

MUGWUMP

by Allan Carter

Where the heck is security on this campus when you need them? On Monday I was rudely bothered by a young boy who wanted me to pay two bucks for a chocolate bar in order to support his junior high school. I was deeply horrified and offended by this intrusion as I walked about the beautiful, manicured grounds of our esteemed, academic institution. I wondered, while being harassed by this monster, just what UNB was becoming - a haven for greedy little boys and girls whose only intention is to rob poor, deprived university students of what little money they have?

Unable to avoid the crafty young fellow I was forced to listen to his long, decorative sales pitch. In the distance I could see a red security K-car and for one moment I thought help was on its way. But alas, it turned into a parking lot. It was a terrible experience. Perhaps if I had been at the mall or at a supermarket I might expect such behavior, but on a university campus - I think not! Oh, by the way, I brought three chocolate bars.

I would like to take this opportunity (this is beginning to sound like a speech) to correct an error in last week's Mugwump. (Get used to it, this will probably be routine.) The beach balls which the UNB Student Union brought were primarily created for the first year students for Orientation week. So, actually, they were not blown up until the first of September. Yeah, that's when I usually dig out the old beach ball. Nevertheless, sensing bitterness in my article, the President of the Student Union, Greg 'let's tell boring stories at Student Union meetings' Lutes sent me a beach ball. The following is his touching letter:

Sept. 16/91

Allan,

I finally figured out why you were upset about the beach balls. Obviously, you missed out in getting one so here you go. If you need it blown up, come on upstairs to where all the hot air comes from!

Greg

Have you picked up a Beaverbook yet? If not, do so. It's the best edition I have ever seen.

I hope everybody takes a gander at the news article concerning the decision not to renew the station manager's contract. Unfortunately, no one at CHSR seems very eager to speak about it. The Bruns reporter had great difficulty in getting any comment from the Board of Directors at the station. In fact, she got none at all.

I find the whole situation quite distressing. After all, full time undergraduate students at UNB are contributing about \$76,000 to the station this year. Therefore, students should have the right to know what is going on at the station.

There is no room for secrecy in organizations which are publicly funded. This was evident in last year's battle between the Student Union and the Social Club. Perhaps, members of the Board of Directors will take that into consideration next time the media phones.

The police force in Fredericton have quite a nasty habit. Tuesday night while driving down Regent street at three o'clock in the morning I noticed just how quiet the street becomes so early in the morning. With this fact in mind, it baffles me why the police insist on throwing their sirens on at three o'clock in the morning, piercing the still night and waking everybody up. Certainly it is not to warn the traffic. Perhaps they are warning the stray cats.

Deadlines! Deadlines! Since some people are still not aware of the fact that this paper does have a deadline date I am forced to announce some events: A benefit for the South Africa Education Fund in honor of the visit of Walter and Albertina Sisulu will be held. It will feature Ujammaa at Sweetwaters on September 24 at 10.00pm.

Those interested in performing or working backstage at the Red and Black Revue may attend a general meeting on September 25 at 7pm in Tilley Hall (Rm 102).

Until next week try to make classes.

OPINION

The opinions found in Opinion are not necessarily the views of The Brunswickan

Federal Financing Of Post Secondary Education

Released by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

The constitutional fact that provinces have jurisdiction over all levels of education often blurs the reality that the federal government is the major provider of funds for the operation of our universities and colleges. The federal government transfers funds to the provinces and territories to help finance post-secondary education under the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977 (often referred to by its former title, Established Programs Financing of EPF).

Why The Arrangement Does Not Work

Under the present arrangements the provinces are accountable; no mechanism exist to ensure that provinces allocate the federal funds intended for post-secondary education to our university and colleges.

The present formula has replaced a federal provincial cost-sharing arrangement. Since 1977, provincial governments have continually reduced their commitment to post-secondary education funding.

The funding formula is based on provincial population and not student population - it does not adequately reflect the costs incurred by provinces with larger proportional student populations, such as Nova Scotia and Alberta. A funding model based on student population would encourage provinces to increase accessibility.

Cuts to Transfer Payments

Declining provincial commitment to post-secondary education funding has been compounded by federal government cuts to transfer payments.

Since 1983, the federal government has introduced five pieces of legislation to limit the growth of transfer payments.

The most drastic cut-backs have been imposed by the present government in a continuing attack on post-secondary education. By the end of its second term in office, the Conservative government will have cut back over \$4 billion from post-secondary education funding.

As a result of their latest action - a freeze in the growth of transfer payments - post-secondary education funding will not even keep up with inflation; in constant dollars the funds for post-secondary education have been cut even more drastically.

Federal government cut-backs are a reflection of the government's lack of commitment to fully accessible, high quality education. The crisis in educational funding means fewer available courses, larger classes, decreased resources for research, inadequate library facilities, deteriorating buildings, and an increase in user fees to make up for the shortfall in government funding - in the last ten years, tuition fees have risen by 93 to 360 percent, depending on the institution.

**IF YOU HAVE AN OPINION
ON ANYTHING
OF CONCERN TO
THE STUDENT POPULATION,
DON'T HESITATE TO WRITE IT UP
AND DROP IT BY OUR OFFICE.**

LENGTH: 1000 words

DEADLINE: Wednesday noon