

Sound Off

Education books being destroyed

To the Academic Community,

This letter I think should be of concern to all, as it is about a happening taking place on our campus. How many students, faculty members and administrators are aware of what is going on at the UNB resource centre, Marshall d'Avray Hall? It seems unrealistic that the people working there are being asked as part of their job to tear up books. Couldn't these books be put to better use even if they are old editions. Many people in our province can't afford to buy books but may appreciate these if they knew about them. For instance, couldn't they be distributed at the orphanages, hospitals, day-care centers, to teachers, to community centers, rural libraries and to young people's groups as books the book mobile doesn't carry.

It seems unfair that while we as students and faculty pay high prices for text books and other reading material required that older editions are being literally

torn up. These books must have some value or they would not have been printed in the first place. Is this a new form of austerity program?

As concerned academic members we would like to see this practice of unnecessary wasteful-

ness stopped. The reason we did not undertake to do anything personally is because we did not know who to go to with our concern. Who is in charge?

B.A.M.
S.L.G.

Thanks past pre-med executive

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the past year's executive, I would like to congratulate the new executive members of our society. As of this Thursday, the Pre-Medical-Dental Society of UNB - STU held its annual elections which saw John, McCluskey, Paulette LeBlanche and Garth Miller leave their positions within the society to be replaced by Sherman Bastarche, Andy Latouche, Tanya ... and Ted Logan. Respectively, they fill the positions of President, Internal

V.P.-Programmer, Vice-president and Secretary-Treasurer. Tentative plans for the rest of the year include a tour through Dr. Everret Chalmer's Hospital, a year-end social at the Mactaquac Lodge, a guest speaker at the last meeting on March 24th and possibly a film. New members are always welcomed.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for the up and coming year.

Past President,
John T. McCluskey.

Mugwump Journal

By TOM BENJAMIN

Our provincial premier's apparent attempt to commit political suicide has entered a new arena - the universities.

The provincial restraint program is again damaging the ability of students to acquire an education.

So far this year the government has refused to improve their repressive aid program, then followed their refusal with announcement of university budget allotments which seem calculated to force an increase in student fees.

The university's response to the budget announcement to date has not been favorable to students. The administration is considering both a reduction in services and increases in student fees.

I feel confident that this university is already operating with at least a modicum of efficiency. Cutting back on services will certainly result in the curtailment of need programs and services. The students, again, will be the ones to suffer.

The Hatfield government has shown a complete lack of concern for students in recent months. While hundreds of students occupied the Centennial Building in an attempt to alleviate the problems in student aid the provincial cabinet was preparing a budget in a nearby room that only increases the financial hardships of students. More than one person has suggested the demonstration affected the university allotments that were decided in that series of meetings.

It is totally illogical to ask students to accept increased fees in the present economic situation. The cost of books, food and accommodations are all rapidly escalating, while student aid levels remain constant.

It appears inevitable that residence fees will be raised to compensate for increased food and operating costs.

The increase is likely to price the already expensive residence system out of the market, and the possibilities for off-campus housing don't appear much brighter. Little has been accomplished to prevent the reoccurrence of last September's record-setting housing shortage.

Increases in both residence and tuition fees will simply prevent many students from attending this university next year. The government's steps are attempts to battle current economic problems, but the methods proposed appear terribly short sighted. Making it more difficult to attend university will only increase the unemployment level in a province currently with one of the highest percentages of unemployed in the country.

What will happen when the economy recovers and there is a shortage of university graduates here? That won't help the economy of this province either.

We must fight for a freeze in tuition - before it is too late.

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Vice president Gordon Kennedy faced an unwarranted attack at the last council meeting for his efforts to end sexual and racial discrimination in the granting of scholarships.

As Kennedy stated in a letter to the president of this university, many of the scholarships offered here use discriminatory criteria to limit applicants.

The criticism centered on two points - Kennedy's right to write such a letter without prior approval of council, and an apparent wariness of interfering with anyone who would deign to offer a scholarship.

Certainly an elected official of the student union has the right to conduct business without having every letter approved by the council as a whole.

Several councillors said they felt students should not attempt to interfere in the awarding of scholarships, no matter what criteria is set. Admittedly the present economic situation can only be described as disastrous for students, but do we have to ignore all principles in fear of alienating a wealthy donor?

The results of Kennedy's letter give further proof that his actions deserved praise, not criticism. The administration reply to the request for an examination of the policy indicated that some steps will be taken to improve the situation.

At present it appears the criteria for scholarships from donors now deceased will not be changed. However, contemporary donors will be approached about eliminating discriminatory criteria. Future sponsors will be asked to eliminate racial, sexual and religious discrimination from any awards they would present.

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