question is did the principal miss the point?

Steven Johnson, a grade 12 student from Fredericton High School, was given three days of in school suspension for participating in the January 25 national student strike. The strike which was organized by the Canadian Federation of Students was being held to protest proposed government changes to educational funding.

Mr. Johnson was called into the principal's office on the morning of the twenty-fifth and told not to miss the afternoon. He subsequently participated in the strike despite the warning from the principal. Consequentially he was placed on in-school suspension. A notice he was given to take home explained that "Steven has been given a three day in-school suspension for deliberately ignoring specific instructions from the school principal not to participate in the walk out on January 25."

Apparently the principal Jim Thorburn, said that he had no problem with the strike and that he had encouraged students to react against the cuts but not in this manner, as he could not condone missing classes.

What is not clear is when principal Thorburn would suggest students hold a strike if not during class time. Striking is a method of drawing attention to a subject and forcing change through non participation. Therefore in order for a student to strike it is required that they do so during class time. This is precisely why student strikes are held during times when classes are scheduled.

An essential ingredient of any strike is that it requires the support of the masses in order to be effectual. While a lone student striker would have little chance whatsoever of attracting attention, as a result of their sheer numbers, a hundred thousand strikers are guaranteed to do so. Therefore if this strike was to work as many students as possible had to turn out to protest.

As to the question of whether or not the student defied the principal's authority the answer is that of course he did. Knowing full well that the consequences for his actions from the principal would be negative, Steven Johnson attended the strike and thereby defied the principal. That was the point of the protest. As students we are the consumers of the education business. By denying our patronage en masse we are making a political statement that students as a group cannot be ignored. To force someone not to participate is to side with the opposition.

For the principal of FHS to direct the student not to miss the afternoon was to deny him any say in his own future. This was a grade 12 student, with a future unwritten, who presumably will be entering university in the fall. This student faces entering university at the time when if the cuts are implemented the students will possibly be forced to pay double current tuition for their education. By punishing the student striker, principal Thorburn has attempted to quash the right of the individual to influence his own future. This is a denial of a fundamental democratic right, the right to be considered.



Mi CASA, SU CASA. Hombro! Or is that UNBSU CASA? Rumour has it that the University of New Brunswick Student Union has all the goods concerning the new and improved replacement to that STD sounding CFS (Canadian Federation of Students). Our witty and stylish SU president, Paul Estabrooks has been leading the charge for change. In fact he has been named interim director of CASA. What's CASA? Put away your Spanish texts. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is your friendly neighbourhood alternative to CFS. CFS was supposedly created to represent the average Canadian student's interests however they have taken up the plight of world harmony or something trendy right now like that. World peace is fine but I'd like them to get off this social issues crap because no one in Hell will care if they aren't properly educated (i.e. not getting a higher education). Unfortunately over the years CFS has become nothing more than a resume builder and a training ground for neo-socialists. The mean kind.

I'm told that belonging to CASA will be cheaper than belonging to CFS. That's roughly 8 or 9 grand a year compared to 40 grand in that same time. What a bargain. I'm in favour of CASA already but don't look for the SU to lower student union fees. Naw, they might need the extra money for kid safety-safe scissors. So they can slash other student organisations budgets and not misadventantly cut their own.

Oh yeah, the SU got themselves some keen new see through plastic signs. They didn't cost that much and they're swell looking. Now you'll never have a problem finding the SU offices. So there should be no student outcry of needless money spending. Hell, it's not as if they spent about 3000 dollars on renovating an office or anything.

Did you get your SUB expansion pay off yet in the mail? Yep, it appears to me and countless other people, that Sub expansion is nearly complete and it's in the form of a decal that I'm just gonna stick on my rusty fridge. What did you think? I know you thought a new part was gonna be added. Maybe in your kid's lifetime. Actually the new SUB probably won't be around until the end of the century. The almost 7000 full-time undergraduate students attending UNB have shelled out \$25 each in hopes of seeing a new SUB. You don't have to be a mathematician to know that's almost \$175,000. So what do the higher ups do? They mail you some cheap ass stickers, (Decals. Whatever.) begging for more money for their damn Venture Campaign. That's not expansion, that's extortion and not very wise use of our resources. *Yeab as soon as the Govt. raises our student loans, just levy another \$50 towards expansion and go out and buy yourself some fridge magnets or something to mail out.* Whomever is in charge of SUB expansion, I assume your job is more than licking envelopes and procrastinating. At least have a mock cornerstone laying just to appear that your doing something. Maybe there's a lot of hard work behind closed doors. You know what the saying is; 'Outta sight, outta mind and I want my money back'.

Blood n' Thunder

WARMEST CARIBBEAN GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR 1995!! FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

by Aurelius Gordon

Just a note to all of you at UNB/STU and the wider community - Warmest Caribbean Greetings and One Love from everyone here!

It is indeed with many fond memories of my four years in the City of Elms that I go through this most pleasant culture shock of my reacquaintance with my island home, the Commonwealth of Dominica, (not to be confused with the Dominican Republic which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti).

The "Nature Isle of the Caribbean", they call her, and indeed the Nature Isle of the world she is; her robe of lush green flora, punctuated by three hundred and sixty-five rivers, and hundreds of waterfalls which cascade from towering mountain peaks which crown this Isle. I call her home. A visit would be more than worth your while.

The French say, "See Paris and die". We, Dominicans, say, "See the Nature Isle before and live!"

Not having been home for four years, and now finding myself sitting in the backyard garden of my family home which fronts the Caribbean sea, absorbing the sunshine, and cherishing a sip of coconut water, my nostalgia dissolves. This land is therapeutic. A humming bird whispers to me that I should be writing an ode to this blessed Isle; I resist, choosing instead to point my pen to the vanity that is the politics of University life: My calendar tells me that it is that time of year again when Students, Faculty, and Staff alike get down to the "business of academics"; should one be permitted to use the word business, out of context.

I sincerely hope that this academic year has gone well so far, and that 1995 will prove to be a tremendous success for all new and returning students, also the members of Faculty, administration and staff of UNB/STU.

Here, at my old High School, St. Mary's Academy, where I have taken up a teaching appointment, it has been a great homecoming. I am particularly pleased to be able to give something back.

Let me, as former President of the Board of International Students of UNB/STU extend best wishes to all international students, and in particular the Executive members of the Board of International Students and International Students' Organizations. Do continue to work to keep the Spirit of cross-cultural co-operation alive at UNB/STU. Remember, our Global Village is getting "smaller" even as you read this note!

Best wishes to all other student organizations, in particular the Student Unions of UNB and STU, everyone at CHSR, the Brunswickan, the Aquinian, and the SUB.

Sincere thanks to all who made my four years of studies in Canada very productive.

I graduated from St. Thomas University, the "small school with a huge heart", and was privileged to be a part of the wider community life of UNB/STU which helped me to place things on a global perspective. Special thanks to all!

Reflecting on this whole 'business' (the word is used with much hesitation), which we call education, then as a student and now as a teacher, the obligation which every single one of us has, in the name of humanity, in shaping the destiny of the universe for the betterment of all, becomes less of a vision and more a daily reality. That no matter the caste, class, culture, religion, language, and/or geographic region to which one lays claim, one is never to forget the cast humanity, whose common destiny it is that we all owe allegiance to and whose dignity and integrity we are called to preserve.

An invitation is extended to all to visit the Commonwealth of Dominica, and indeed the Caribbean, sometime. Here, we remain warm all year round.

May God bless you all, always in all ways... Keep in touch.

CFS STRIKE LIKE CHUCKING MACARONI & EGGS

Dear Editor,

Over the past couple of weeks, in the offices of Students' Unions from east to west, student executives have had to deal with the issue of a nation wide student strike. As the Vice-President of Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union I strongly support the UNB Student Alliance in their decision not to support the student strike sponsored by the CFS. The CFS strike is a sign of their desperation and frustration in dealing with important national issues. This strike reminds one of the angry man who punches the wall in anger because he can think of nothing else to do to relieve his frustration. We at Laurier agree that it is more productive to sit down at the table with the Minister and discuss the Green Paper than it is to chuck macaroni and eggs at the guy when he comes out to talk to you. Maybe if the CFS had not exhausted its credibility by crusading on behalf of nonacademic issues through radical campaigns and demonstrations someone in Ottawa might still be listening to them. Even some of the CFS member schools, such as UNB, have rejected the strike plan. Seems like a simple democratic solution, to vote the strike down at UNB. Oh but wait, here comes the International Socialists Party to act on behalf of the CFS to subvert the democratic decision of an elected student body. Do the members serve the will of the CFS or does the CFS serve the needs and desires of its members?

U OF REGINA ENCOURAGES TO STAY WITH CFS

I am writing this letter to encourage you to remain in the Canadian Federation of Students. We, at the University of Regina Students' Union, gain many benefits from our membership in CFS. For example, we have access to all the Federation research, campaigns, and communications. In addition, the Federation is a strong influence on Parliament Hill and in provincial legislatures. We work hard at bringing students' views on issues such as post-secondary funding and student aid to the attention of all those in government, at every level.

The university population consists of people from many diverse cultures and backgrounds; the Federation recognizes different cultures as they are what makes Canada a great and unique country. Artists, Lesbians/Gays/Bisexuals, international students, women, francophone students, students of colour, aboriginal students and students with disabilities all have voices in Federation policies and actions.

Through the Services aspect of the Federation, members have access to such programs as: Student Saver Cards, International Student Identity cards, Student Work Abroad Program, Travel Cuts, and the National Student Health Network.

I would encourage you to contact me at (306) 586-8811 or by fax at (306) 586-8812 if you have any questions or comments.

The University of Regina Students' Union would be pleased to work in partnership with you as a member of the Canadian Federation of Students.

—U or R Student Union Representative

ACADIA SAYS BRAVO TO ESTABROOKS

Dear Paul Estabrooks,

The Acadia Students' Union strongly supports your food drive of February 25th. It is an excellent idea because it is so proactive. You are helping your community while you spread information about the proposed cuts, and this generates far more support for the plight of post-secondary education than would a protest. The Acadia Students' Union is also organizing such an event and I would like to express solidarity with your actions.

I feel that it is unfortunate that the CFS has encouraged the International Socialists on campuses across the nation, especially since it shows such immense disrespect for the UNB Students' Union. The political wisdom of associating with such an absurd organization seems in my mind quite indicative of the type of thinking that

CFS seems to wallow in. It is ironic that CFS feels that it is responsible to influence campus activities at UNB, especially considering that you have an upcoming referendum. I trust that the students will remember this action when the time comes.

I wish you the best with your upcoming food drive. Actions like this will help our cause in the long run.

—Tom Hamza

GSA EXPRESS DISAPPROVAL OF CFS STRIKE

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the graduate students at UNB, the Graduate Student Association Executive wants to make it clear that we support the Student Union's position in reference to the CFS's student strike. Striking is not the answer, and we are concerned that the CFS and its strike organisers, the International Socialists, are willing to organise strikes on campuses where the elected bodies have decided not to strike.

The GSA believes that there are better ways to fight for student rights. Several options have been investigated and alternate solutions are being worked on. These proposals can be made to the proper authorities in a civilised and professional manner. A more unified and positive solution is required. I fear that the strike will just increase the animosity between Ottawa and the student organisations who are trying to save education.

I hope graduate students and all students at UNB will avoid the strike and voice their concerns in other ways. Contact the SU or the GSA to see what you can do or to discuss concerns that you may have. The SU has more resources than the GSA and are in a better position to lobby. We fully support the SU, and we are working with them in an effort to respond in a positive and effective manner.

WE DON'T NEED NO NOISE POLLUTION

Dear Editor,

The UNB Science Library offers a spacious study section equipped with large tables. This excellent facility, which enables one to spread out books and notes invites one to the study of scientific literature. Or, it rather should, if there wasn't this noise everywhere.

Quite frankly, it is very aggravating, when trying to study and people around you talk with loud voices. In the past, working in the science library has not been a problem. However, recently, the abuse of this facility as a communication centre has become more and more popular. First, there seems to be many "regulars" who spend their time between classes studying. Some of these are frequently visited by colleagues and friends for a chat or the exchange of other information. Secondly, there are group walkers pre-paving assignments, a process that naturally requires talking.

There seems to be more and more a tendency that these group workers come from Engineering. I guess they try to escape from their own library, which has the sound level of a medium sized airport terminal anyway. Statistically, the majority of the "noise offenders" are males and the noise level of the individual seems to decrease with age/maturity. Talking in the library seems to be contagious: Once one group starts, many others seem to follow. People, who feel free to talk in any library simply have the wrong attitude towards studying.

They should be aware that: (1) they distract other people from work (2) it takes only one to disturb many others.

Hence, this kind of behaviour is anti-social. A library is a place for quiet reading. Group assignments should be done in classrooms or the SUB. Private conversations can equally well take place outside the science library in the coffee area. I have been at universities of 3 different countries, but have never come across such a silly and redundant problem. I would like to appeal to the fairness of all students to keep absolute silence (or, if really necessary, whisper!) in the libraries. I would be sad, if such drastic measures had to be taken as the U of Manitoba did, namely taking away marks from repeated noise polluters.

—Sincerely, Jurgen Kraus