



Mugwump Journal

TOM
BENJAMIN

The SRC is finally taking long-needed steps to reconsider policy relating to granting honoraria.

The number of honoraria awarded on this campus has grown until almost everyone who does anything receives at least a modest remuneration for a job well done.

The problem stems from council's failure to update honoraria which were set for several activities many years ago.

The present policy fails to take into account inflation, and changes in the positions whose holders are rewarded with honoraria.

It must be remembered that honoraria are not intended as a form of payment, but merely as a reward for a job well done, but in some cases the payment amounts to less than pennies per hour.

The time and work necessary to perform a service adequately has grown in some cases to the extent that the honoraria awarded for the service is more of an insult than a compliment.

Some positions have expanded to the degree that council should begin to consider offering salaries instead of honoraria.

Council should take a long, hard look at the present honoraria levels, and update some of the amounts awarded to bring them into line with today's standards.

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A housing report prepared by Dean of Students Barry Thompson has confirmed what students have known for years — housing conditions in Fredericton are appalling.

The report, however, makes a good first step toward improving the situation.

It recommends UNB acquire accommodations to house 40 percent of the student enrollment, as compared to 29 percent at present, as a long range solution to the problem.

Even more important now, though, are the short-term recommendations which are an attempt to improve the situation at least slightly for next year.

There is no way the housing shortage can be totally rectified by September, but the short-term plans keep next year's problem from reaching the magnitude experienced last September.

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SRC president Jim Smith was elected on a platform, which included an extension of banking hours on campus.

To date no indications have been received that the hours will be extended. Maybe it's just as well. With the amount of complaints received from students lately about the services offered by the bank — and the many mistakes — it seems like extending the banking hours will only give the good old Bank of Montreal more hours in the day to foul-up accounts.

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It takes more than snowstorms and sabotage to stop a demonstration.

The planners of Thursday's demonstration couldn't have picked a worse day — as far as weather goes. Even so, several busloads of students managed from other universities hundreds of miles away.

Students who were to have been bused to the event from UNB Saint John did not make it because someone purporting to be council president Randy Hatfield cancelled the buses.

But hundreds of students participated, despite the weather.

The question now is how much success the demonstration will have. In a meeting Thursday afternoon, with Premier Hatfield and Youth Minister Jean-Pierre Ouellette, student representatives were given little encouragement that any of the demands would be implemented.

There is no money in next year's budget to finance the changes, said Hatfield. If implemented, the proposed changes would almost double the present student aid budget.

Even the demand for student representation on student aid policy making bodies seems to be meeting with little success. The Premier said such policies are formulated at the cabinet level, which would exclude student input.

Where do we go from here?

For a start, we can begin to put pressure on the most basic part of the problem — the federal government's policy toward financing higher education.

The present federal-provincial student loan agreement expires in 1977, but re-negotiation of the agreement is due to begin in May.

Students should make their feelings known to the federal government, so the next agreement can eliminate many of the basic problems.

McCluskey doubts use of strike

Dear Editor;

At times in our lives things seem awfully one-sided, don't they? Then comes the question "What to do about it?" Many people have many different answers but usually there is only one correct one. Now I don't claim to have any of the right answers but I do try to be realistic. So what the hell am I talking about anyway? STUDENT STRIKE! That's what.

Has anyone asked you what you think about the student loan situation, what you're views are were you going to participate? etc. etc. etc.

People say, "Oh you mean the 'DEMONSTRATION' Good! That's the first step in realizing what this is supposed to be. Then again, "Oh yea, a day off from classes." If it's as serious a situation as it has been proclaimed then why is it I keep asking how someone voted and they keep saying "against it" (seriously).

I know the voting turn out was roughly 40 percent of the students here at UNB and quite a bit higher

at STU and that at UNB roughly 60 percent voted in favor of the demonstration, so, why does it happen that they keep saying they voted against it. I guess my circle of "encounters" are of the same mind as myself. We all agree that the "idea" is good but the method isn't. If you will remember, there is a federal freeze on spending and more so on inflation which directly affects student loans. In all likelihood, this summer will see an increase in student loan distribution but the amounts will be decreased because there will be no increase from either federal or provincial sources.

Think about it seriously for a minute an hour or a day. The first thing one should realize is that these sources are not obligated to provide a cent. Signs say they don't consider us a resource. So why do we get this much to begin with? After all, investment in other going concerns would surely give them better returns. Apparently we must be a resource after all! Ah yes! What about the Trade Schools where their way is paid? Why

should they get a free ride while we have to pay? Well, in fact, some friends of mine did have to pay. Surprising hey?

Then again when they do come out they have practical experience because of the type of schooling they go through while a lot, I mean a lot of university students have to be practically hand trained to a profession that in all likelihood they had no intention of going into in the first place.

This is not a particular dig at Arts students (of which I am one) but it really applies in this field of which a major portion of students are. So, going back to the government contribution angle, they give us money for a few good reasons. One, it is a government for and of the people, it is people that go to university trade school etc., and it is the duty of the government to provide some help financially if it is necessary.

On the other hand, students should be able to foot part of the bill themselves, and they do, but nevertheless when it comes to applying for a loan many of us "pad" the amounts because we know they will likely cut it to begin with, so asking for a bit more than you expect to get is just good bargaining practice.

Is this the plan being applied in this Demonstration? Must be! In general it seems a bit ridiculous but in principle sound. The only thing I expect to see is an extension of the interest free period from six months to a year. Now that would be practical! In point of fact, as Jim would say, that's the only thing I can see (at this time anyway) that can happen.

It wouldn't be bad for a start, so don't be disappointed if nothing else comes out of it. As one guy said to me "We'll see".

That's the way I see it anyway.

John McCluskey

P.S. What happened to the money which was supposedly left over (\$3 million?) from last year?

Disagrees with 'Pro'

Dear Editor:

I feel that I am obliged to make some comment in response to the letter headlined, "Pro" criticizes paper", which appeared in the January sixteenth edition of the Brunswickan. Lorna A. Pitcher, author of the letter in question, was quite correct in noting that I am not "President of STU" but rather "President of STU's student council." However, Ms. Pitcher's criticism of news editor, Derwin Gowan, for this rather insignificant mistake (!!!) was by no means completely correct. The

President of St. Thomas University is not Msgr. Donald C. Duffie, despite Ms. Pitcher's bold contention to the contrary. Since July, 1975, that position has been filled by the Rev. G.W. Martin.

For this inexcusable exhibition of ignorance Ms. Pitcher deserves a generous "Tsk, Tsk", herself!!! I would further suggest that citing Ms. Pitcher as a "Pro" is an act of charity rather than a commendation of honor! I remain, Respectfully yours, Mark C. Giberson
President, Students' Union of Saint Thomas University, Inc.

Says Law students are 'childish'

Dear Editor:

I am writing with regard to Mr. Robin Bunner's letter to the editor published in the January 16 issue of the Brunswickan. To quote Mr. Bunner "I am deeply distressed ——" To refresh our memories I am quoting another portion of this letter.

"I attended the December 8 meeting of the SRC where approximately 50 law students were in attendance, sat quietly through the debate on the \$1,000 grant, and left at the end of the meeting in an orderly manner. Your snide remark on their being "much too childish" makes me wonder about your competence in commenting about such events."

The figure of approximately 50 law students may be correct but I beg to disagree with Mr. Bunner's other points. I, too, attended the SRC meeting of December 8th and the only reason the law students didn't break the local noise ordinance is the less than perfect acoustics of room 103. The Law students displayed all manner of childish behaviour in the true spirit

of righteous indignation. Mr. Bunner, your above quoted statement "makes me wonder about your competence in commenting about such events." Either you are deaf and blind or you have no more respect for the truth than a tomcat does for a marriage licence.

Alan Hildebrand

offers apology

She loves The Bruns

Dear Editor:

I guess this 'pro' will have to eat crow, at least concerning the note in my letter of last week criticizing Derwin Gowan.

Warren MacKenzie has informed me that Father Martin is the President of STU. My source, which said Msgr. Duffie was president, was the Atlantic Yearbook '75-'76.

Sorry about that Derwin, and my apologies to Father Martin as well,

By the way, I thought I was offering constructive criticism in my last letter; I have no intentions of being condescending or nasty.

I love the Bruns, it was my first newspaper home, so I hate to see errors or sloppy writing in it which could be corrected.

If I didn't care about the Bruns, I probably wouldn't have bothered to write.

Sincerely,
Lorna A. Pitcher