



Mugwump Journal

By DERWIN GOWAN

The year is just about shot, and we haven't got into half the stories the way we wanted to. It's not that we didn't try, mind you, but there's just too much that goes on in a year around here than one lone weekly can rightly handle.

It's been a good year for me. I think The Bruns crew this year are a real bunch of keeners. You might find this hard to believe, but some of them are planning stories for the first ish next year. There hasn't been a week go by when the staff weren't wrangling over some new issue. That's always encouraging, and what is really surprising is that it has never interfered with our production schedule.

We might argue politics all week, but when it comes time put out a paper, that's what we're here for and that's just what we do.

I think that's half the trouble with the way politics are run. People forget the purpose [in our case, putting out a paper] and they let the disease of pettiness set in. Personality conflict is the major symptom.

Another major problem is that people are always and forever putting the cart before the horse, that is, with respect to technical competence and a willingness to do a job. If you're keen, you can pick the stuff you got to know. And you might be surprised just how fast you can learn how to do a job you're really into. If you've never experienced that you've missed something.

Never let some smart-ass yoyo who thinks he-she just about knows everything there is, to be known, fool you for long.

It's been a long time since a definition for a "Mugwump" has been given. The Merriam-Webster pocket dictionary, 1970 edition, calls a mugwump a "political independent". That is what most people call a fence sitter.

I hope everybody gets to meet a bunch of people like I did at The Brunswickan.

Since this is April Fool's Day and this is the last ish of the year, I should grant one wish each for a few selected persons. To professors Young and Knoishi, that the student who replaces me shows up to class on time; to John Anderson and S.S. Mullin, a Brunswickan staff that forgets; to Steve, Tim, Jack and Jean-Louis, clean lenses; to Robert, Gerry, Sheenagh, Carlotta, a lifetime supply of steno pads; to Tom, a heavy duty jock strap; to Sarah, that she never misses a deadline; to the rest of The Brunswickan, lots of luck; to the SRC, a year free of issues; to Aitken House, lots of beer, and to the people who have to read this, not another melodramatic performance ever again.

I want to tell you a little story. A fellow went for a walk one day and picked up a \$100.00 bill off the ground. He finally found who owned it but the person said it was okay. He didn't need the \$100.00 bill because he had an extra one. If you believe that you're crazy. April Fools'.

They should ALL resign!!

Dear Editor:

Well, the student union is not in great shape.

The president, Jim Murray, apparently cares so little about the union that he says he wouldn't pay his SRC fees if they were optional. He also says that the union members should not be able to make important decisions by referendum.

The internal vice-president, Jan McCurdy is so caught up in a conflict of interest that she successively tried (and was finally successful) in getting an organization constitution passed which conflicts with a policy which she established. She is an executive member of the organization in question. She should resign.

The external vice-president, Alex Kibacki, did not bother to show up at the annual shareholders meeting of Campus Services Ltd despite the fact that he is one of the directors of the company.

One of the SRC chairmen John McEvoy, is now on the SUB board and is so politically involved that he can no longer fairly and justly chair SRC meetings. He should resign.

The SRC executive wasted over \$50,000.00 of your money this

year. The SRC is not doing the job it should or could, but no doubt it will survive as long as SRC fees are compulsory. It blocked the only democratic protest against one of its decisions which was ever launched. The protest followed procedures outlined in the Student Union's own constitution and the SRC through scare tactics, unconstitutional procedures, and undemocratic legislation changed the rules.

Apparently little can be changed through democratic protest when dealing with this monolithic body.

There is a way, however, to establish optional membership in the union. The union and through necessity, the university to court. The Board of Governor's motions shield the SRC. Say it isn't constitutional, say it isn't fair, say it's undemocratic, but say something and launch legal action against the union. I predict that changes would be in the offing with surprising speed.

Also if you don't think you're getting your money's worth refuse to pay your SRC fees next fall. Hang in there till you graduate.

Yours sincerely Alan Hildebrand

sound-off

IVCF is NOT fascist!!!!

Dear Editor:

It is not my habit to write to editors about their editorials but one of your editorials in last week's Brunswickan was so heavy handed that I felt it deserved a comment. The editorial in question was entitled "Many are called, Few are chosen" and dealt with the upcoming I.V.C.F. (Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship) elections.

I am not a member of this organization but I do know many people who are members and I consider it an insult to refer to them or their organization as 'fascist'. It is unfortunate that the editorial had to use this word because it tainted what was otherwise a well-intentioned editorial. There, indeed, seems to be undemocratic articles in the I.V.C.F. constitution but there seem to be more autocratic or aristocratic than fascist.

An unfortunate tendency of this year's Brunswickan is that, in trying to be 'hard hitting', it often becomes 'heavy-handed'. The I.V.C.F. editorial is a prime example of this heavy-handedness: the I.V.C.F. elections are no more fascist than the election of the Pope or of your local Baptist

minister. Stalin would not be proud of any of these organizations and it smacks of hysteria to say that he would be so.

Dr. Lawrence Peter, author of the 'Peter Principle' has written that 'one of the reasons that campus politics become so heated is that there is so little power to

fight over.' The sooner The Brunswickan takes these words to heart, the sooner its editorials will rise above "Daily Gleaner" standards.

Sincerely, Andrew L. Steeves

Student calibre still up

Dear Editor:

Just a short note to say that from my own point of view, the calibre of the student is, as it always was to those who really tried to understand them, quite high - especially in their philosophical (or even their moral code) values. They, at one even point, out and return even a small scrap of paper when I drop it in the SUB especially.

If these fine young people carry (on the example of the few I've met) these values into other

realms of their personal and public lives, then as far as I can see now, the world of tomorrow

will indeed have a bright future with the understanding in that fine

Symphony of Harmony, despite its discords which are indeed bound to happen - but hopefully as we come to understand, respect with patience, accepting each other on the other person's term not our own, be friendly, firm and have good fair dealings with each other, especially with our spouses (special friends - our family). Perhaps then through these people we have despite all (while not neglecting the fact that the past has some good points to it if we search for it but the good old days are not that good) a bright future indeed. I for one am very proud to know my future alumni members and I wish I could do more than just write these words.

H. Douglas Allen BSc. (A) UNB 55

Exam tables bad

Dear Editor:

I think it's time that the staff, faculty, administration, or whoever it is that sets up exam schedules, take the time to consider the differences between open and closed book exams, when they are deciding where the exams are to be written.

I have had it up to here (my hand is at nose level) with trying to write open book exams on those sticky, wobbly, little tables in the gyms and rink(s). For almost four years I have had the privilege

of trying to balance straight edges, writing tools, calculator, note books, hand outs, texts, and resource books on those dinky little tables as they sway from side to side with each word written. The whole exercise would be quite funny if the outcome was not so important.

Also, in three hours of furious fuddling, the chances are rather good that your calculator makes the quick trip to the hard floor at

least once or twice.

I realize there are problems in scheduling and that these desks must be used, and I do not mind at all using them when all I need is a sheet of questions and an exam booklet.

All I request is that the open book exams get first choice of the desks around the campus.

Sincerely, A.C.E. 4 "Bear"

Country going down

Dear Editor:

I'd send this reminder directly to RCMP headquarters, Ottawa, but relations are a bit strained....

A country which doesn't supply its educated young people with proper employment, is on the road to disaster.

Sincerely,

Maurice Spiro (Security Service Associate)

P.S. Some readers may not know that the Security Service is affiliated with the RCMP. M.S.

Faculty non-attendance

Let 'em know

Dear Sir:

In your issue of March 11, students taking courses in the School of Administration wrote a letter commenting upon the non-attendance of a faculty member at classes.

The Senate Student Services Committee has recently been discussing such questions of faculty accountability and has directed me to write to you to urge students to report cases where faculty members are not living up to their professional obligations to their students.

If faculty members miss a significant number of classes without notice, do not make themselves available for consultation - out of class, change the

course or university regulations to the disadvantage of their students or misuse their influence as members of faculty in any way, then students should report the matter. Such criticism should be taken directly to the faculty member if possible. If not, recourse should be to the departmental chairperson or the dean of the faculty, or through the office of the Dean of Students.

Behaviour of the faculty which is detrimental to students can only be dealt with if students are prepared to report such matters.

Yours very truly, Peter Kent Chairperson, Senate Student Services Committee

Black Monday

Boys of Aitken (att: "Sweetie"):

Consider this one step toward a better relationship. We don't know what possessed us to put on such an animalistic performance on "Black Monday". We are extremely grateful to you for letting this act pass without penalty. We are on bended knees, begging your forgiveness. We realize that you boys are not accustomed to such rowdiness.

We appreciate your not mentioning the acts of arson, petty theft, statutory rape, breaking and entering, abusive language, and acts of indecency on our part.

Sincerely yours, The Terrible Ten

