

24 editorial

BY MARK MORGAN

I'm not bitter

Really, it's funny over the years how many would-be accountants and politicians I have met who walk upright. It's quite an amazing feat considering the majority of them are invertebrates, read this as spineless. At least we know they have opposable thumbs because they are agile enough to pick up their cheques.

Mr. Duncan Fulton rode through the hallowed gates of the Student Union in the Fall of 1995 as a would-be savior of SU finances. Now, when you mention his name in the presence of SU types, there is no longer a reverence towards him. No, instead of crying "Hosanna", VPs, council members and staff roll their eyes and turn their stomachs in disbelief. How can a man who was once so highly regarded in the annals of the SU now be an outcast?

Whether I believe it or not, initially Fulton assumed the role of Acting VP Finance and Administration to whip our finances into shape, i.e. to provide Council with a balanced and fair budget. Given the fact that I might know a thing or two about the SU Executive positions, VP Finance and Administration usually does more than budgets. They meet with various clubs at least twice a term. Usually executive club members are invited to attend. I have not been invited. I feel just...so...slighted. Oh get this, according to SU Bylaws the VP Finance and Administration is to "... establish and maintain an open level of communication" with clubs and societies. Boy, if this would have been the case, there would be a lot less clubs and societies with questions and doubts concerning the integrity of the Union. Oh, I am sure the position does other things but they conveniently elude me.

If there was one person who could have put a stop to the credit card mess and overspending it was Mr. Fulton. After all, the buck literally stops with him. But He never stood up to the credit card mess and overspending. This showed absolutely no financial spine on his part. But where was he? Well, several times, when I was around the SU office, staff and VPs had to hunt him "downtown." I assume this meant somewhere where the glory of Frank McKenna's Liberals shine. The old Liberal saying is "better red than dead." Oh Mr. McCarthy don't roll over in your grave. Red in New Brunswick means a chance for a better summer job if you are a student. I think Duncan might still be a student next year. Hmmm.

Oh, I'm not bitter knowing that the SU preliminary budget has called for a \$11,000 vaseotomy to our already neutered budget. Maybe our cut is one big typo and if the "bank error in the SU's favour" is fixed everything will be all right. And Hell has just frozen over. Mr. Fulton has even gone so far as to cut SU Executive summer job salaries by a quarter here and there an hour. Great now the VPs can have an hourly wage comparable to McDonald's. I can just imagine VP Student Services saying "Do you want an opt out with that Health Plan?" Now, now, I think every organisation should do their part to preserve the students' finances. Hey, like next time some VP isn't around to do their job, you can fire them and invest the saved money into someone with talent, like Mr. Fulton has, and dedication and time, which Fulton does not.

(Ed's note: I'd like to thank everyone who made my time at *The Brunswickan* worth it and the readers who supported it. Thanks.)

The Mugwump Journal

My last Mugwump. Thankfully. Not that I haven't enjoyed writing some of them it's just...well you know what I mean if you read the Mugwump from a couple of weeks ago (and I would just like to clarify for once and for all, it was about *The Brunswickan* not any female of my acquaintance)...well it's nice to be free of the commitment to have to give you something (vaguely) interesting to read. So, as a last column, I'd like to take an educated guess as to where I get my writing style and offer this to you as a parting gift so that if you've liked what you've read you can find something else.

David Lodge

A British English prof, Lodge writes very witty and well observed books, many about the academic world. *Changing Places*, *Small World* and *Nice Work* are all worth your cash. He teaches without seeming to teach. Carries characters through between novels with great aplomb.

Terry Pratchett

The Discworld novels. All of them. Very funny, but will appeal most to anglophiles, as his humour is distinctly British. Works really hard for his jokes - like the one about the greatest horn player in DiscWorld being some thieving (felonious) monk.

Armistead Maupin

San Franciscan chronicler of coincidence, celebrity, love and lust. Six stunning *Tales of the City*. Once you pick one of these books up you won't put it down until you're finished.

K.C. Constantine

Police procedurals set in small industrial Pennsylvania town, by this pseudonymed author who shows no signs of giving up their anonymity. Doesn't soft sell to get a happy ending. Especially good is the paperback just released, dealing with the run down of public utilities.

Also thanks in abundance to those write prose dripping in sarcasm and irony - British music journalists, alternative comedians and P.J. O'Rourke (even if he is a Republican).

Neil Duxbury

Blood n' Thunder



You want to see the clown in charge of the budget. Sure he's in.

OFFICE TALK

UNB Orientation, their pride and the students' mess

Editor

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Orientation Executive so we can set the record straight as far as the "Troy Woodside Situation" goes, since we feel the Orientation name has been dragged through the mud.

Troy was elected to the Executive in September 1995 to fill the position of Treasurer. With this position came numerous duties and responsibilities... some of which were making weekly deposits and taking care of the petty cash for the Loonic Movies. Much to the amazement of the Executive, he had not made a (bank) deposit since late November. Upon this discovery, we as an Executive we made a decision to ask Troy to resign from his position. He did not quit!

He is quoted as saying, while leaving the meeting, "I will remain to give Orientation my 100% all even though I am no longer on the Exec." If this is his 100%, we personally don't want any part of it!

We would like to openly thank *The Brunswickan* for keeping their confidentiality rule where articles are concerned until they are published. We mean goodness, how unethical would that be to show someone an article before it is published just so the other party can get a rebuttal in. How much trouble you could get yourselves into!

The Brunswickan headline should have read "Woodside leaves CRO. Woodside leaves Orientation. When will Woodside leave UNB and leave us alone? We personally don't feel that strongly

against him but we would like to know one thing... if Troy saw Orientation going down the same road as last year and didn't want to be part of it, why is he still wearing the '96 Executive jacket? Why not let someone wear it who will do the name UNB Orientation 1996 proud?!

Keri Munroe
Sean Burnett
Cheryl Flanagan
Mel Quigg
Claire Allen
Blair Jason

Setting the record...

To Trish Davidson

I am writing to correct any misconceptions you may have regarding funding contributions to the College Hill Day Care. Your comment in the March 29th edition of *The Bruns* stating "I would also like to see something worked out with other organizations like CAMPUS because we all should be contributing to Day Care" is not very informative. I thought you might like to know that CAMPUS contributes \$2,000 of their budget to Day Care. This figure represents approximately 5% of their total budget. Just thought I'd set the record straight.

S.M. Wells
Director of Orientation
CAMPUS

...straight

Nurses needle UNB administration

To whom it may concern

On February 26, 1996, the third year Nursing students at UNB Fredericton were informed by letter distributed in class of a \$500 tuition increase. This increase is to cover the cost of a required practicum course during the months of April and May 1996. Although the decision to impose this fee was made by the University Board of Governors in April 1995, our class was notified 10 months following the decision and seven months into the academic year. The fee was charged to our accounts on March 7 and it is due immediately.

We feel that the action of the University to notify us of such a fee with such little time is preposterous. Surely it is obvious that the proper procedure would have been to notify students prior to the academic year. As a class we conveyed our concerns to the UNB Administration via petition signed by all class members that states we refuse to pay the fee. A meeting was then arranged with the Dean of Students, Dean of Nursing, representatives from the Comptroller's Office and a Financial Student Aid Officer from the University. In a letter distributed at this meeting the fee was explained as follows: "It is unfortunate that the inadvertent errors of omission took place. UNB agrees that while there was communication to the applicable students within the Faculty concerning the new \$500 fee, the overall communication of the new \$500 fee was not complete or up to the normal UNB standards."

The Comptroller's Office feels that because we are receiving a service from the University we should pay. The service is our six week practicum in a hospital setting during which we care for patients. It is ironic that Computer Science students are paid to complete their practicum during which they both learn and give a service. Nursing students, however, are being asked to pay to partake in the required practicum instead of being paid like other predominantly male faculties. Being predominantly women, our class has been forced to question UNB's rationale for targeting our faculty with this tuition increase.

Furthermore, although we are perhaps receiving a service for the money we pay, the Comptroller's Office has conveniently omitted the fact that Nursing students have received this service for years without fees. Of course the decision is then blamed on the massive budget cuts of the government. Our class understands that this is occurring, however it seems to have been overlooked by the Administration that students have budgets too. February 26 is a little too late in our fiscal year to be altering them. Those of us whose parents are helping to fund our education

undoubtedly agree.

The magical solution on the part of UNB, of course, is to offer those students who cannot afford to pay the fee small loans. We question whose purpose this truly serves as UNB will only receive more money as they collect interest on these loans.

Accountability and responsibility are fundamental professional values that are not unique to Nursing. We demand that UNB be responsible and accountable by removing this fee from our accounts immediately. Proper notification of this fee was not received by the students. Therefore, we feel these "inadvertent omissions" are the responsibility of UNB, not its Nursing students.

The University has apparently overlooked the impact this treatment of students will have on the future of alumni contributions. For the third year Nursing class of 65 students the thought of giving money back to UNB is the furthest thing from our minds. The university is charging us obscene amounts of money (in an irresponsible way) to graduate into a health care system where there are few full-time jobs. We feel this tuition increase as of February 26 will be detrimental for future alumni support from the UNB Nursing class of 1997.

This tuition increase will make the Bachelor of Nursing Program one of the most expensive degrees at UNB. But to what end? There are no jobs for us here, and many of us are faced with the difficult decision to leave New Brunswick and even Canada. We are discouraged by what has been termed the "strangling" of our health care system, but to add insult to injury, we are now being discouraged by the "strangling" of the education system.

We observe nurses in the hospital caring for seven, and even more patients per shift and then watch as they are criticized for their lack of caring. We defend these nurses because we realize that they have not stopped caring, but their capacity to do so is being destroyed by the never ending cutbacks of our government. Unfortunately, our capacity to be educated as professional, caring nurses is slowly being destroyed as well.

We refuse to pay this tuition increase and will continue to fight for our rights as students. In our opinion, conceding that the notification of this fee was not up to normal UNB standard does not exemplify adequate accountability on the part of the UNB.

We seek the public's support in our fight.

Sincerely,
UNB Fredericton-Bachelor of Nursing
Class of 1997