

BLOOD AND THUNDER

Letters to the Editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickan.

Letters may be sent to Rm. 35, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5p.m. Tuesdays. Max. length 300.

Student Politics

I was very impressed by your editorial in the September 14th issue of The Brunswickan. As a student politician, I found it gave me a great deal to think about. For example, should we, the Student Union Council, take issue with national and international events that do not directly affect students? Or are we correct in filling our time with more administrative duties? Perhaps it is these questions that give the term "Student Politician" its dual meaning. A student politician is both a "student" and a "politician" (by virtue of holding an elected position, I suppose) and b) a student of politics. It is interesting to note that two of our recent past-presidents have gone on to the Canadian Federation of Students, a vocal and top-ranked lobbying organization for students. It may be that their more administrative activities here gave them the tools necessary for their more political activities in Ottawa.

It is difficult to know how

far to go as a councillor, in terms of speaking out on issues, when you do not have enough input from your constituents. As you mentioned in your editorial, nobody asks issues-related questions at the open forums during elections. In fact, I nearly stopped in the middle of my speech last year because, out of the dozen or so people in the cafeteria at the time, none of them were listening. Not me, not to anyone. It was perhaps the most discouraging moment of my "career" as a student politician. And I sorely tempted to believe that UNB students were the apathetic group that I had been hearing about for years. However, to be fair and honest, I had to take the stand that the problem was the Students' Council, in that we had somehow failed to reach the students. After all, how can you be interested in something when you don't know anything about it? To that end, we have been attempting to increase our presence on campus, so that at the very least people will know the names of their faculty representative. (In last year's

Opinions and Attitudes Survey, only 13% of the students surveyed could correctly name one of the faculty reps.)

What I found most interesting about your editorial was that it made me re-evaluate (once again) my perception of "student apathy at UNB". Could it be that the problem is not apathetic students who do not care for student politics, but rather conservative administrative minded student politicians who cannot bring to life the true spirit of the average student? There appears to be a catch-22 at work here, one which would require leadership and the support of those being lead to overcome. I believe that the current Student Union Council would be very capable of that leadership role, if there was at least the appearance of desire by the general student population for them to do so. Maybe our need for a by-election is a blessing in disguise. Perhaps this term's forums won't be wasted.

As you stated in your editorial, students have an organized political voice to use or not use. And I, too, am

genuinely curious as to how it will be used by our elected Student Government. But just as important, I am curious to see how our elected Student Government will be used by its constituents.

Student Taxi Fares?!

When I entered the University of New Brunswick in 1985, I was immediately struck by the manner in which the city of Fredericton acknowledged that its image was to some extent defined by the University. This recognition was shown in practical terms in the discounts offered to students by several public and private establishments. I discovered on Saturday, however, that at least one institution has withdrawn this recognition. The cab I took from the Fredericton Mall to Magee House cost me \$3.75 -- somewhat more than I had previously paid for the same trip. The driver informed me, on inquiry, that the taxi companies had decided, in summer, to abolish discounts for students.

A discount is certainly not a right, but by raising prices and by withdrawing the privilege of a discount, the companies have betrayed some of their most faithful patrons. If a few cab owners could conspire against the students, why is it that the students do not take some kind of collective action against them? After all, these companies continue to thrive on our patronage, although they no longer regard students as preferred clients. Perhaps students could avoid taking taxis for the rest of this term. For the present, however, the new students who read in the "Yellow Pages" that some companies provide "discounts to educational facilities" should be warned that such "deals" do not exist. Furthermore, they should not be deceived by such seductive names as Capital Campus Cab and Student Taxi. These taxis provide no special services to students or to the campus, now. Indeed, the retention of such titles in the light of recent decisions is an exercise in deception.

Attention 1991 Graduates

Employment Opportunities Session

EMPLOYER: Procter & Gamble Inc.

WHO: For all Engineering, Business and Computer Science Students of the Class of 1991.

WHEN: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1990
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

AND

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1990
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Head Hall, Room D-36 (Electrical Museum)*

A representative from Procter Gamble Inc. will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Refreshments will be served.

If you require any further information, please contact.

Canada Employment Centre on Campus
Room 3 Annex B



FEATURE of the WEEK:

Geoffrey Gammon Photography -various specials

The Little Studio - special prices on grad photos

Gallery of Portraiture - complimentary portrait sitting

Different Accents - 10% - clothing and handicrafts from around the world

Brought to you by  NATIONAL STUDENT DISCOUNT PROGRAM
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and your Student UNION