

## Mugwump

By EDISON STEWART  
Journal

This may surprise some of you girls in Murray House, but then a little surprise is good for the soul now and then, isn't it? Over the past several months one or two of you have asked me to look into a matter at your residence which you felt merited attention. I feel the same way, but I've just never thought about your problem whenever I sat down to write. So that's why you haven't seen it up until now.

Before I get started, here's a little background to the whole story: Murray House girls have wondered aloud several times as to why, oh why there was a wooden fire escape on their wooden building. According to the girls I talked to, they complained to Dean Kidd. About all that accomplished, say the girls, was to have a ladder - wooden, at that - added to the fire escape.

To me, anyway, that sounded like a pretty funny arrangement. I mean, doesn't wood burn rather readily?

So this week I began to uncover bits and pieces of the Great Fire Escape Scandal or, How To Fight The System and Lose.

This week's saga begins with a call to Don Barrett in the Maintenance Department. He tells me now work orders to change the fire escape (ie. from a wooden structure to a steel one) have been made. So there you go. Right off the bat you know that nothing's been done, and what's more important, nothing's about to be done.

Well, we newspaper people are supposed to check both sides of a story. That way we know we're not getting thrown for a loop. Or so the theory goes. I phoned Dean Kidd's office to check with her, but she wasn't there. I meant to phone back, but I didn't have time. As it turns out, there wasn't any need for me to talk to her anyway.

Rapidly running out leads, I phoned Hector Fournier, the provincial Fire Marshall.

Briefly what he said is this: On a wooden building, wood is most often used as fire escape material. There is absolutely nothing illegal or unsafe about the practise either. If, he said, fire is going to be close enough and hot enough to burn down a solidly-built fire escape and thus destroy an exit (one of the girls' worries) then it was also going to be too hot to climb down, whether it was wood or steel.

He noted that well-constructed wooden fire escapes can be every bit as good as the steel ones. He added that a building code instituted in 1970 does not allow new buildings to have exterior fire escapes. All escape routes in new buildings must be within the building, he said.

So there you have it girls. If you've still got complaints, write me a letter and I'll go at it again.

Rumors about campus over the past few weeks have centred around who we're getting for carnival. Well, its true, we WERE considering getting Neil Young (he played in Montreal this week) but now we're not.

Here's why: Pat Flanagan, the guy who was going to organize the show, was made an offer for Young in December. After all sorts of red tape (waiting for a weekly SRC meeting and other such blockades) it finally took two weeks to get the necessary approval for the show.

By that time the offer was gone. It would have cost this university \$3,000 to bring in Young, a paltry sum for a man of such talent. By the time everything was set, though, the offer had disappeared.

Flanagan has some recommendations to next year's SRC. (Potential councillors take note) He says an entertainment committee should be set up in the fall with a budget and allowed to act swiftly on offers like this one which pop up from time to time. That way, he says, UNB won't get lost in the shuffle.

Speaking of SRC elections, President Roy Neal announced Monday night that he's running again for the position. (To Date) No other names have been mentioned as candidates. Rick Fisher, who at one time said he was in the running, seems to be eyeing the Comptroller's position. Fud Steeves, currently an SRC Administrative Board member, is also running for Comptroller.

The university's sub-committee on parking will likely be recommending soon that UNB charge as much as \$40 per year to park close to buildings. Otherwise, it seems, drivers will have to park their machine in obscure little lots somewhere the other side of the north pole.

Other universities charge up to \$40 for the privilege of parking, says a source, but so far no figure has been decided upon for use at this campus.



## Student queries SRC function

By RICHARD KENT

Attending an SRC meeting is the non-exercised right of virtually all students. However, the impressions that I received from Monday night's meeting suggested to me that it is a worthwhile experience, even if only taken advantage of once.

The editor of the BRUNSWICKAN and others have criticized SRC President Roy Neale for spreading himself too thin in student affairs. While this may be true Monday night's meeting at the same time absolved him for doing so. As that seems to be a paradox, I will explain.

The issues brought before council at this meeting were important to every student on campus. They included the Kepros Report, OFY information, Winter Carnival, and finally a substantial fee increase next year. Yet, with the exception of one or two council members our elected or acclaimed representatives showed about as much enthusiasm as the student body did in replying to the Busing Survey - Not much! They attend Monday meetings with little forethought and then, as an Arts representative described, "rubber stamp all motions" forwarded by

the President and his executive. On an issue as basic as the fee structure only John Rocca, the Law Representative, had some introspective thought for council to contemplate. It was the only time during the evening that a council member gave Roy Neale the help for which he was asking, in formulating Student policy. Faced with this unconcerned, nonchalant attitude of his council members, Roy Neale plays the role of a benevolent dictator or sometimes a benevolent manipulator. (We pay the President \$80 weekly to be concerned.) Under the circumstances, Roy Neale has done a more than creditable job during office.

However, with the council members unwilling to make any waves, the odd motion that should at least be queried is passed without any substantial discussion or opposing votes. In my opinion, such a motion came before the council Monday night. It regards the necessity to send two members to Toronto this weekend for a student Charter flight conference. While all but \$25 of Neale's expenses are covered by AOSC council allocated an additional \$150.00 for another UNB representative. If AOSC had

thought two representatives were necessary, they would have allocated funds for two instead of one. Anyhow, Roy and Chris have a good time and stay out of the Bars long enough on Friday night so you will be able to attend Saturday's meetings in the best interest of the students whose money you are spending.

Something else happened Monday night which was disturbing. A student outside of the council often voiced his opinion, but towards the end of the meeting was told by the chairman that he had "too much to say". While agreeing with the chairman on the points of order that should not be abused, to admonish this student in front of the councillors was in bad taste. Reprimanding this student only serves to boost the ego-tripping that is so evident in council chambers and condones the apathy of some members. I should not be interpreted as including all student representatives as status seekers - Mike Richard immediately comes to mind as an exception and no doubt there are others. On the other hand we shall see how many council members will have given the Kepros report their perusal by the next meeting.