



mugwump journal

by Gordon Loane

Welcome back to UNB. Since this is my first ever Mugwump I'll try to pack it with some news and views so that all of you won't bypass my section in the weeks to come.

Where else could I begin but to comment on the Jones House controversy. The whole affair seems to have blown over somewhat except for the continuing saga of what will eventually happen to the Jones House President Kevin Ratcliff. A story by Bruns staffer Susan Reed in this week's issue indicates that Kevin's appeal to the Board of Deans to be readmitted has been rejected. It appears his next step will be to appeal to the Board of Governors when it meets again October 15th. One hopes his appeal will be successful as it appears there is one rule for the House President and one rule for every other member of the House. Is the Jones House President the scapegoat in all of this? I'll leave that to your imagination.

An open letter to all students by SRC Vice-President Chris Earl has been reprinted for all to see on page 9. The letter is certainly self explanatory but it confirms our fears for some weeks. There appears to be a serious split in the executive of the student union. One wonders what effect, if any, this is having on the operations and the executive of the union.

Changes in the academic year have been approved by the UNB Senate this week. The highlights of these changes can be seen on page 5 of this week's issue. While one cannot quarrel with the move to increase teaching days, etc (wow) the extended term could cause a few problems. The school term would in effect begin earlier in the fall and end later in the spring. If we all must register before Labour Day and in the extreme case exams don't end until the first week of May the summer work period may be effectively reduced by two weeks. One can only hope that exams can end every year somehow by the end of April. At least then our summer job can start about the first of May. Hey, we can all use the money to attend this humble institution.

It also appears Senate has moved graduation to the fourth Thursday in May, one week later than normal. The longer term appears to be the reason. One can remember when graduation was held the third Thursday in May before the long weekend. Family and friends from a distance could always use the long weekend for travel. A thing of the past at good old UNB, I guess.

We hear several complaints especially from Business students about the lack of optional courses available again this year. The complaint appears to be justified as many optional courses listed in the calendar have not been offered for years. Ross Libbey's interview with Dr. West on page 4 this week should help to explain the problem faced by the new faculty. The problem does not appear to have been an easy solution.

The new student disciplinary code appears to be raising some controversy. Students I have talked to don't know it exists. Members of the media found out about it through the usual grapevine. It appears as if this document will be on the agenda of the next Board of Governors meeting for the final approval Oct. 15th. Sweeping powers to campus police and problems with procedures in the new code are sighted as disturbing to some. Next week the Bruns will print several stories on the new disciplinary code. We hope you read them. Send your reaction to our editor, Mr. Macnillan. He enjoys receiving your mail.

I was walking by the Harriet Irving Library the other day (I never visit the place until exam time) and I noticed three signs on the building. One for UNB, one for STU and one for the now defunct Teachers College. One wonders why the sign is still up there, but perhaps it is because of historical reasons - who knows.

The first meeting of the UNB Students Representative Council will be held the night of September 22nd. The meeting is usually held at 6:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the SUB. Drop by and see how your elected representatives operate. By all accounts this meeting could be interesting.

Hey looking for a few good buys? A member of our staff suggests there are some real good deals at Yard and Garage sales about town. Why we even have mention of one of these events in our classified section this week.

soundoff

Terry Fox successful

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Terry Fox for emotionally moving the people of Canada. That is an achievement all its own. He has successfully reached the hearts and pocket-books of those from coast to coast, to an extent other organizations

never dreamed possible, and it is because his fund raising run was a physical sacrifice. One that was genuine, patented and fully guar-

anteed to sacrifice his mental tranquility and his very health. Multitudes have donated generously to the cancer society as a result, maybe to try and reimburse

him for so great a donation. They could understand the real pain and effort of that sacrifice as something them themselves could

not endure. It reached beyond the usual prickly feelings of guilt and sat the notion up straight on a bed of nails. Reactions were not quite that sharp though, as if the nails

were cushioned lightly. His ordeal had to end and a crisis be reached before the funds really poured in. Granted, many did not even know about the run until the telethon.

But is everyone just paying off the charity as quickly and painlessly as possible? Are donations being made to the most fashionable cause with a perpetual eye on appearances by not donating to an equally deserving charity? Perhaps people are thinking that their usual charity has never done

anything like what Terry has done, so they feel justified in reallocating their funds.

Those charities don't exist to entertain us or spark our emotions out of passivity. They don't knock on our doors, bicycle, walk or run across Canada just for fun. They do it because that's what it takes to help many just stay alive and to keep hoping.

J. Beltrand

Join the navy

Dear Editor:

I have been a member of the Fredericton branch of the Naval Reserve for two years now. As an Officer Candidate I have received training in general seamanship and navigation. During the summers the training is usually carried out in Victoria, B.C. and from here cruises on Canadian destroyers are taken to places like California,

Mexico and Alaska. Moreover, as an officer candidate the Naval Reserve employs you for two summers and the pay is usually sufficient to finance university expenses. If you are interested why don't you call us: David Peer, 453-4926, Bruce Williams 357-3970.

Kevin B. Murchie

Something to be desired

Dear Sir:

Despite the fact that the UNB Red Bombers lost by a decisive margin in last Saturday's football game to St. F.X., it was truly a day of days. The weather was nothing less than perfect for such an event, the crowd turnout was encouraging and even with the final outcome spirits were not dampened.

But who was in charge of the halftime music?

After tolerating the initial blast of YMCA (that musical epic by the

Village People), the next couple of songs were comparable to Dan Hill style ballads that only served

to make one contemplate that it wasn't such a great day after

all...and that the score was nothing to ignore, but instead, get depressed about.

As if this wasn't enough, our ill-humored disc-jockey then proceeded to add the final straw

when he cranked out "We Are The Champions" at the precise moment the blue and white St. F.X. jerseys came storming out to take the field.

Come of 'er boys.

Scott Moffatt

Earl comments

An Open Letter to the student body:

As Vice-President of the student union, I wish to take this opportunity to disassociate myself from the actions taken by the other members of the executive since May 1, 1980.

Since that time I have received no monetary or other compensation for the performance of my duties as vice-president during the summer.

I hope that my disassociation, at this early stage, will reassure members of the student body that there is some responsible representation in the Executive.

I greatly regret having been forced into this course of action, but it was the only responsible option available.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher D.L. Earl
Vice-President
UNB SRC

Acted without regard?

Dear Editor:

In the aftermath of the Jones House crisis one thing is clear: most if not all of the difficulties perpetrated by the hasty and irrational actions of one peevis

authoritarian. It's not the first time that Dean of Men Robert Smith has acted without regard to the welfare of the students he should be

serving, and it's not likely to be the last, either.

Kevin Ratcliff has been dealt with much too harshly. But if the Administration insists on letting his eviction stand on grounds of disregard for authority, it is only fair that they request Dean Smith's resignation - for the abuse of it.

Sincerely
A Disgruntled Student

Spiro speaks

Dear Editor:

Shortly before the Quebec referendum I wrote in a letter to the Daily Gleaner, "if Levesque does badly, the RCMP will have to contend with terrorism..."

The first bombs were "placed" some days ago, as you're probably aware.

In the eyes of Mother Nature nothing is right or wrong. The

terrorist of one day is the hero of another.(Prime Minister Begin, for example).

Knowing the history of Quebec well, my sympathies are with the terrorists.

Maurice Spiro