



Mugwump  
By TOM  
BENJAMIN Journal

With another SRC election in the offing, indications are that fairly unusual platforms will be used by some candidates.

One candidate allegedly said he will reduce the SRC fees from the present \$45 per annum to \$25. The reduction would be the fiscally irresponsible action any council executive could take, since it would mean drastic curtailment of all council activities.

The reduction would also be in direct opposition to the opinions of students who voted in favor of raising the fees in a referendum passed last year. That attitude toward referenda seems to reflect the opinion of many councillors — and would-be councillors — of late. It has become a common practice for those who oppose the results of referenda on this campus to call for another referenda at the earliest possible moment — apparently with the hope students will reverse the decision. For a body that is supposedly representative and democratic that opinion certainly reflects a lack of concern for the democratic process.

The apparent willingness to disenfranchise constituents is reflected in the platform of at least one other candidate in the Feb. 18 election. The candidate in question is advocating another referenda to decide if this university will remain a member of the National Union of Students.

A referendum during the spring term decided that this university would be a member of the union, and I can hardly see the need for another at this time. Surely the students of UNB are not so fickle that another referendum is necessary after only a few months.

Last Monday's SRC meeting also exhibited a lack of concern for referenda decisions.

Council spent more than an hour debating the merits of granting a paltry \$1,000 to support the students occupying the Centennial Building. Many councillors argued against the grant, saying that students were opposed to the student aid campaign, and would not approve of any financial support for the students in the occupation.

Those councillors apparently forgot that students gave the student aid campaign a mandate less than a month ago. Some councillors were even so brazen as to suggest another referendum to discover if students really supported the issue.

However, council regained some semblance of sanity in time to pass a motion giving money to support the occupation.

It should be noted that councillors who were most vehemently opposed to granting the funds were also opposed to having a roll-call vote on the question. Apparently they realized students do support the campaign, and would be displeased if their elected representatives voted against their wishes.

Actually the munificent sum granted amounted to only a minimal gesture of support to the occupation. Food and transportation costs for the students in the Centennial Building are running at about \$250 per day, meaning that council donated enough to support their fellow students for the grand total of four days.

If it is necessary for the occupation to continue I certainly hope council will re-think its position and give some solid financial support. When a student association in another province, the Ontario Union of Students, can be generous enough to donate \$1,000 it would certainly be miserly of UNB to avoid granting additional funding as needed.

The occupation is picking up very mixed reactions from the local populace. Comments I've heard vary from "If I was a student I'd be there too" to "They ought to throw the buggers out."

However, it seems that many of the unfavorable comments can be attributed to misconceptions about the students' demands, and about the aid program itself.

The most common criticism of the students — and the aid program — is that a high percentage of the loans disbursed are not repaid. Not true, say senior government officials. Actually the default rate, according to officials, runs at less than five per cent, with many of the defaulters unable to pay due to unemployment or illness.

It should be remembered that student loans are just that — loans, and loans which are almost always repaid, with interest. A student is forced to borrow a large amount of money before even becoming entitled to a bursary. By the time student loans are repaid students have more than compensated for any bursaries received from the government.

Records of debates of the provincial legislature of a few years ago contain some interesting comments about the repayment of student loans. Apparently at that time several MLAs sitting in the house had not repaid loans received during their university days.

Acts of wanton destruction seem to be more and more in vogue on this campus, as evidenced by the fate of snow sculptures constructed as part of Winter Carnival celebrations.

Members of the engineering faculty spent several hours earlier this week making snow sculptures, only to have them destroyed on two different occasions.

The engineering faculty is well known on this campus for its willingness to participate fully in all social events, and usually comes up with some innovative additions.

Despite the destruction of the sculptures, engineers should be complimented for their participation.

## Regulations need enforcement

Dear Editor:

While listening to a favorite newscaster this morning, I was rudely awakened from my sleep-walking, which most of us seem to be doing a great deal of these days.

I suppose most of us listen to this broadcast as we ready ourselves for work. Today's topic being Spraying Our Forests and the cost entailed, Mr. Boudreau should have a little talk with the people, the hungry concerned man, he has a few ideas on how to make a few dollars for spraying. It's a well established fact that the stumpage rates (the money the large companies, Landagger and Irving) (pay to level our trees) have not been raised in 9 years. How much has the trivial small foolish items like bread and milk been raised in the last 9 years? Now the forest tycoons are saying that the quality of the trees is poor so perhaps their hitting us up for a drop in rates! Sure sounds like it.

Have you taken the little wife and children for a walk in the forests lately the first 200' of the

walk is beautiful until you run out of trees. Their slowly being stripped, Woman's Lib should step in on this and stop this forcible rape of sister earth.

Never really wanting to be rich, I've toyed with this money making idea, prime interests being the forest industry and how to get the burden of heavy taxes off my and the fellow next to me's back. If Mr. Boudreau and his fellow bench warmers would read some of their laid-on laws, they would undoubtedly see the light and come up with a fabulous way to double the revenue from the forest industry, as my pockets are empty from paying his ridiculous wages. The money that could and should be raised from penalties resulting from poor cutting practices as quoted in Regulation N.B. Reg. 67-52 (In case Mr. Boudreau needs a reference).

Art. 31 - (a) falling any tree having its smallest dimension 12½". (\$50 a tree)

The forest tycoons may find this particular article of interest although I'm not sure if our small Canadian laws are enforceable

against foreign tycoons. Art. 32 - (b) for failure of a licensee of permittee to comply with the terms of a cutting permit the Minister may immediately order the permit cancelled.

Art. 32 - (g) for any wasteful practice included in section 31 of these regulations, 50 cents for each piece or tree.

Section 31 in our language means using all the tree, not cutting of the prime lower 10 feet of the tree and leaving the smaller tops to waste where they were felled.

Being no efficiency expert the only way I can figure out to count up the penalties owed to our Mr. Boudreau is to perhaps create a few hundred jobs (summer work) for some of our beautiful students who are trying so hard to put themselves through our upper middle class colleges, so they can get a chance to straighten up what's left to them, our poor raped gutted earth.

These penalties should be enforced, sad to say but I suspect Mr. Boudreau and his bench warmers are so tied up with their tycoon friends that they are afraid to enforce their own laws. Perhaps he should be afraid not to enforce them. Our society seems to be based on fear, the little man is always afraid, perhaps a little muscle in the right direction would be a blessing.

Perhaps someone would make a few offers that can't be refused.

Barbara Morris  
RR 3, Box 6  
Nackawic, N.B.

## Council saves face

To the Editor:

The events of Monday's council meeting deserve some personal comment. The council was asked to donate one thousand dollars to aid the students participating in the activities down the hill in the Centennial Building.

The Executive of the SRC by requesting the money, was asking Council for a payoff. Since live warm bodies in the form of UNB students are not filling the Centennial building, since there does not appear to be any campus-wide support for the protest, Council was asked to save face by aiding the strike financially I disagreed with this and voted against the motion.

I suggested that since a major part of the expenses that are presently being incurred are for transportation, the Administration should be asked to donate a university vehicle, rent-free, to the demonstrators. I also suggested that the students buy needed food supplies from farmers advertising in the local papers.

UNB students interested in the student aid question have been assisting the demonstrators. Their time and effort represents the contribution of students from this campus who are concerned enough to get involved in the protest. Their concern should be tolerated by the student body of this university just as much as those students who decide not to participate should be left free to do so.

Sincerely,  
Christopher B.J. Pratt  
Arts Representative

## Tibbets incident discussed

Dear Editor:

It seems as though former Bruns staffers are getting their two cents worth in lately, so what is bothering me are the replies to your editorial "Childishness displayed", published in last week's issue. I guess this is really aimed at a few of the "men" from Jones House.

I realize your anxiety over the editorial, and I agree that it was rather vague. It is also obvious that all Jones House residents did not participate in the antics and we shall take heed of the fact that not all of the pranksters were from Jones.

I am not condoning the Bruns for writing an editorial which put the blame on a few, but I do agree with the basis behind the argument. The real issue is the immaturity behind the whole incident and if Tibbets was first to "attack" then they too are in the blame. The only bad point about a little fun like that, is that it could get out of hand and even having to visit the infirmary

for a very minor reason is, to me, going too far.

But my real point is yet to come. Retaliating with insults to someone that upsets you in the manner some of you did, makes your writing no better than what you think of the Bruns editorial. If I were in Tom's shoes, I would definitely not take your letters to heart. Some of the nasty replies turned me right off, no matter how I felt about the editorial. You may have been innocent of the crimes you were accused of, but the replies sent in probably convinced a lot of people of your immaturity.

You would have gotten a lot further had you stated your side constructively instead of hurling insults to no end. I am not taking sides in the matter, but, as a word of advice, people do have a tendency to listen when they are not being called everything in the book.

Sincerely,

Susan (Manzer) Morell  
Editor-in-Chief 1974-75

## Occupation grant discussed

Dear Editor:

In this global village of ours, when a country is in trouble or needs aid, various fellow countries respond with aid in various ways. Some countries help with guns and napalm, some send in party workers, and Canada usually sends things like food, blankets, and medicine.

On Monday, the President and the Comptroller asked council to support a motion providing for a sum of money to help provide for transportation hot food, blankets, and other types of logistic assistance for the students from U de M., the half dozen or so councillors who were rather violently opposed to this, apparently did so on the basis that the students of UNB did not wish to

help fellow students from U de M. Whatever their feelings about student aid, or demonstrations, I feel that the students of UNB, every one of them (bar several councillors) would lift their hands to help fellow human beings.

It seems to me reprehensible that part of the so-called leadership of this campus has so little regard for basic concepts of helping people obtain hot food, blankets, and showers.

I sincerely hope that the six or seven "Sunday Christians" on council never find themselves in a situation where they need a helping hand.

As Always

J. David Miller