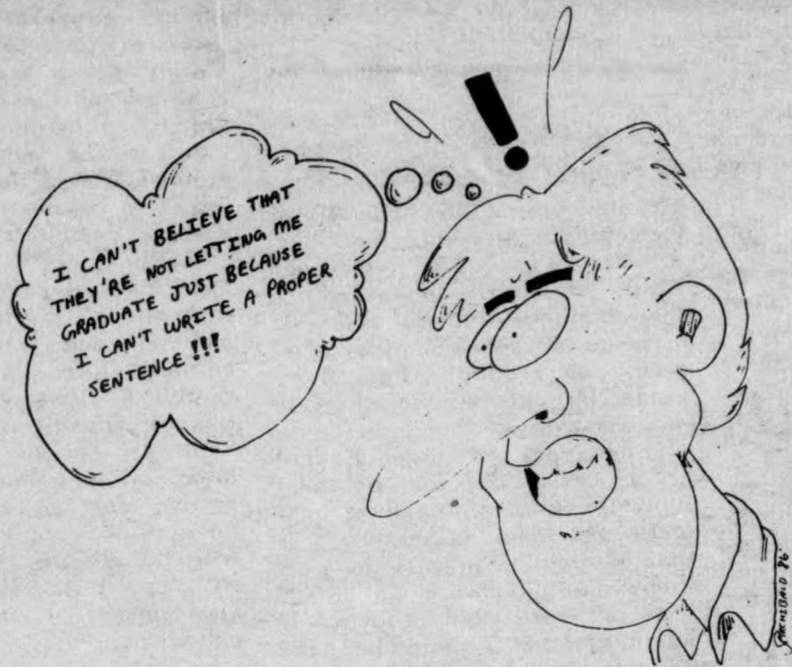


EDITORIAL



The other day I had the pleasure of listening to four rather irate engineers 'discuss' UNB's Competence in English Test (CET). They were considerably peeved because after completing 3, 4, and 5 years of their respective programs they were informed by the registrar's office that they were required to write, and pass, the CET before they would be permitted to graduate.

The information I gleaned from their conversation regarding the regulations surrounding the CET was far from accurate. In fact after overhearing their conversation I asked other people if they knew about the above mentioned regulations. I found that students I spoke with either knew nothing about the CET and thought they knew everything or they knew a little but were equally confused.

So, I did a little digging to find out about the regulations and came up with some interesting information. Incidentally, this information is mailed to applicable students in the form of a memo from the Registrar's Office. The following is a quotation taken from this memo:

"In June 1983 the Senate of the University approved the introduction of a Competence in English Test. The Senate motions states in part, that beginning September 1983 all undergraduate students registering for the first time at UNB will be required to take a test to establish that they are competent in writing of English, with the following exceptions: those in possession of a bachelors degree, and those registering in the Faculty of Law, the One-Year Education programme, or any approved English course or it's equivalent."

It must also be noted that any student who registered at UNB prior to 1983 is automatically exempt from this regulation.

The CET tests overall competency in English. Toward this end the test is in two parts: a short precis and an essay of approximately three hundred words which must be completed in less than one and one-half hours. I applaud the Senate and the English Department for their efforts. I think that in order to test a student's competency in English, the CET is somewhat limited, but it is a start.

Professor Richard Guerin of the English Department, in the capacity as chief reader, and George Haley, in his capacity as assistant reader, compile most of the material in the test. They are, however, assisted by readers who represent each faculty on campus.

In comparison to other Canadian universities our CET is not considered all that difficult. Yet, there is an approximate failure rate of 40%. This figure alone justifies the Senate's decision to implement this Competence in English Test. Perhaps those students who feel that the CET is being thrust upon them might consider its beneficial aspects when applying for a job. After all, even the process of applying for a job involves competency in English.

In spite of the 40% failure rate Rufus McKillop, Associate Registrar feels that, "...students are looking more seriously at the CET and this changing outlook should lead to improved test scores."

Karen Mair



Mugwump

By VALERIE WHITE
Managing Editor

Journal

I'm taking time out from the ball games to write this column so some of you out there had better appreciate it. Of course it doesn't really matter that I can't be in front of the television tonight anyway because at the time I am writing this column the Mets just beat Houston 7-6 in a 16-inning thriller, and Boston is leading California 7-0. I couldn't ask for much more, could I? The only problem now is to decide who to root for in the World Series!

As you all know, the student elections are coming up this Wednesday. This university has a reputation for poor voter turnout and I really can't understand why. Politics on this campus seems to be such an important, heated issue, that it surprises me when people refuse to use their voting privileges. And what really irks me is that the people who do most of the complaining about student government are the people who don't vote. Even if you don't have an opinion on all of the positions, at least vote in the polls which concern you. For instance, all you grads should get out there and vote for the valedictorian of your choice. You could at least express an interest in the person who will be delivering a speech on your behalf at graduation. Hopefully more graduates will vote than those who expressed an interest in the Ooze Cruise! At least you get a second chance for that because tickets go on sale next week for the second time this term. Once again I will buy my tickets, hoping that it will go ahead as scheduled.

Congratulations to the UNB Women's Society for taking a quick and decisive stand concerning the sexual assaults on campus. The group held a conference on Wednesday of this week and came up with some fairly positive, substantial proposals which they released to the press after the meeting. Hopefully this will be the first in a series of constructive steps toward eliminating the rash of attacks on campus.

I must say I was pleasantly surprised when I walked through the SUB on Tuesday morning. Besides the fact that the Blue Lounge looks a lot cleaner, I saw a poster on the wall advertising an upcoming meeting for all those interested in forming a Star Trek fan club. Being the Trek fan that I am, I got kind of excited (not ecstatic or anything, just a little inspired). Now don't laugh! Star Trek is the only program on television worth watching anymore. So who cares if the show is 20 years old and Kirk always gets the girl and no member of the Enterprise crew ever dies unless they wear the red shirts--Spock is just too fascinating to pass up! For any of you who are interested, the meeting is Sunday night at 7:00 in room 103 of the SUB. See you there.

Since I'm writing this column it must mean that I survived the raging fires in Tilley Hall, Carleton Hall, and the Physics building on Wednesday. You're right, there weren't really any fires, it was only the annual fire drills. It certainly brought about some interesting discoveries, however. I discovered that many of the professors did not know what the alarm was or did not know the proper procedure to follow when it was sounded. Now that surprised me. But what shocked me is that some professors just kept on lecturing and mumbled something about the numerous bomb threats which interrupted classes in Tilley Hall last year. Now I can't blame anyone for not recognizing the sound of the alarm because we only hear it once a year, and sometimes not even that (forgetting, of course, that the damn thing is so loud that I don't know what else it could possibly be). However, I don't know about you, but when I do realize what the alarm is, I've got one thing on my mind, and that's getting the hell out! Oh well, live dangerously right?

On a final note I would like to congratulate John Bosnitch on his graduation. Way to go John! Sorry to see you go--don't think we won't miss you or anything; but eight years is long enough. Good luck in your future endeavours (as long as they aren't at UNB). Just kidding, of course.

Karen
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