

David Mullin

I have been staring at a clipping from last week's Plain Dealer. Regardless of whether or not Mr. Figueroa [Atlantic fieldworker for NUS] actually made the statements included in the article, they raise several interesting questions.

"They are basically very middle-class students who have never really had to worry about economic realities." Several things wrong with that statement. First, over 50 per cent of the students at UNB and STU have student loans. It seems to me that someone who has never had to worry about economic realities probably can't have a student loan. Second, and more important, most of labour falls within what is called middle class. Without a doubt, it is the middle class whose taxes pay for advanced educational facilities like UNB.

I know, or indeed have not often heard of students who do not have to work to put themselves through university. In the six summers since I, for example, started university, I have worked labour for four months each summer to pay for that privilege of a degree. I believe this pattern is a common one. If that makes me one of "Those rich kids up on the hill", then I think I shall live with it.

A second statement quoted from Mr. Figueroa allows "Their attitude towards the outside world, and their bigotry towards French people can only be solved with stronger leadership within the student union." This is quite preposterous for at least two reasons. In the first case, bigotry is a rather heavy word. It does exist on this campus, indeed because of the influx of foreign students in the past few years and the expression of bigotry is definitely getting worse at UNB. Bigotry towards French Canadians is rather a different thing. Its existence in the true sense is actually quite rare I think, and expressions of dislike for French Canadian students are not to be taken seriously.

When the students from Moncton were here last year, very few UNB students were willing to actively support their cause. However, most students would have agreed in principle with their points, and almost all students at both universities would be willing to help feed or shelter another student, regardless of their being French or not.

The second and more significant part of the foregoing quote concerns the phrase "can only be solved with stronger leadership within the student union". For the vast majority of students on this campus, the student union is good for essentially two things, keeping the administration at bay, as best as is possible, and pay for The Brunswickan and pubs.

As it is constituted now it is not intended for use as an activist political organization. In addition, there is no way that the "silent majority" on this campus is going to put up with radical confrontation politics. It is a characteristic, rightly or wrongly of this part of the country, and this campus to deal with the matters which concern it, and federate with others, only as a carefully thought out last recourse. The student union shall not attempt to influence my thinking, thank you.

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At the advertised "Save the Campus Media Campaign" today, no one came. I guess that no one really cares. Feeble pleas for help have been coming from this writer and others. I think I shall put those pleas in terms that perhaps are more immediately apparent.

If you, as a student made good, but not spectacular marks, and get a degree, that's nice, you are average. If you, on the other hand, make good marks, and take the time to write for The Brunswickan, and this is duly recorded in your C.U., then your application will now be above average. A second benefit is the fact that with time and assistance from the editors, you will pick up some greater facility for writing a line or two on paper. A third practical benefit is one of meeting and working with some of the most...uh, interesting people on this campus. Staff meetings are Mondays at 12:30 in The Brunswickan office, bottom floor office wing, SUB. In addition to writers, photographers, layout people [come and find out what that means....] and editorial assistants [?] are also needed.

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The referendum on expansion asks you to approve the idea IN PRINCIPLE. No one ever got too hurt by approving an idea in principle, and maybe some kind soul will drop several million on us. The question comes down to one of, "are we willing to spend money for luxuries". The answer has always been yes in the past, and I view money spent on social facilities as money very well spent. [I can say those things; Howard].

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A very disturbing report is circulating to the effect that Dave Simms has been seen disguised as Jim Smith. Possible their link in common is the fact that neither shaves.

Editorial - SUB expansion

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on this campus are asked to make a decision on a plan to renovate and/or expand the Student Union Building. The merits of expansion are discussed elsewhere in this issue. The question that is being put to the students is not whether to start construction, but whether the elected student leaders should go out and solicit money from the various funding agencies. There is no doubt that it would be entirely futile to go out to these agencies,

and ask for money without a mandate from the students-at-large.

The Brunswickan asks that you consider future classes of students and remember those students back in 1967-68 who were faced with the same decision. SUB expansion would provide for substantial improvements in the available facilities to students and we the students at UNB in 1976 should vote YES to SUB expansion.

NUS referendum — Oct. 20

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of New Brunswick Student Union remain a member of the National Union of Students.

NOTE 1: The UNB Student Union is at the present time a member of NUS-UNE.

NOTE 2: If the referendum does pass it is possible that a student's Union fees may be increased by up to One Dollar (\$1.00) for purposes of NUS membership.

SUB expansion referendum

UNB students will decide on October 20 whether or not to pursue plans to expand and renovate the Student Union Building when they vote yes or no to the referendum.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Student Union Building Board of Directors and its expansion committee be empowered to further investigate the possibility of SUB expansion, renovations, and alternate sources of financing for the same.

Conde said he hoped that expansion could be facilitated under regular university building programs. However, he said that if the referendum passes, the board would "look into every possibility for funds."

"The existing structure is becoming obsolete," Conde said. The existing facilities waste space, he said, and expansion would "offer better facilities to the students."

He said major features of the expanded and renovated SUB would be a larger ballroom and the fact that all student services would be under one roof.

Conde did not know what course of action would be taken if the referendum failed. "That's a very difficult question to answer," he said. He did say that, as time goes on, it would become more and more difficult for expansion to take place.

If expansion is found to be possible, Conde said the SUB board would try to renovate the existing building, providing funds could be had.

If no alternative financing can be had, Conde said students would have to resort to a fee increase. However, he said no financial institution would consider lending money to fund expansion under the present arrangement of \$15.00 per student.

by which students are paying off the existing SUB mortgage.

Conde said that if changes are not made soon, the SUB faces serious financial troubles as it would be impossible to keep revenues up.

UNB comptroller S.S. Mullin said he was not against SUB expansion, but, he warned, "Do not make the assumption that the university will

make funds available," he said. He said a formal approach by students to the administration would have to be made first.

Mullin said the university would not be able to commit itself without first ascertaining what capital funds were available.

If the approach was made tomorrow, Mullin said, "The answer would have to be 'We don't know.' They would first have to wait until the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission told the university what funds were available.

Although the university administration supports expansion in principle, it may not be possible to translate this into financial support, said Mullin.

"Don't bet on it," he said.

"I think that an expansion of the SUB could be very well utilized but whether or not it is economically possible I don't know," Mullin said.

Mullin said that the outcome of the referendum would have to be awaited before any other move was made. "Without student support there is no point of going further," he said.

Meeting with Ouellette encouraging

Both the provincial government and student representatives are encouraged about Tuesday's talks about changes in student aid laws.

Representatives from six universities or colleges in the province—the student advisory committee established as a result of last winter's week-long occupation of the provincial government's headquarters — met for over two hours with youth

minister Jean-Pierre Ouellette and the director of student aid, Evelyn Briggs.

Ouellette told the Brunswickan after the meeting that the "information exchange" had been productive in bringing both sides closer to agreement on what the terms of reference should be for the committee. He said he's agreed as well to supply students with the information they request-

ed on such items as summer savings contributions with the exception of "classified" documents.

The minister said there's little he can do about the students' grievances — which centered around parental contributions, summer savings contributions and

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