

## EDITORIAL

Next week being Alcohol Awareness week, I thought I would delve into the quagmire which is the alcohol policies in place on this campus with regard to the wet and dry events put on by the Student Union. It seems that the university's administration had a blanket liquor licence in place during the summer from May 1 to Sept. 1. For the rest of the year the administration has cured its moral dilemma over providing students with alcohol by removing the blanket licence. The university, which operated the "Pub in the SUB" last year, closed the Pub's doors as a result of a draught beer war which occurred in Fredericton last year. In the January 14 issue of *The Brunswickan*, Roy Brostowski, UNB's Director of Housing and Food Services, was quoted as saying: "We were not prepared to compete with other pubs in town by lowering our draught beer prices to ridiculous levels. We believe it's our dual role in the university community to promote alcohol awareness as well." The next thing we know the Student Union is opening the same bar (which the university failed to run profitably) to offer the students a place to drink and to promote alcohol awareness.

While both the SU and the Social Club vied for the right to open the pub, the SU put forth a proposal to the administration outlining its plans if awarded the Pub. In the proposal, one of the clauses states that the SU would take 25% of the pub's year end profits and donate them to SMART PACC to enhance their program of promoting alcohol education on campus.

The connection of the pub to SMART PACC is included in the Letter's Patent which incorporates Student Union Beverages Incorporated, states on page 2 of the Application for Incorporation that:

"The purposes for which incorporation are sought are:

1. a) To operate a non-profit licensed facility on the University of New Brunswick campus...

... c) To apply not less than 25% of any surplus revenue generated by the facility to the University of New Brunswick Student Union's Alcohol Education program..."

However, the SU failed to discuss this donation with SMART PACC. According to Lisa Lane, SMART PACC co-ordinator, the first she heard of the donation was when she read about it in the January 14 issue of *The Brunswickan*.

If SMART PACC wasn't consulted this begs the question: Why is SMART PACC receiving these funds. Is it because of the Student Union's commitment to alcohol education or is the organization being used by the SU to endorse the Cellar (the SU bar) as the responsible bar to be in on campus?

BY MACK MORGAN



As all you cats know the day after Thanksgiving is the day the weight watching joints start preying on the vain person's low self-esteem. As an incentive to join one of those places you might get a shirt saying 'I survived Happy Dead Turkey Day and all I got was this lousy T-shirt and this huge gut.' I guess it's all right to play on people's insecurities and dictate that flab is a social stigma especially since we all want to look like Sears models.

I think that inhaling a Jethro-sized Thanksgiving dinner is almost like giving birth but only backwards because you have to stuff a meal roughly the size of a watermelon down a hole the size of a crab apple.

So this week I've decided to do a semi-PSA to help you lose the extra weight accumulated from Thanksgiving.

Mugwump Journal proudly presents

### 15 novel ways to combat the Happy Dead Turkey Day Weight Gain Blahs.

1. Go out and get yourself that ultra cool flesh-eating disease.
2. Eat frequently with really ugly people.
3. Put a wick in your belly button and burn your tummy fat. It works with candles.
4. Amputate various limbs of your body. A leg here and an arm there is about 40-60 lbs.
5. Ingest tapeworms. Our resident biologist will be more than happy to furnish you with a few eggs.
6. Date Richard Simmons or Jenny Craig.
7. Invest in a potent laxative.
8. Massage with a vegetable peeler. Just don't take any salt baths after.
9. Crazy glue your mouth and think Orville Redenbacher.
10. Eat white leisure suits. As an added advantage, the polyester will embalm you.
11. Get Flappy, the amazing seal boy exercise video. (Only 19.99 plus applicable taxes. Operators are standing by.)
12. Sell some of those unnecessary body organs for profit. You only need one kidney anyway.
13. Think little. Think Kate Moss.
14. Listen to CHSR. It rids you of that fatty gray tissue between your ears.
15. Live off of your student loan.

## Blood n' Thunder

### A Forum for Dissent?

Editor:

I recently returned from Bosnia to find a fax of your article about Prof. MacGill's forum series at my Belgrade office. I thought I might take this opportunity to comment on your report.

Having worked for years as a journalist, I never forget that I began my career at *The Brunswickan*. My continuing interest in the Brunswickan has led me to detect what seems to be a trend toward building up a legend about my days at UNB. I sometimes worry that your larger-than-life portrayal might mislead today's students into believing that it would take someone very special to rebuild the kind of vibrant student democracy we had at UNB in the early to middle 1980s.

I don't know exactly when it was that I went from being a popular three-term student union president to being the "notorious" and "infamous" John Bosnitch. I'm tempted to believe that the university administration might have had an interest in the Orwellian rewriting of the history of our times—if only to justify why it took them five years and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of legal action to crush UNB's student movement.

Your article on the forum series took me back to those days. Prof. MacGill stands out in my memory as a man who maintained a civilized and gentleman-like conduct toward the student government despite our debates over whether it was we or in fact the administration that was being "playful" with the "truth".

In the interest of continuing that debate, I would like to pose a friendly challenge to Prof. MacGill and to *The Brunswickan*. I would like to ask you to try to discover what "truth" is being preserved by the UNB administration's continuing ban on my freely visiting the university campus.

Perhaps a future forum entitled "The University—A Forum for Dissent?" could address the question of just what terrible thing it is that I might say or do at UNB that justifies the policy of restricting me from visiting the campus for the rest of my life.

"Playfully" yours,  
John Bosnitch,  
Director, The InterMedia Centre  
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

### PSAC Political Action Plan

To the Editor:

Federal Liberals campaigned, in part, on improved labour relations with their employees. So far, not much change from the Tories. Collective bargaining is not openly allowed. Finance Minister, Paul Martin, appears more interested in pleasing Bay St. business gurus than the folks on Main St. Appearing to cut the deficit is as important as actually doing it. Therefore, senior people in Ottawa want 20 to 30,000 job cuts.

Public servants are bone-tired of being bashed by the employer, the business community, the media editors, and sometimes by the misled public. Public servants intend to fight back this Fall by raising public awareness of facts that are simply not mentioned to taxpayers. Public employees have a constitutional right to free speech and they will defend their dignity, even if no one else will. They believe that those who listen to ALL the facts will support their position.

Public servants are offended when they seem to be blamed for being the cause of the federal deficit and they are surely offended when their job losses are seen as the cure for the deficit. Employees didn't create the deficit. Various and frequent exercises to reduce their numbers have never diminished the deficit. The Public Service Alliance, the largest unionised group of employees, contends that job losses are not the best option for deficit reduction.

Federal job losses will bring hardship to the Fredericton/Oromocto area. Not only do public jobs put needed dollars in business tills, but they provide valuable levels of public services. This is a government metro area and job losses will remove spending power from a fragile economic recovery. Job losses hurt the quality of services that the public deserves. Believe it when employees say that computers don't really care about your problem. People solve people problems. If you work and live in or near Fredericton, their job protection campaign is in your best interest. Think about it.

You have heard countless myths and half-truths about public servants. But, it would take some extra facts to expose those inaccuracies. Let's merely say here that PSAC employees are not campaigning for Sainthood and that employees fully accept that the federal government has room to improve. There are also opportunities to save money. In fact, if the politicians and commissions that spend millions criss-crossing the nation would only stop to ask their employees for advice, they would help them save money. After all, employees are taxpayers too.

Consider some information of which perhaps you were unaware:

- Only 4% of Canada's workforce works for your federal government. This figure includes all departmental employees, the RCMP, the complete Armed Forces, Crown Corporation and federal agencies. That's 4%!

- Fewer people work for the federal government today than in 1973. But in that twenty years programs and services have increased. The population has grown by four million people. That's roughly a 15% increase in people to serve. And service, they expect!

- In the last ten years, the cost of administrative overhead in the federal government has dropped from 14 to 12 cents on the tax dollar. If we exclude the defense budget, for example, the 1990 Revenue Canada tax-guide cover showed that the entire cost of government operations including wages, office space, supplies, etc. is about 12% (staff costs would likely be about 8%). Compare those overhead figures with those of any large private business, or small business for that matter.

- About \$6 billion, or 6,000 million in simple terms, is spent annually on contracted-out services. Treasury Board admits that there is not accounting for how or why it is spent.

- The federal government would save 3,000 million dollars annually on the debt if interest rates came down by 1%. This figure is double the savings, if you compared it to a cut in the public service of 10%.

- Just 1000 newly created jobs, at the average industrial wage, would yield about \$12 million in tax revenues. If only half that number of people had been on UI, that would save another \$9 million in income support. If those additional 1000 jobs were in NB, it's like adding one new job for every 300 that now exist. Those additional jobs mean \$21 million or more to the public purse. High employment levels resolve most budget shortfalls. Didn't the present bosses in Ottawa pledge job creation?

- Personal income taxes account for 48% of federal tax revenues (almost 50%). On the other hand, only 7% comes from corporate taxes. In the past nine years \$140 billion (or in understandable terms 140,000 million) in corporate profits escaped taxes. In 1992, one year alone, there were over 93,000 corporations which paid no taxes (Zipl). These same corporations had profits in that one year of \$27 billion (that reads more understandably as 27,000 million dollars). Isn't it ironic that the folks who shout the loudest about cutting off your services, are the ones who pay only 15% of what you do, in income tax, toward them?

- When the announcements begin to sneak out about layoffs, closing bases, devolution to the provinces, privatisation, contracting out, etc. you will know that staff are being spun off from the federal government. The Public Service Alliance of Canada doesn't think it makes much sense. Federal employees are asking for your support by having you direct the government to review their approach to deficit reduction with a fresh outlook on options. Although it's undoubtedly a stretch, it may be possible for Ottawa to consider a fresh idea, if you are prepared to point it out to them. Let your local politicians and their organizations know that you support federal jobs in this area.

Jim Belding,  
PSAC  
Political Action Co-ordinator  
Fredericton/Oromocto Area

### Letter to Lloyd

Dear Editor:

A letter to Human Resources Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy, dated today:

It would appear, despite the public rhetoric from a certain wing of the Liberal party to the contrary, that deficit reduction is a major component of the recently released Human Resources Development discussion document entitled "Agenda: Jobs and Growth." Someone has the ear of those in power who will make decisions regarding social security reform, and it clearly is not those in need: students, the unemployed, those on provincial assistance or welfare, single mothers, seasonal workers, low-wage earners and the working poor. The Fredericton Area Coalition for Social Justice, part of a national movement for change called the Action Canada Network, represents in part all those names above who've suffered terribly under previous Tory governments. There was some faint hope when the Liberals were elected almost a year ago that job creation, rather than deficit reduction, would be the top priority, as it was in their platform "Red Book" document. Now, after sifting through a document that once again blames the unemployed rather than the current structure of the economy for the employment situation, even those faint hopes are fading fast.

The key to deficit reduction is job creation and employment, not the cutting of programs. Our Coalition and ACN be-

lieve that this document violates human rights, abuses power and privilege, and blames the already overburdened. The revenue side of the budget must be addressed, and precious little is heard from the federal government about how even the collecting of currently owed taxes from large, very profitable corporations would swing the deficit equation significantly toward a balance, to say nothing of making the tax system more progressive rather than regressive. Until we give people back their dignity, instead of assuming that the initiative to work needs to be imposed on Canadians, we'll always be missing the mark, concentrating on employability rather than on employment opportunity. Our Coalition calls upon the federal government to change the economic rules that govern the game rather than tinkering with a fundamentally flawed system—at least, if justice and jobs is the aim!

Sincerely,  
Brian McIntosh, Coalition Co-ordinator

### My Life as a Don: Don's Perspective of Residence Life

by Rashid Khan

As a "Gypsy Professor", I have travelled and taught in five Maritime Universities and in three Ontario Universities. This year I landed in this campus with stipendiary teaching responsibilities along with the added incentive of the Don's job at the Jones House. None of my well-wishers, however, envied my job. Some of them told me "horror" stories of the residence-life and some well-wishers even gave me ear-plugs. Since I was born with innate stupidity not to shy away from challenges, I decided to take up this job. To my utter surprise, I found my experiences extremely gratifying as well as educational. Compared to my past professional association with students, my life as a don is a uniquely overwhelming experience.

My first experience in Jones House was meeting my proctors. I found them as impressive young men full of life, dashing, emotional at times, but extremely responsible (with complete connotation of the word "responsible", which I observed later in many occasions in the House). Later on, I met most of the residents of Jones House in the House-Meeting. And, I remember that I forewarned them of the "Wrath of Khan", in case things ran in Jones House contrary to my rules and expectations.

The "Frosh" week was a very positive experience for me. I was impressed with the House Committee members who worked hard. I observed a great deal of excitement, energy and sense of responsibility among the House Committee members, who were looking forward to welcoming the freshmen. Those freshmen are innocent-looking (confused or unsure at times) but ready to break loose and excited to be a part of the university crowd. I also saw lots of parents, who were leaving their sons in this new environment with some anxieties, but the freshmen were anxious to get rid of their parents to enjoy and celebrate their newfound freedom. Within a month, I saw a sense of unity and identity amongst the residents of the Jones House.

Pretty soon, I found that the residents in my house have no inhibitions or fear in meeting me and talking to me. "Hi, Rashid" is a very enthusiastic greeting in this House (they even pronounce my name perfectly!)

As a Don of Jones House, I wonder about the roles I play here. Here, I am not a parent or a Minister, I am not a police officer or a judge, I am not a coach or a manager, I am not a cook or a janitor, I am not a tutor or a professor; yet, in some unexplainable ways, the Don's job symbolises some combinations of the above roles. At times, I love this place; at times, I like to run away from here. At times, I miss my own family and, at times, the Jones House seems like a home away from a home.

My life as a Don helped me to appreciate residence community itself. I have met a lot of caring, understanding and respectable people in the residence-offices. And, there are also a lot of responsible students in the residence community.

My life as a Don helped me to reshape my impression about this young generation who live in the Jones House. They are reasonable; they are not out there to create problems or "walk over the Don" and I see absolutely no reasons to be hard on them (and this does not mean slackening in disciplining if there exists a cause for disciplining).

Even though they party, drink and enjoy House-life in a carefree way, yet, on balance, I see in them a sense of responsibility and a sense of guilt when they are wrong. I also see a sense of awareness and a caring attitude in most of the young men I met in the Jones House. And, it undoubtedly makes me more optimistic, more understanding and more caring of them.

We have one commonality between the residents in the Jones House and myself and that is, we will do our best to make things better.