



**Mugwump Journal**

By RICK FISHER

Last week the Bridge Committee held a meeting with the cabinet in the hope of getting a review done of the bridge proposal.

They are up against a rather formidable problem. How do you change a bureaucratic decision? How often does any bureaucrat admit that he is wrong and that his solution isn't correct? The plain truth of the matter is that they don't. They will rationally and irrationally defend any solution that they have put forward, no matter how right or wrong it is. They are almost like umpires, in that their decision is right and that only they can decide.

Wrong. Every government civil servant works for us. I'm sure they think the whole system would run better if there was no one to question their decision. The bureaucrats could run the province great if there weren't people here.

So how do you challenge the decision of the Dept. of Highways? The best way is for a review of the problem. This lets the Dept. of Highways off the hook, and also might help Hatfield in a problem which he can't win now, because there is no totally right solution.

He could have a review board that would report back in six months after they have done the proper studies and received submissions from those concerned. The review board should not solely be the D or H for they would be unlikely to go back on their previous decision, but should include representatives of all major groups both for and against.

This issue of the bridge has been around for many years now and another half year will help I think.

Myself, I see no reason why the waterfront needs great expressways because Fredericton I think would lose some of its character if they were ever allowed to be built. Fredericton is a beautiful city but I think those expressways would be a costly mistake.

I thought a street bridge at Smythe Street was the best solution proposed at the meeting last Monday.

\* \*

We all hear that governments waste taxpayers' money. Well this summer I saw another example of it. One morning I was quite surprised to see paving machines at the parking lot of the Centennial Building between it and the Texaco station. I looked at the lot and it didn't look like it needed paving. Regardless of that fact it was paved and it cost us money, which I think was badly spent.

\* \*

Another beef I have is that the Red & White store on Regent St. put up a large sign on the curb saying that they are open. This is probably good for their business. One problem if you are coming out of Needham St. and want to do downtown you can't see the coming traffic and the sign is the cause of it all. I wouldn't be surprised if there is an accident there in the future.

\* \*

Another beef I have is with City Cablevision. Earlier on this summer they decided to conduct an audit of their lines to find people who were receiving service but weren't paying for one reason or another.

They said that all viewers who wanted could pick up payments from then on and installation charges would be forgiven. Well that's not the way it is I'm told. If they find them hooked up they will be disconnected and will only be reconnected a few days later at a fee of \$19.95. And this is for a viewing service that if definitely below par. City Cablevision blames the Canadian Radio and Television Commission.

Some subscribers have suggested that they only pay 2.70 per month because they only get one of the two extra channels that Cablevision brings in that are of major interest to viewers.

\* \*

Good news for students comes in the form of some negotiating by Peter Galoska. I heard he approached the New Brunswick Liquor Control Commission with the idea that student ID's be acceptable as legal identification cards and do you know what? They accepted his idea. Now it has to be approved by the SRC. Hope it passes.

\* \*

Have a good Thanksgiving weekend!

**SRC VP acclamation a shock**

Dear Editor:

I must admit that I was certainly shocked to see that Gary Stairs was acclaimed Vice-President of the Student Representative Council. I do not agree with the editor's opinion in the "Mugwump Journal" who says that Gary has "the credentials to do a pretty good job". It would be enlightening to know just what credentials Gary Stairs does possess!

I would have thought that the prime motivations for running for the position of vice-president of the S.R.C. would have included some of the following: an interest in the job itself, an interest in student affairs and just plain hard work on behalf of or for the student body as a whole. However, Gary Stairs believes that in his "narrow and restrictive" attitudes that "honoraria, free tuition, a comfortable office and a little bit of authority are some of the most obvious enticements offered to candidates for student office." I do not believe that these factors were of major significance to other persons who

ran for or who were elected to this position. It is no wonder that characters such as Gary Stairs "scheme their way into every election."

The very fact that Mr. Stairs was acclaimed vice-president of the S.R.C. is evidence that "At the bottom of all the tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into the little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper". I did not see any persons doing this all important event for the existing vice-president. His acclamation is indication that other factors may exist such as lack of student awareness (student apathy), disinterest in the position of vice-presidency itself or it may be that the position is too challenging or not challenging enough.

I am in disagreement with Mr. Stair's statement that "the peer consciousness of this campus, can be more effective than the criminal procedures of our provincial courts." Our system of law at present is not perfect but I would be far more willing to place confidence in "our provincial

courts" than in your so-called "peer consciousness of this campus." Acclamation, to me, is a sign of this lack of "peer consciousness" - it is either dormant or dead.

I suggest that you, Gary Stairs, instead of regarding your position as vice-president of the S.R.C. as a method of "leap frogging" into even plusher environments" should take Winston Churchill's stand when he said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat."

Can you, Gary Stairs, offer the same?

Yours truly,

Brenda M. Fraser  
Law 2

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Mugwump Journal, by the way, is written by Rick Fisher and not the Editor-in-Chief. I would like at this time to thank those who took the time to bother to express themselves this week and also to those who did bother to consult the BRUNSWICKAN masthead to notice that the editor is a female this year and appreciates "Dear Editor" instead of "Dear Sir."

**Mugwump attacked**

To the Editor-in-Chief and Mr. Rick Fisher:

Lo and behold! Yet another complaint! Seldom do I complain about things I read in this newspaper because I realize what limitations you are working with but I will have to step out of form on this occasion.

The object of my displeasure is the "Mugwump Journal" and the way in which its author, Rick Fisher, chooses to write it. First of all, I think somebody should point out to Mr. Fisher what the title of his column means. Simply put, a "mugwump" is one who takes no sides. Furthermore, the column should be intelligent, interesting, and relevant.

Sadly enough, Mr. Fisher doesn't quite follow this form. Even more sadly, he is a back-biting, petty journalist (and I use the term loosely!) who has to fill up space in this column with his warped version of what people say. I am referring in particular to his comments on Rod Doherty's (SRC Ass't Comptroller) attendance record at the AAASU conference two weekends past. He claims Mr. Doherty has "other things to do" and, to me, this implies that Mr. Doherty simply did not feel like attending the meeting. The fact of the matter, however, (as Mr. Fisher has known all along) is that Mr. Doherty had to move on that particular Sunday and he also had to do assignments which were due early that week. It may come as a great shock to you Mr. Fisher, but some people do come here for an education!

I take objection to Mr. Fisher writing what he did, especially after being presented with the facts beforehand. His only appar-

ent reason was some sadistic pleasure he receives from putting other people - especially those in responsible positions - in a bad light. It would seem to me to be a pretty poor reason for writing a column!

Furthermore, much of Mr. Fisher's information is inaccurate. For example, Moyra Barry was a nominee for a seat on the Board of Governors, not the Senate. If you insist on writing a column, Mr. Fisher, kindly get your facts straight!

I question whether Mr. Fisher is capable of writing this column. Aside from what has been mentioned, it must be pointed out that he is now a working man and, therefore, is no longer in contact with the students (if he ever was, that is). It's not impossible but it is highly improbable, judging from what he writes, that is really in touch with what is happening on campus.

I also must question whether Mr. Fisher is even eligible to write for the Brunswickan. Is he still a student? Has he paid his SRC fees for this year? Is he still a student? Has he paid his SRC fees for this year? Is he entitled to the same privileges as dues-paying students? To be truthful, I have no objection to Mr. Fisher writing this column provided he researches his information and writes it as it should be written. If, however, he chooses to butcher the column with back-biting, misrepresentation of the facts, and just plain petty bullshit, then I would suggest that it's time the "Mugwump Journal" and Rick Fisher were 'put to bed' permanently.

Yours truly,

Peter Charron

**Choice of wording questioned**

Madam:

The height of audaciousness has certainly been reached, even for your newspaper, when Rick Fisher, in his Mugwump Journal, has the impudence to dare accuse anyone else of being pompous. Mr. Fisher must need a little soul-searching, a little mirror-gazing, and some instruction in the old saying which concerns a pot, a kettle, and their relative blackness.

Sincerely,

Brenda Morrell P.G.2

**He's not in favour of STU-UNB merger**

Dear Editor:

We St. Thomas students have been hearing so much about the "proposed" STU-UNB merger lately - anyone would think that we were already "All for one and one for all." Now, the economic benefits to STU are obvious and there's no need to talk about them here, it's all the other benefits that we St. Thomas students will reap that interests me.

Clearly, UNB is a modern institution, why look at all the neat things you have that we poor green and gold Miramichiers don't. As everybody knows UNB has prestige, and all the great things that go along with it. You people get to have your very own student

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