

## EDITORIAL

This week as I (at long last) negotiated what will hopefully be my final student loan I was struck with a deep feeling of dread and remorse at the prospect of my impending exodus from this university. At the end of this academic year, I along with numerous others from across the country will be facing the arduous task of obtaining permanent employment. As I pondered the implications of leaving this world which I have known for the past few years I was struck by the question of whether or not I have failed to leave any lasting mark upon this institution. Have I made any significant contribution to student life here at UNB?

When I arrived at home later in the day I was greeted by a letter from the UNB grad class who want to help me leave a lasting mark. They are also willing to help me empty my bank account at the same time. The envelope which had a sketch of a hand reaching for a handle sported the motto "Opening Doors". Inside the envelope was a letter explaining that the grad class project this year is to buy automatic doors for the SUB in order to allow easier access for the physically challenged and therefore a voluntary donation of \$25 would be appreciated.

I have been at UNB for a number of years now and have seen grad class projects commemorated by various methods, ranging from carving on the gates at the top of the university to plaques with all of the graduates names buried into the ground in front of the library but finally there seems to be a project that will actually make a contribution to improving students lives here on campus. Although the self gratifying "beautification" projects may allow one to leave their name carved into the campus it is those which actually make a contribution towards improving the daily lives of students that really leave a lasting mark. The graduating class of 1995 will not be able to claim that they solved the larger problem of accessibility on this campus (which as we are all aware is appalling), they will however, be able to claim that their project at least addressed the issue and hopefully succeeding grad classes will continue with this worthy effort.

If I sound positive about the project it is because I feel that it is a worthy one. However I cannot say the same about the plaque which will bear all of the contributors names. Beyond being more of the self gratifying graffiti which has infested the campus over the last few years, the very idea that I would want people to know that "I personally" helped to get automatic doors for the SUB is preposterous. I don't think that it is necessary that my name appear to tell everyone that I was one of the thousand students who paid so that a door could be put into the SUB. Honestly, who would care?



This week I've decided not to sardonically target anybody. Honest! Instead I'll be nice and help all you students get acquainted with the sometimes overlooked university Vice-Presidents. Who are these VPs? What do they do?

Well, I can tell you these swell people belong to the prestigious *I-earn-somewhere-near-100-Grand club*. But hey, isn't everyone worth their weight in gold. I've noticed collectively that not one of the VPs is a female but all their secretaries are women. I think it's a nice idea to keep women in their traditional office roles. After all once women get out of the kitchen they'll want something like... what do they call it... *equal rights*? What's next *equal pay for equal work*? Enough of my ranting here's the programme, the players, position and scouting report on the VPs Muggy style. Everyone has asked me to do this. Well honestly no one asked me to do this but... Morgan's rule #18 says *'nevermind nevermind'*.

**Tom Traves** or Tommy is **Vice-President of Academics**. I assume that he deals with marks, students, professors and the lot. I think a few former assistant and tenured professors will send Tommy some Valentines thanking him and the Administration for all those early retirement packages they couldn't refuse. I vaguely remember two packages of note but whatever and whoever they were concerning escapes me at this particular juncture in time. His math is impeccable. If you've been a prof. for 25 years he'll make sure that's like working 30 years. Great. Maybe I can attend UNB for a year and get a four year degree. Get this, it seems Dalhousie University has lured him from the Elm City and it's possible the one/four year degree will never happen.

**James O'Sullivan** represents the nickel and dime hoarder in us all, sometimes he's called **Vice-President of Finance and Administration** but here at *The Brunswickan* we affectionately call him Chief or we did sometime during the 50s. If I remember right he's projecting a deficit in his budget for UNB this year but if he's as lucky as he has been for the last six years then UNB is gonna have one hell of a surplus. Last year's was a million and some. So does that mean if we have a surplus we don't have our tuition raised? I'm sure as a former *Brunsie* he understands the plight of the students; after all he wrote enough editorials on the subject. Of course, maybe he might be taking advantage of one of Mr. Traves retirement packages and doesn't care. It would be greatly appreciated if he could recommend to the Board of Governors that all administrative personnel take a wage cutback. As a Business Administration student I can appreciate his financial savvy even if it's at his own expense.

**Vice-President of Research and International Co-Operation** belongs to **Frank Wilson**. He's the guy that... well to be honest I had to ask some people who he was and what he does. My first informant didn't know and the other told me to go somewhere where it's hot and they weren't talking Alabama. Thank God my third source told me Mr. Wilson is in charge of getting research grants from corporations from home and abroad. If he can bring more money to UNB; great for him, great for us. I was a little behooved on this international cooperation part in his title. Isn't international co-operation sort of like working towards world peace in conjunction with other nations? Hey, I'm like the next person, I think world peace is a good thing. I'm glad UNB has decided to take a stand for world peace and actually be the first to implement a position for it in their activities. Double kudos to the Administration for hiring a person to heighten international cooperation. Mr. Wilson, might I add a little bit of criticism, don't you think you're a tad slack with this whole Croatia and Bosnia thing. But I understand you're needed in other places such as the Middle East and Chechnya. We should have more efficient people like you. No seriously, I mean it.

# Blood n' Thunder

## VENTURE DECAL WASTE OF MONEY

To the student initiative co-chairs of the Venture Campaign:

I recently received your "free" decal that acknowledged my support of the Venture Campaign. As it found its way to my sophisticated filing system, under G of course, I wondered how much of my \$25 contribution went to this little decal and the postage spent to send it to me. As I thought about it some more, I wondered how much money is being burned on little things like this when it could be spent on the actual expansion. I am one of the few that voted against this fee and it was a really nice way for you to rub it in my face. I don't like being forced to pay for things I don't want.

A friend of mine recently told me that the staff of UNB received pewter pins. How nice for them. What did this cost? Why are they receiving letters on updates of your projects? How much postage does this cost?

With the threat of government cutback and tuition hikes, I would like to think that this campaign was showing some restraint. I would like to see a full and honest accounting of all the funds received and spent on this Venture Campaign.

—Kirstin Fearon

## VENTURE CAMPAIGN DECAL IS JUNK MAIL

To the Editor:

When I arrived home from school today I found an envelope from "The Venture Campaign" in my mail box. Not knowing what this particular campaign was all about, I opened the envelope to discover a rather elaborate decal which proclaims commitment to "SUB Expansion". The back of the decal reads, "display it proudly, showing your pride in UNB."

I voted against the SUB expansion: so needless to say, I won't be displaying the decal. However, I would like to know who paid for these decals. Whose idea was it to bother going to such lengths? Even if I voted for the expansion, do they actually think I'd display this thing ("proudly" or otherwise)? If nothing else, it seems that "The Venture Campaign" has succeeded in wasting someone's (presumably students') money and creating a pile of unrecyclable junk mail.

Given that there has been cutback after cutback within the education system and that tuition may quadruple, how can the expenditure of millions of dollars to expand the SUB be justified? The answer, quite simply, is that it cannot be reasonably justified. But, hey, after receiving this stupid decal in the mail I've got to figure I'm not dealing with reasonable people after all.

—Sincerely, T. Millett

## DUNN DON AND HOUSE COMMITTEE HYPOCRITES

Dear Editor,

We would like to comment on the "Empty Residence Beds" article in the Brunswickan two weeks ago. Our main concern is the idea that rules will "maintain order". In our experience rules must be enforced to actually do so. As residents of LDH, we have witnessed the hypocrisy of rule making and rule breaking. Certain members of our residence do not adhere to the regulations put forth. This has been continuous throughout the last 5 months. Does the dean of residence honestly expect everyone to learn and conform to the rules when there appears to be a double standard? This is evident with the exceptions made for some and intolerance for others.

More specifically we have had problems with double standards set by our very own Don and House Committee. Our house committee cries for house spirit only when it means winning some residence challenge. An example of this is an episode at the Mark Jeffrey's Memorial hockey game. House committee was not there to provide support for our hockey team but only to win Varsity Mania challenge. Especially disconcerting was the insistence on shouting a cheer while a player on the STU team was down. Anyone who knows "hockey etiquette" knows that this is rude and disrespectful. We were truly embarrassed. Fur-

thermore the insistence that we do not leave the game early (as it is rude) seems to be yet another double standard as near the end of the third period (after counting the girls present) members of our beloved house committee departed for a smoke in the washroom or to prepare for Dunn night out. This is hypocrisy at its best in Lady Dunn Hall.

The rest of the time residents do not have the same benefits or importance placed upon them. The Don's own insistence that house committee is special justifies the ownership of jackets by house committee members not available to any other residents. This only adds to the encouragement of alienation and belittling of house spirit. We believe some changes must be made within the houses and not just the residence community. Perhaps this hypocrisy in the houses is one of the many reasons why there are numerous beds available in the residence community.

—Disgruntled Duffers

## FOREST BREEZE SHOWS INTER-CONNECTEDNESS

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Chris Lohr,

Your "Forest Breeze" 5-star article of Feb. 3, caught more than my attention, but my admiration.

Congratulations for (what I like to call) a Yin Yang presentation of our inter-connectedness with Nature.

Such a global view is indeed more conducive to compassion, balance and holistic solutions.

—One who appreciates well-thought-of reportage, Hélyne d'Aigle

## I'M A WOMAN, SET ME FREE.

Dear Editor,

I was shocked to see an advertisement in the *Brun* last week for a "Lingerie Contest" at Sweetwaters. I'm not from any feminist group or anything like that, but I am truly disgusted.

I find contests like that totally degrading. I thought that the *Brun* was a "politically correct" newspaper. It's contests like that and support for it that give five women a bad name. What, can someone tell me, is the purpose of the contest? The way I see it, it's for a bunch of scummy men to ogle women stupid enough to do it in the first place. They strut around for what? Oooh \$1000 to degrade myself and females all together. Gee, where do I sign up?

I don't think this is helping groups that try and fight sexual discrimination, sexual assault and in general, a false opinion of women. I hope I'm not alone in saying I'm totally disgusted with the ad, the contest, the purpose behind it, and all who support it. I'm a woman, set me free.

—Georgina Bassett

## SU SHOULD ENCOURAGE FAN SUPPORT FOR REDS

To the UNB Student Union:

It may be early, but I'm going to bet that the Varsity Reds hockey team will be playing against Acadia for the AUAA championship. In any event, how about renting a bus so that they can have some fan support at their away games? Remember last year? Acadia had a ton of fans up here, so why can't we do the same thing? Come on UNB, the Reds are in 1st place. They proved that, going undefeated at home this season. Come out for a game or two, and cheer our guys on to the Championship! Maybe if enough people pledge their support, a bunch of us could go with them.

—A true UNB fan, Karin Copp

## ESTABROOKS BETRAYS TRUST OF STUDENTS

Dear Mr. Estabrooks:

I have put off writing this letter in the hopes that some miraculous act on your part would see you redeemed. However, at this stage that seems highly unlikely. So, as a result, I find myself wondering how you arrived at your enlightened conclusions. That is, the student protest was little more than a futile "fist shaking" directed at Ottawa. That the politicians couldn't take us students serious with our petty strike. That raising school fees along with increasing

loans is a good alternative to our present situation.

So, Mr. Estabrooks, using your rationale, the strikers involved in the mammoth coal strike in England during the mid 80's were shaking their fists. The peaceful protests by civil rights activists in Ireland & the US during the 60's were petty & futile. Granted, there is a world of difference between these issues and the one that presently faces Canadian students. Nonetheless, Mr. Estabrooks, please do not underestimate the power of the "common person". Your comments belittle the actions taken by Canadian students. Has your high profile political career with the UNB SU catapulted you into the higher realm of being above the "peasant" students? The action begins with the students, Mr. Estabrooks. We elected you there, we pay for your offices, you represent us. I challenge that the weak turnout for the protest was not because of any apathy on the part of UNB students. I say it is because the students put their trust in their representatives, namely yours & the Union—a trust I feel has been betrayed. I would ask that you get down off your pedestal and stop asking students to throw sugar at you for your supposedly great decisions. Let me ask you, Mr. Estabrooks, when was the last time you woke up and started the day in the real world and not in the Paul Estabrooks dimension? Your trying to play big league politics with hardly any little league experience. Obviously, the reason why many noted organisations nationwide supported the strike and why the UNB SU did not was due to the fact that the SU has much more experience dealing in these issues that anyone else—right Mr. Estabrooks?

Now please enlighten us all as to how your new system of fees and loans will successfully (and fairly) replace the existing system. Explain to me how a government already crippled trying to collect \$20 to \$30,000 loans intends to collect loans upwards of \$80,000. As I understand it (and forgive me if I have been misinformed—the SU seems to be picky about where we get our information from) the higher fees will be coupled with higher loans that will compensate for the increase. Firstly, the way things are at the moment, many smart, determined individuals cannot attend university because they cannot afford to have a \$30,000 debt waiting for them when they finish. Many people are not fortunate enough to grow up in a middle class environment. To them, third level education is an aspiration, not the expected. This is something that I feel you have forgotten about. So, according to you Mr. Estabrooks, third level education is not for them but should be limited, through this new system, to the middle classes. Now please let me take this one step further. Many of your associates say that we students are pampered compared with the US. But who succeeds in the US? Those who come from wealthy backgrounds and the lucky ones. There in Canada (at least to some extent) if you try hard enough, you can succeed. That's one of the beautiful things that separates this country from our neighbours. The school system is a training ground, preparing the next generation of Canadians to inherit this country. By limiting education to the wealthy, you severely retard the future generations by offering them only a middle class view of the world which, while being a valid view, is not the only one to be taken into account. I wonder if the genius who thought up the US system had the same ideas as yourself. Please forgive me if I'm wrong but does your SU position not give you free tuition anyway... my apologies if I am incorrect!

I suggest, Mr. Estabrooks, that you stop trying to play big shot politics and get back to the reality of what you are: a student who represents the best interests of the rest of us common folk. I plead with students & faculty here, don't let this one slip by us. It involves all of us. Things are hard enough as an unemployed graduate, how hard do you think they will be as an unemployed, out of school student? Demand of Mr. Estabrooks nothing more than his job and if he can't do that, that he move aside and let someone who can do something move in.

D. Okafo

**Blood & Thunder**  
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