

# editorial

## Fee increase needed

At the last SRC Meeting a resolution to have a referendum on raising the SRC fees was narrowly defeated. Had the full number of councillors been present it would likely have passed. Without the voluntary \$10 levy tacked on to the fees this year they are at \$30. This is the level they have been at for nearly twenty-five years, excepting a few temporary increases over the years, this year's \$10 3CF levy and last year's \$10 entertainment fee being just two examples.

Before its recent changes, the Administrative Board generally felt there was a need for an increase in fees. Each year the amount of money available to the union, in real dollars is decreasing. With the yearly rise in inflation, the dollars available are being devalued. Fixed costs (money spent on salaried employees, etc) have gone up astronomically so the money left to the union to allocate to the various organizations has to be decreasing.

In recent years it has not been too bad because we have been decreasing the number of union employees. This year, however, the bookkeeper of the Student Union has been made a full-time job, as it should be. It should be obvious that we cannot continue to drop employees from the payroll to offset the decreasing amounts of funds going to the clubs and organizations. The groups that feel the pinch more than any others are the foreign students associations. Is it fair that they should have to bare the brunt of the diminishing funds?

It should be noted that our union boasts one of the lowest SRC fees. The average is \$50-60, compared to our \$30.

What could be done with an increase in fees? For one thing, the foreign students would be able to get a better deal when it came to budgeting. Every club and organization would be able to improve the service it provides the students and new clubs would find it easier to get funding.

There have been a couple of arguments against the fee increase and we would like to deal with those now. The first is that we could raise the money through services such as CSL and entertainment. At the risk of once again offending those who work so diligently on CSL it should be noted the Student Union has consistently lost money through these services. This would obviously have to change before this idea was feasible. The constant and unavoidable changes in personnel due to elections makes this somewhat difficult. It may take up to ten years to improve this before we can seriously look at this as a viable alternative. Any money coming in from the services would have to cover the losses of CSL. Once they start making a profit this extra money could go to the Student Union.

The second argument is students will not go for it. This has to be the most ludicrous argument ever conceived. We have seen in the last two years that students will indeed approve of a fee increase. The fact that they will benefit directly and not just some descendent of theirs should make the proposal even more attractive.

Although it is nice to boast of having the same fees as we had in the sixties it is about time the UNB Student Union saw the light and joined the eighties. We need a fee increase and now is the time to do it.

## Election lacked interest

A short commentary on the recent SRC election (that is about all they deserve). The 13 per cent voter turnout is very disappointing but then there was plenty about this election that accounts for the lack of excitement. Of all the faculties seats up for grabs only two were contested. It is an unfortunate fact of election life that the senate seats just do not create that much interest. So it is understandable the turnout would be low.

Another reason could be that the four referendum questions were quite vague. Proposition four, though admirable in intent, is completely useless. Even if students did vote in favor of it there are far too many questions left unanswered. It is impossible to vote for or against the proposition without information on just how the football program will be paid for.

Proposition 3 is impossible to answer with a simple yes or no because there are 3 questions in the one. We will not even talk about the use of the word "monopoly" which, with all its connotations of something undesirable, urges the voter to vote in favor of the question.

Of course, it could be argued the editorial of last week ("40 reasons for being apathetic") is responsible for the poor turnout at the polls. If, however, there are any students who actually used the reasons as excuses for not voting there is not much that can be said for their grasp on reality.



# mugwump journal

BY DEBORAH GENEAU

I am going to complain about something this week that has been bugging me for a long, long time. It is the cafeteria in the Sub. EVERY time I go in there I get mad. I get mad for a number of reasons.

I don't like the fact that I'm forced to eat grease for dinner (you may call it supper, I call it dinner). True, if I don't like it, I can bring my own food or I can have canned soup or wrapped sandwiches. I can also have a salad plate. The sandwiches and salad plates are, in my opinion, outrageously overpriced.

The cafeteria is there to provide a service. What kind of service are they providing if I feel forced to bring my own food rather than eat greasy fries? Why is only one booth operating during supertime? Why can't the salad bar be open, say from 4:30 to 6:30? At least that would give the students an alternative.

Why can't specials be offered at supertime? A REAL dinner with milk, bread and vegetables included? A meal including something from all four food groups and how about all this at a REASONABLE cost?

I am also sick and tired of listening to the staff bicker and argue between themselves while they screw up on orders. I filled out one of those questionnaires when they were circulating. So what? Nothing's changed.

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More on the infamous cafeteria. Whoever rigged up the firecrackers and timer under one of the tables in the cafeteria should have their butts kicked. It's not funny. Just imagine how the people sitting at that table must have felt. Deliberate malice designed for the entertainment of a few (or single) warped individuals is no laughing matter. What was the point? I suppose you think yourselves smart. Grey was so right when he wrote "a little learning is a dangerous thing."

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March. We seem to have once again made it through those February blues. The administration has tossed around the idea of eliminating the March Break but I think that would be a mistake. Most people I talked to during the break were experiencing a lot of the same emotions. People tend to get depressed and discouraged during this time-maybe it's the weather. Who knows? The March Break occurs at an emotionally crucial time of year. It should be protected if only for that reason. Anyway only four weeks of classes left. I'm getting anxious for the summer time. Final exam schedules do that to me.

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I'd like to congratulate the Red Devil's on their game Saturday. Way to go guys! And would you believe it? Crowd turn out at the game on Saturday was overwhelming. UNB is hosting the Eastern Regionals this weekend. The Red Devils are playing against Toronto tomorrow and Sunday at the Aitken Centre. I wish the Red Devils and Coach Don McAdam success this weekend. It's wonderful to see that such a thing as school spirit still exists.

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Only 13 per cent of the student population voted in the election on Wednesday. Apathy lives! This, however, is the lowest percentage of voter turnout in the last three years. Great stuff! I mean that sincerely. Does this mean people actually read Bruns editorials?

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Well kiddies, I must sign off before I begin rambling. I won't bother commenting on the election since it seems no one really cares. Bye bye sports fans!