



Mugwump Journal  
By TOM BENJAMIN

The New Brunswick caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students met here this week, apparently to discuss strategy in the student aid campaign in this province.

All the 12 caucus members were reluctant to discuss the in-camera session — even with members of the student press.

While I realize it is necessary to conduct some business of that nature in private the caucus members must remember their responsibility to keep the people they represent informed.

I sincerely hope the caucus members will be able to give excellent reason for keeping the meeting a secret in the very near future.

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Red 'n Black has changed one of its traditional acts which has always been very popular — especially for the performers.

This year's jug band will have an all-female case for the first time. Why the act has to be either all-male or all-female is beyond my understanding.

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Only two candidates are officially in the offing for the SRC presidential election scheduled for Nov. 26.

Brent Melanson and Chris Pratt have both filed their nomination papers.

Rumor has it at least one other person is considering running. I'd like to see several more persons enter the race, to give voters a wider choice if nothing else.

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I don't want to give the impression I have anything against the Aitken University Centre, but more problems seem to crop up every week.

Apparently a new concept in seating is under consideration by the administration. As originally planned the centre was to have 4,000 comfortable, folding seats.

The latest plan is to have 2,000 cushioned seats, with the remainder of the seating to be about the same as you find in a football stadium — 12-foot planks. Apparently the plan is to be only temporary and the centre will eventually have seating as originally planned.

One problem caused by that type of seating is that it will affect the acoustic qualities of the centre. The cushioned seats, apparently, absorb as much sound when they are empty as when a person sits in one. The differences between the sound absorption of the two types of seats will certainly degrade the building's acoustics.

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The SRC, in a show of bumbling inefficiency, spent several hours at the last meeting debating the validity of the National Union of Students referendum.

The incident which was used to discuss invalidating the election was not even covered under the present constitution, so it made little sense for council to waste time debating it.

The worst side affect of the meeting was that several members of a society waited throughout the entire discussion to wait for council's decision in another matter.

For many of those people it was their first experience with council and I'm sure it gave them a pretty low opinion of their elected representatives.

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Moncton's independent MP Len Jones gave a particularly unimpressive lecture here Tuesday evening.

After about 45 minutes of self-indulgence Jones finally deigned to say a few words about the advertised topic of the speech — the role of the independent MP.

Even then he didn't say much. He seemed much more at ease when he was describing "the people's choice" on his route from Moncton mayor to independent MP.

His self-proclaimed "tolerance for turbulence" was rocked a few times during the question and answer period.

Some of Jones' ideas and comments were a bit odd, to say the least, although he was not challenged on several points that made little sense.

He accused the Canadian International Development Agency of sending money to underdeveloped countries who, he said, loan it out at high interest rates. It would be interesting to see if he has any factual basis for the comment.

Jones also suggested sending some Canadian industries to the United States, although he didn't explain why. Probably because he has no logical reasons.

It's a good thing for Jones that he isn't running for an office in York-Sunbury — he certainly alienated a few voters Tuesday.

Post Grad attacks non-smokers

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on the letter from the 78 irate non-smokers, which appeared in your paper on October 31.

While I myself find tobacco smoke unpleasant, and the habit repugnant, I consider the "effrontery" claimed by other non-smokers childish and pretentious. How pleasant this campus would be, if only the worst inconsideration we had to face were the sight of another "intelligent" being wilfully destroying her or his lungs. The suggestion that the full brunt of the campus police force be brought to bear on smokers is no puerile as to beggar description.

The only thing more distasteful to me than polluted air is a polluted mentality... such a mentality is exemplified by the 78 children who want a military assault perpetrated upon those who smoke. I never cease to be amazed by the attitudes of the authoritarian red-neck who is so concerned about "rights" (his or her own) that ego-tripping puppets are hired to stamp out undesired behaviour (of others) to make life more "democratic".

If these 78 concerned people have the time and energy to spend fighting pollution, might I suggest the following re-arrangement of priorities?

a). Take your campus police and

your truncheons over to the SUB cafeterias and beat up the people who spill food all over the tables, seats and floor, but are too blind or ignorant to do anything about it. Get your pigs to hassle the pigs who eat there and make a hasty exit, leaving behind a garbage mound of food scraps and receptacles. The potential health hazards collateral to eating in the SUB should concern us more than terrorizing someone who chooses to smoke.

b). Patrol the campus buildings and rip down some of the thousands of inane notices, posters and advertisements that are stuck anywhere and everywhere, without regard for privacy, aesthetics or good sense. Confiscate all the masking tape and magic markers on campus, and arrest the idiots who know every spot where a poster might go when putting them up, but forget where each one is when it comes time to take them down.

c). Hang out in the campus washrooms and break the fingers on the inarticulate scribblers who gouge their mindless mummings onto toilet-stall walls. These illiterate infra-humans, whose I.Q.'s are no greater than their shoe-size, are perhaps behaving according to the same instinctive desire for immortality that drove their paleolithic precursors to draw on the walls of their caves.

Unfortunately for us, the cave-persons we are cursed with are totally without talent, wouldn't recognize humour if it broke wind in their face, show no grammatical training, and appear driven to indulge in racism and not restraint, filth rather than wit, and gibberish instead of graffiti.

With respect to the discomfort caused by smokers, might I suggest two interim measures while we wait for the "nicotine nuts" to either cough themselves to death, or contract carcinogenesis or emphysema.

First, if one wishes not to get robbed, raped or beaten up, one does not hang around dark alley-ways demanding one's rights. Avoidance always seems more insightful than escape. The practical applications of this philosophy seem not to be too subtle to escape detection. With respect to the problem of the offensive smell of "marijuana at the movies", I have it on good advice that a toke or two makes the odour completely unnoticeable. If you can't beat them (though your cops might want to) etc.....

Yours in health,

Paul Forestell  
PG-2  
Psychology Department

Pratt explains position on SRC

To the Arts faculty and the general student body.

Recently I was acclaimed to one of the open Arts seats on the UNB SRC. I would like to report to those people I am suppose to represent, as to exactly what it is I am doing on Council.

The matter of the use of McConnell Hall by the SRC and SRC sponsored groups came up again. Vice president Gordon Kennedy and I had put forward the motion asking for entertainment chairman Mike Hanusiak's cost report on a non-alcoholic pub in McConnell last week. The RRC, the Board of Dons and the Dean of Men's Residences have expressed

their legitimate concerns regarding the misuse of McConnell Hall in the past and have acted on their concerns by closing McConnell Hall to SRC "pubs". I hope they will consider the proposal of the SRC in a favorable manner. If the SRC can show that we can organize and run a non-alcoholic event in McConnell working by the guidelines set down by the residence system then hopefully we can discuss further responsible usage of the McConnell Hall facilities by the SRC.

A major proportion of Monday night's meeting was devoted to a discussion of the past election and the referendum attached to it.

When all the parliamentary

debate had died down two clear motions emerged. A motion to uphold the returning officer's interpretation of the rules and regulations of the election was defeated.

I voted in favor of supporting the rulings of the returning officer. If anyone is given the responsibility of running an election I believe they should be given the full support of council for doing what is essentially a thankless job.

Later in the meeting a motion was presented declaring the NUS Referendum invalid. This motion was presented because several students had complained to their Council representatives about the campaign practices of the proponents of NUS.

In particular they were concerned about the active campaigning that took place in the immediate vicinity of the polling booths. I believed that the concerns raised were legitimate and I voted in favor of the motion declaring the NUS Referendum invalid.

The motion was defeated by a narrow margin.

Through this lengthy debate the representatives of the Phys. Ed. Society patiently waited to present their request for money to participate in a conference at UPEI. I would like to thank them for their patience as they sat through an extremely long yet important debate.

The meeting lasted from 6:30 to 11:15 p.m. the fact that council sat for that length of time demonstrates a feeling of responsibility on the part of council members to fully represent the people who elected them.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns please contact me through the SRC office.

Sincerely  
Christopher B.J. Pratt  
Arts Rep

Non-alcoholic events sought

Dear Editor,

I would like to make two brief points for the interest of the student body.

Firstly, to the cry for non-alcoholic events, I would point out to council that they have been quite remiss in this direction. Students who have attended the SRC meetings will know that by far the best non-alcoholic entertainment occurs within room 103 SUB on Monday evenings. I say council has been remiss, for although it has seen fit to provide such entertainment, advertising it as a council meeting, it has not made this clear on the posters, thus violating the advertising codes of Canada.

Secondly, someone in a letter to the editor of the Bruns, demanded as to the whereabouts of the "silly seventies". Again, they are still with us. On Mondays evening alone, I saw councillors try to

outdo each other with pseudo-legalistic motions and counter-motions which they themselves clearly don't understand. I saw a dozen or so PhysEd students making relay trips to the Social Club in an apparent effort to 'clear' their heads so that they could understand what was going on in council. Lastly, and perhaps most comforting, I met a young lady who asserted that she had been possessed by (respectively) a bunny, a frog, an elephant, and lately a duck.

I would maintain, that in addition to my letters to the Bruns, there remains a significant number of people (using Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s phrase) "loosing themselves" on the campus of the University of New Brunswick.

J. David Miller  
Post Graduate.