

Mugwump

By EDISON STEWART

Hello again. I hope you had ample time to rest your weary bones over the holidays. While you may have been resting easy though, the world went on without you.

Remember the hijacking of a Quebecair jet in December? According to news reports the alleged hijacker is supposed to have lived in Saint John for a while. His wife still lives there.

So in the fine tradition of New Brunswick journalism, one would expect the Saint John Telegraph Journal to rise to the occasion and interview the wife. For reasons that are still unclear, though, they didn't. They took her picture and ran it on the front page, and presumably they sent it out on the wire to other papers.

But no story.

That alone didn't bother me too much. Maybe she had, after all, refused to say anything. These things happen.

But I was wrong. The same day that the photo in the TJ appeared, The Montreal Star devoted a good deal of page 8 to a story and photo of the wife and child. Apparently they did a telephone interview with the lady from Montreal.

From more than 500 miles away, an out-of-province newspaper covered a New Brunswick story better than a local paper.

Now that's performance.

For about the last year, now, I've been urging the university people in the Old Arts Building to do something about the falling ice around campus. I advanced the theory that someone might get hit and possibly killed soon.

About the only thing that accomplished was to get more "beware of falling ice signs" pasted around campus. And that doesn't do too much good when you absolutely have to walk through falling ice zone to get to a building.

That apparently didn't phase the boys in the Old Arts Building nope, they don't scare easy.

Well, Wednesday I decided to look into the matter. I asked several people if the university lost any legal liability in the matter if "beware" signs were placed around campus.

I asked Assistant Comptroller Sedgewick about that, but he didn't know. He felt sure that the university was doing everything possible to keep the matter in hand, but he said I should check with Jack Smith at the maintenance office to be sure.

I phoned Jack, and he told me that the maintenance department cleared the ice as quickly as possible whenever it appeared ice might fall (ie. in a mild spell right after cold and snowy weather). If ever I saw any ice that looked like it might fall, I should phone him, he said.

But he noted that the ice presented another problem. Aside from the fact that it was dangerous to walk underneath it, he said that it was dangerous for the men to be high up ladders knocking ice off various roofs. I said his concern was understandable, and added that there wouldn't be any problem at all if the architects who designed the place had been a bit more thoughtful when they pulled their plans out of file.

He suggested I speak with Chester Mahan, the UNB Comptroller. Mahan said much the same as Sedgewick, but he told me that the university has an insurance policy which might cover things like falling ice with the Morrison Insurance Company downtown. He stressed that he wasn't a lawyer and couldn't say whether the university would be liable or not.

Before I spoke with Morrison, I spoke with a law student, and asked his opinion on the matter. Yes, he said, the university would definitely be responsible for someone getting hit by a piece of ice.

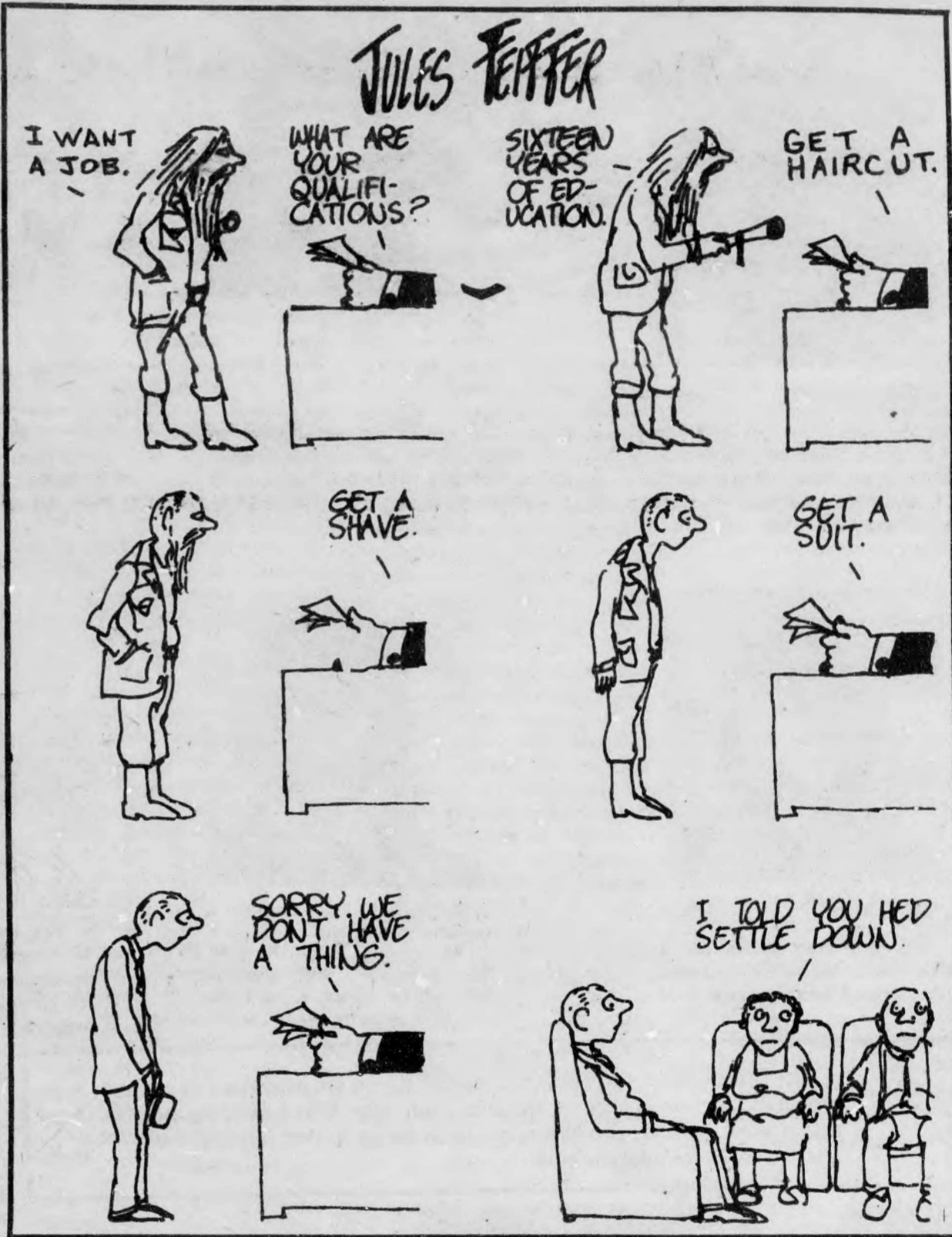
So I phoned Morrison.

I figured that since it was his company that had the policy, he might be concerned that he could be out quite a bit of money if somebody got hit by some ice and decided to sue.

No way.

He said his company would "naturally" be concerned if the university were negligent in the matter, but he said he didn't have any plans to check it out with the university. He didn't seem to care one way or the other whether the ice fell or not. As far as he was concerned, it will be "up to the courts" to decide whether or not the university was liable.

So it seems that no one - absolutely no one - is in the least concerned about the ice that falls with amazing regularity around this campus. One would think someone in the administration would be at least interested in the matter, if only to make sure his own head doesn't get corked by several pounds of ice.



Students must be motivated

By DR. DAVID WILLINGS
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Is Vocational Guidance necessary? If so at what stage of a person's life should it be offered? Is Vocational Guidance in itself adequate?

I propose to confine this paper to considering vocational guidance among University students. Over the past eight years, I have been studying the vocational choices of final year undergraduates in Britain, USA, Holland and France. By the time I questioned them, there was little or no prospect of changing their degree course. One would suppose that by that time, they knew what they wanted to do after graduation. Only 18 percent had any idea. To a selection of the British sample, I administered three tests; the Kuder Interest Scale which gives an indication of a person's strong and weak areas of interest, the Kuder Personal Preference Scale which

gives an indication of a person's preferences for group activity, dealing with ideas, avoiding conflict, directing others and for familiar and stable situations. I also administered the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale which not only gives a person's I.Q. but also some rough indication of his special aptitudes. The subjects in which these students expected to take a degree in a few month's time had no bearing whatever on their interests, preferences and aptitudes for 86 percent of the sample.

How did they come to be studying for degrees at variance with their vocational propensities? 52 percent openly admitted that they had drifted into a degree course not knowing what they wanted to do. 15 percent would have preferred to study an Arts subject such as Classics or History but were advised that such a degree is "useless". As I see it a degree can only be "useful" if

the student is motivated to learn. 5 percent were unable to study the subjects they were interested in because of timetabling or regulations. Only 18 percent were studying subjects that interested them. I have already suggested elsewhere that British, American and European schools create a conditioning to disinterest which is continued and rendered irrevocable at University.

Jean Mackintosh, Student Progress Officer at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, has pioneered a great deal of work among student dropouts. She has found, and lectured and written widely in Britain on her findings, that lack of ability is one of the least frequent causes of being obliged to leave University without a degree. The most frequent reason for failure to complete a course of

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