

EDITORIAL

What do you think Premier McKenna? Shall we serve British Columbia meat or fish with their whine?

Premier Frank McKenna's coup in obtaining 900 new jobs for New Brunswick has managed to generate a lot of complaints from the western provinces who are claiming that Frank utilized unfair business practices in order to get them. The province of British Columbia is even threatening to take him to court. However, Frank has thus far managed to blow off their criticisms as sour grapes and rightly so. It is about time that the west learned that New Brunswick has an abundance of skilled labour and is out to attract businesses to the province.

It is New Brunswick's aggressive approach to attracting business to the province which has paid off yet again. Moncton, which was previously featured in the *Globe and Mail's* Report on Business as one of the top five places in Canada to do business, managed to hang on to a top 10 position as Saint John was recently added to the list. As a matter of fact, Moncton actually has the distinction of being the only city in Canada to be on the top five list for two years in a row.

Additionally, New Brunswick was rated as the best province in Atlantic Canada for small and medium-sized businesses by the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, for having a pro-business attitude at both provincial and municipal levels.

British Columbia's claim that New Brunswick offered unfair incentives to raid jobs from other provinces is idiotic. On the one hand, B.C. claims to be tired of transferring money to the poorer provinces and on the other, they complain that the incentives were unfair when they get beaten in the contest of attracting business.

Premier McKenna did not offer cash for jobs—instead he is reported to have offered loans for retraining. Name one province which does not offer incentives of one kind or another to attract businesses and I'll bet you that I can point out a reason why they have no right to point any fingers. You can probably start with logging companies and old growth forests.

New Brunswick has earned this plum through hard work, aggressive marketing, and a desire to obtain the jobs, and if the West wants to kick up a fuss, I think we should serve them some fish to go with their whine because as I understand it, that western beef isn't lean enough.



The following is another open letter to my great pal, university president, Robin Armstrong.

Hi again Mr. Armstrong. It's me, your hungry next door neighbour Mark Morgan. Well, I guess I was your neighbour but unfortunately I moved closer to the vagrants that frequent Kings Place. It's not because you weren't a neighbourly neighbour or anything like that. It was just the fact that living next to a celebrity, such as yourself, made it difficult to concentrate on my studies.

However, I'm starting to regret the move. I guess you could say I'm sad because we never had the chance to have all those wonderful chats about the university and life in general that would have made me a better person had we had them. I'm not really sad in the usual sense of the word but sad - in the way my cat looked after it's 'pals' had been chucked into some vet's garbage.

I had to buy a bed for the new place so I went to Nutz Used Furniture for a single mattress and box spring. I got a very economical deal for the whole ensemble. The only problem was that the mattress looked like it got into a fight with a rat, a freakin' huge rat, and lost. All I know is that if a rat is bigger than you you let the rat do whatever it pleases.

Now I live right across from the old New Brunswick PC headquarters. I guess without Dick, the guy who allegedly had the habit of giving edible licorice underpants to young boys, the party had to leave shop. Wasn't there a time when New Brunswick had no PC MLAs? No that couldn't be it. They were such a great party.

Oh what did I do over my extended break? I'm glad you asked. Even in the Ozarks of NB, in Coldstream, that fat guy in a red suit still found me. All I got was a couple of towels and three cardboard boxes. I know: what a haul! But times are tough and most people I know can't afford a lot of expensive gifts since they have to pay for their schooling. Maybe if tuition wasn't so high, we all could've gotten better gifts.

So welcome to 1995. The price tag year. Yesiree 1995. Too bad it wasn't our tuition price. I have full faith in you Mr. Armstrong that as our president, you are trying your hardest to lower tuition. In fact, I fervently believe you and the rest of the administration would be willing to take pay cuts just to ensure that everyone can afford a decent education.

My transcript didn't fare that well last term but then I didn't feel so bad after I remembered how our great university fared in Maclean's. Where did we finish? Hmm. Anyway I can't remember exactly. I guess that always polite friend of Mr. Bosnitch's, Dr. Downey and his school finished number one. Wow. Now I'm pretty sure we had to be number two and we have you and our wonderful administration to thank. After all you people do all the work.

Before I moved I noticed that you never had any snow in your driveway. It must be tough for you and the Mrs. to shovel the snow every morning so you can come into work. If you keep up the good work I know you can be the man you always wanted to be.

Well it's time to say good-bye. I hope someone else is as privileged as I was and becomes your new neighbour too.

Blood n' Thunder

Chechen Crisis

Dear Editor,

What was initially a minor annoyance for the Russian government has now transformed itself into an embarrassing problem, especially for the Russian armed forces. It was once feared as the mightiest fighting force in the world but the Russian army now appears to be battling not only for control of Chechnya but also for the respectability and prestige it had lost after withdrawing from Afghanistan.

But one must keep in mind that the Russian army of today is not the same first-class military machine that held the West in check throughout the Cold War. The soldiers sent to Chechnya were conscripts who lacked proper training, good leadership, and organization and effective combat tactics. Many now regard the Russian army's performance as laughable after suffering hundreds of casualties and losing over one hundred armored vehicles to small groups of loosely organized Muslim rebels armed with little more than assault rifles and grenades. Despite this, the Russians, with endless supply of firepower, will inevitably prevail if they continue, and they will continue, for inextricably linked to this is President Boris Yeltsin's political future.

Despite calls for a cease-fire, Yeltsin, will have very little interest in stopping the conflict. Retreat from Chechnya would be perceived by the Russians as a humiliating defeat for their country. Already suffering a dramatic drop in their standard of living since the dissolution of the Soviet system, Russian citizens are in a foul mood and are unlikely to endure further bad news. Yeltsin is a political animal and clearly recognizes that bailing out of Chechnya now would mean inviting his own defeat in next year's elections.

His official announcements to cease the shelling and bombardment of Grozny is truly nothing more than empty rhetoric and a clever theatrical attempt to appease the West.

Some have forecasted that continuation of the war will lead to the collapse of democracy in Russia. It has been argued that domestic instability will occur as foreign businesses will refrain from investing in an economy starving for employment and consumer goods, compounded by the withdrawal of financial and technical aid by the West.

Though this argument appears sound, it fails to acknowledge that there is already domestic instability in Russia. Most of Russia is ruled by a vast network of criminal organizations who control 80 percent of its banks, regulate the price of most foodstuffs flowing into city marketplaces, and export enormous tonnages of Russia's raw materials. The Russian Mafia operates on a massive scale, rivaling the Italian Mafia in its prime, and is also heavily involved in the business of illegal arms shipments. In essence, Russia is an ocean of anarchy and lawlessness with small islands of legal and political order.

Shortly after his election as President of the United States, Bill Clinton pledged to send over one billion dollars in aid to Russia, in hopes of helping Russia get back up on its feet. So far, very little of that money has appeared and thus it is doubtful that Yeltsin gives the U.S. government as much credibility as we have been made to believe.

Still smarting from Afghanistan, most Russians find the idea of entering another conflict very unpopular. But to lose would be unacceptable and so

Yeltsin is determined not be remembered as the man who, with the awesome might of the Russian army, could not subdue the tiny republic.

—Kevin Brisson

Dissatisfied with UNB Non-Policy

Dear Editor:

In the December 2 issue of *The Brunswickan* in the "In-Depth Feature", Luke Peterson states that one general criticism with the new "Guidelines for Handling Complaints about Employee Conduct" is that they are too broadly constructed. Given the commentary by Noel Iverson, and the concerns raised by George Equakun of the Board of International Students (in the news section), it would appear that the broadness of the guidelines is only one concern of many.

While I have not seen the guidelines in full, it would seem that the university has decided to try to make some sweeping solutions and avoid the real problems at UNB. VP Academic Tom Traves states in a news article that "the UNB campus is not rife with racism" then cites some statistics from a very questionable survey. No, UNB may not be rife with racism, but it certainly is there.

In September 1992, a group of international students filed a complaint against a professor at UNB. They argued that his conduct was racist. As editor of *The Brunswickan*, I had an opportunity to see just how many holes there were in the employee conduct investigation process at UNB. At the time, I can remember the university administration assuring these students and *The Brunswickan* that they would begin the process of implementing a racial discrimination policy and would review a proposal to them by the Board of International Students.

Yet, what had been presented to the university community in June of 1994 is a far cry from a racial discrimination policy. VP Academic Traves assures us that the university "wants to develop a comprehensive and clear policy as soon as possible." The university expressed these sentiments two years ago and it appears to me has done very little since then. Further, what still remains unclear is whether they wish to develop some type of silly "improper or unprofessional conduct" policy or a racial discrimination policy as what appeared to be their original intent in 1992.

Noel Iverson has some concerns with the proposed harassment guidelines and claims that "no evidence is offered in support of a new and sweeping policy on employee misconduct." Iverson's comments are as sweeping as the proposed guidelines. From my experience at UNB, there is evidence that a racial discrimination policy is definitely necessary. In fact, if we actually wanted to take the administration's survey seriously, then at least 1.2 percent of 425 1994 graduates said they had experienced racial problems at UNB. A small percentage indeed, yet a percentage nevertheless.

UNB has a responsibility to both its employees and its students. Sexual harassment policies and racial discrimination policies are necessary in almost every working environment. UNB should be no different in this regard. UNB must make it clear to both staff and students that racial discrimination is not tolerated.

There is a concern about academic freedom and what Camille Paglia calls the professor's "obligation to offend"

(Bruns, Dec. 2, Page 9). Yet, with a clear and concrete racial discrimination policy such concerns are not at issue. How many people have concerns about academic freedom and UNB's sexual harassment policy? But, with the present general drivel that the university administration has presented to the community, the concerns of academic freedom to both the UNB employee and the UNB student are valid. Sadly, while these concerns are being raised over the proposed harassment guidelines, the university administration may once again avoid its responsibility of implementing a racial discrimination policy at UNB.

Sincerely Yours,

Allan Carter
1994 UNB Graduate

Another Frustrated with UNB Non-Policy

Dear Editor,

Since leaving UNB, I have stayed in touch with what has been happening there through *The Brunswickan* and through *The Alumni News*, both of which I get regularly. I have very positive feelings and commitments to UNB because of what I gained there, but more crucially, because of what I fought for while there. So it was with some disappointment that I read a recent article about the absence of a Racial Discrimination Policy at UNB, still! And when I read the absurd comment of Vice President Traves that a 1.2% instance of students who claimed to have experienced racism constitutes no real problem, I was doubly appalled and quite annoyed!

The mathematics simply speak against his assurances. Indeed George Equakun's response was to the point—International students are far too vulnerable because of scholarship dependency and the close scrutiny of their funders of their every move, for them to dare rock the boat. Of course, many have risked and suffered repercussions for their outspokenness about race problems at UNB in the past, but most, without clear assurances of confidentiality and goodwill from the school's administration, have simply kept quiet about the problems. They return home, however, with very sour feelings about UNB and Fredericton. This is not good. Most of them are aware of the fact that they have no really dependable support structure as long as they know they are attending a school that has been balking at coming up with a Racial Discrimination Policy for at least four years.

But what Equakun does not mention is the more obvious fact. Of the four hundred and twenty-five students who responded to the questionnaire, how many were International students or minority students? Of that number, what is the percentage of those who had complaints? Did it not bother the university that there were any complaints at all? Traves' comment that UNB is not "rife with racism" is a trite statement because it suggests that any attempt by anyone to suggest that there is racism on campus constitutes hysteria and exaggeration. Canada has never been a place that could be safely characterized as being "rife with racism". Racism in this country has consistently sought to avoid such sensational labeling—this does not mean that racism does not exist and thrive in Canada and at UNB. More critically, Traves' statement suggests that the university will only act when racism is "rife". I wonder if this was the principle that led