

14 editorial

BY MARK MODGAN

Students are traditionally the go-getters in our New Brunswick society. The young, the vibrant and well, the poor. Students' income generally comes from part-time jobs that pay minimum wage. However, this year the Tory Blue McKenna party has seen fit to increase the minimum wage from \$5.00 to \$5.25. But get this—in July minimum wage takes an additional 25¢ jump. An additional incentive is that the provincial government is offering its lowest wage jobs at \$6.00. Announcing the higher wages, Advanced Education and Labour Minister, Roly Macintyre, stated, "This will give next summer's student workers a boost and will keep our student wage above the minimum wage level..."

It means, in principle, that the primary recipients of minimum wage jobs will now have higher incomes. I guess, to pay more in taxes, more tuition and more for basic services like power and phones. Oh, and in case you did not read *The Brunswickan* last week—bus fares.

The aim of the provincial government is to accord the student, the minimum wage earner, financial responsibility by taking charge of their finances and more importantly, tuition, for post secondary education.

Now this seems like an OK thing, in, of course, principle, however, when we exercise a bit of thought, and judgment we find that the students might, actually, suffer as a result.

Employers, while not having the luxury of having their "minimum wage" increased, will undoubtedly cut positions, roll back hours, raise prices or decrease the quality of their goods and services. I find it hard to believe that employers will lessen their profit margin, call me cynical.

So, in January, early February, you, like me, become a frenzied shark seeking out the remnants of that last bloody job. Some will have luck, many won't. The province alone received over 12,500 applications, but only 2,500 got jobs—get the idea (1 applicant in 5 got a job).

Students will be hit doubly hard because employers that offer minimum wage jobs usually cater goods and services to students. A price increase to make up a minimum wage increase is going to hit students right where it hurts, not only the students, but also the businesses which cater to them (i.e. they hurt themselves.)

The greatest thing this country has ever done for its youth was to assure them affordable education with student loans and summer employment incentives for businesses. I guess, Frank can feel like he is doing more for the students by giving them a chance to earn more money, if they can get the job and the hours. Surely, in New Brunswick, the land of a million call centres, the virtual hub of the information highway, we can all be accommodated with more than minimum wage jobs to pay for our education. After all, we are supposedly going to university to get the necessary job skills to earn more money to pay more in taxes, more tuition and more for basic services like power and phones.

Here's the bottom line—you might not be able to get the best education money can buy, but education is certainly the best thing money can buy. Oh, yeah, and don't forget—if you do get a job, don't forget the paper that brought this to your attention.

The Mugwump Journal

"Hey Joe, what do you know?"

This has got to be one of the most common greetings I hear. I don't mind it either, contrary to the way most people might react to a repeated salutation.

Not that you could tell, but I'm an Artsie—by choice. Wouldn't have figured it from my high school program though - college prep with advanced levels of math and science, plus French Immersion. Only got 60 percentile on my English provincial achievement exam; got 96 in the one for math. Go figure.

I applied to Chemical Engineering (at UNB), was accepted, had the Nuclear option all figured out, but on September 3, 1992, I switched to Arts.

I have yet to figure out why.

The fact is, I doubt I'll ever know why I took Arts, really.

Somehow that's comforting to me because I feel pretty strongly that if I did know why, it would mean I had decided that I had made the wrong choice.

I do feel that Arts has taught me much I doubt I would ever have been aware of, had I not taken it. Reading isn't one of them, neither is writing. (The past and future more and/or less vivid though, are—I would have to admit.)

I have found out that you can be right and lose, wrong and win, and just plain dumb and do either.

I have come across amazing amounts of work done by millions of people thinking about the same things I have been thinking about. Because it is so easy to be overwhelmed by previous work, sometimes I'm grateful not everything that has been done was recorded—but not for long—because suddenly there's a topic only ten people have researched, or sometimes even fewer.

The most important thing I have discovered, upon reflection, is that I've written—a lot—of papers on stuff I really don't care about. I've also read a lot of material I've disagreed with. I've been told that it's wrong to approach things like that, but it's true for me, and I suspect for many others. It has been said that it is ultimately less convincing if you do not care about your topic, but where does that leave lawyers?

In some ways, I think academics to be a lot like calisthenics. When you get right down to it, it's the same thing over and over. It's boring, it's repetitive, but, if diligently adhered to, it is well worth the effort—or maybe it isn't.

Does that belittling the academic exercise? Maybe. But the difference in my approach is not to disregard what some may call futile. You can either see this world without limits we find ourselves in as an unfocused void between quagmires or the greatest opportunity to explore for the sake of exploring.

Realizing it is like calisthenics is the first step, mind you. And the most dangerous. In knowing so, you have the chance to act on this knowledge. The greatest error is to stop the exercise.

After all, it's the end—that practiced edge you develop over time, like a keenly honed blade—and not the means, which is the benefit, not the exercise itself.

Joseph Wilfred John FitzPatrick III

Blood n' Thunder

Not a bad job digging that hole, kid. Now you better fill 'er in if'n you want yer raise. Back in my union, man, we got it tough, We only get \$12 hr.



Nice list. Where's UNB?

bruns@unb.ca

According to data compiled by Dr Jac Gourman of National Education Standards of Los Angeles California who rates hundreds of post secondary institutions in the United States and Canada, Canadian Engineering schools consistently rank in the top 25 of all North American Engineering schools. For example in Computer and Systems Engineering the rankings are as follows:

1. MIT
2. U of California - Berkeley
3. U of Toronto
4. U of Illinois - Urbana
5. U of Michigan - Ann Arbor
6. Purdue
7. U of Calgary
8. Case Western Reserve
9. McMaster
10. U of Alberta
11. Rensselaer
12. U of Manitoba
13. Washington - St Louis
14. Royal Military College
15. Carnegie Mellon

In other programs like Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, etc Canadian schools score equally as well.

This is an impressive achievement for Canadian Engineering Schools given the relative size of the populations of the 2 countries and given the much larger funding sources that the Americans have from industry and government.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could export this Canadian leadership and expertise around the world, using the latest high band with multimedia distance education products?

Bill St. Arnaud
Ottawa.

From the broken right wing of Senator Bob Dole

I feel that it is time I commented on a curious omission from your paper. It may be that you do not agree with what I am about to say, so I thought I would warn you first.

Within your pages, I see articles entitled "The Left Jab", "Pride", and "Metanoia", all of which appear to me to represent the so-called "left hand" viewpoint of society. However, I find no interest in these articles, and generally search for something more "right handed". Alas, I only recall finding one last term, and that dealt with African issues and not Canadian. This lack of "right handed" material has left me wondering why I even bother to pick up *The Bruns* in the first place.

I believe that, as the student paper, you should represent more than just this one branch of the students I have been seeing every week for the past term. I would appreciate seeing more articles with

something of a "Rush Limbaugh Lite" point of view. I feel that this would make your paper more appealing to the general student body, and lead to a much more interesting "point-counterpoint" articles rather than the current left hand heavy view you currently have. The current articles have their place, but others challenging those views deserve a chance as well.

Sincerely,
Andrew Murchison

He told us he was "Christ's Messenger": Honest to God.

Dear Editor,

It is not every day that I read *The Brunswickan*. It seems that each time I read this paper, I get offended by one article or another. In the paper published this past week (Jan 12/96) I was confronted with a photo of a young gentleman urinating in the snow. I am aware that this photo was set up, but feel that it was in poor taste, as are most of the articles in the paper.

It is my feeling that if my student union fees can't be used in a respectable manner, that this paper no longer be published and the money either be returned or put to a more respectable use.

Sincerely,
Luke R. Coughley

"W.A.S.P..." (aka prejudiced pig...)

I saw the headline about the firing of the editor of *The Pillar* over the subject article and submit an editorial comment that, I think, would apply to any newspaper. Hopefully you can find a place for it in the next issue of *The Brunswickan*.

I find it a very sad state of affairs when someone is fired over something that went into print. True, not everyone may agree with what was said, but a point could be made that if such an editorial is not subject to libel and slander laws or prosecution, it should be allowed to stand since it already had gone into print. Granted, the timing of such an article was in extremely bad taste, but I find it even more of a crime to try and suppress people reading material that has already been printed. I refer to the distinct lack of copies of the offensive issue that were nowhere to be found as soon as the day after the paper was printed. I assume that the staff of *The Pillar* must have dashed around the campus and gathered up all the copies that they could find so as to check dissemination of material they found inappropriate, or more likely "politically incorrect". Do you think that the Globe and Mail, or better yet, The

National Enquirer goes around buying back all the copies of issues that someone took offense to? I should say not, they have not got enough money.

I wholeheartedly concur with the publication of the apology and retraction that was printed, but to go as far as to "hide the evidence", I am not impressed to say the least. Does that mean that if I work for a newspaper and find that articles regarding leftist rhetoric (The Left Jab), or material regarding homosexuals (Pride) offensive and were being printed, would that give me the right to go around and pick up copies of the paper just so no one could read it?

Despite being a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant male (aka prejudiced pig in some feminist circles), I for one do not subscribe to the impression I gather the article put forward, but I will never know for sure because I could not find a copy to read and judge for myself. Especially now, that I am a university student, where freedom of expression is held near and dear to the heart do I consider this wrong. If this is the price of being "politically correct", it is a cost, I think, is too dear for society to pay.

Brent Henry

10 years of NB Crime Stoppers, still crime but less crime

Dear Editor:

Throughout 1995 New Brunswick Crime Stoppers celebrated its 10th anniversary. Crime Stoppers, a vision of Greg MacAleese (originally from Moncton), now has 900 programs internationally. New Brunswick Crime Stoppers is the proud recipient of several international awards.

Crime will always be a part of our society, but with the Crime Stoppers you know that there is a hope. We offer anonymity and cash awards to tipsters whose tip leads to an arrest. In 1995 NB Crime Stoppers solved 125 more cases than in 1994 for a total of 511 cases solved. 1995 saw 308 people arrested and 510 charges laid. Our tipsters helped police recover \$300,000 in stolen property, \$265,000 worth of arson related offences were solved and \$580,000 of street value drugs were seized.

On behalf of Ron Godin, President of NB Crime Stoppers, I would like to thank the many volunteers, organizations, sponsors, businesses, media, and law enforcement agencies who contributed to our success.

Remember, you may qualify for a cash award if your tip leads to an arrest. Call us at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). We guarantee anonymity.

Ross McKegney
Media Committee, University Representative
NB Crime Stoppers

Keep sendin' those
Blood n' Thunder
to *The Brunswickan*
at PO Box 4400 Rm. 35 SUB UNB Fredericton,
NB E3B 5A3 or e-mail us at bruns@unb.ca. Hey
visit our Website at <http://www.unb.ca/web/bruns>