

Sound Off

7 - The BRUNSWICKAN SEPTEMBER 13, 1974



Mugwump Journal

By Rick Fisher

When I wrote last week's column I figured what I had written would last me at least for two weeks but no chance. They printed every thing with no change left over. So I have to write another column. It is difficult to come up with the goods each week especially when they use small type on me.

Last week I wrote about the idea of educator Robert M. Hutchins who suggested that at birth everybody be given a B.A. so that their education could proceed without chasing after encumbering credentials.

For some areas of university I think they aren't doing all that badly. What worries me is, if you graduate from Business or Engineering or other areas, the company hiring you immediately sticks you in one of their training programs for a few years, sometimes three. With that in mind, and I have a few other bones to pick, I would like to propose F-MESS which stands for Fishers-Modular Educational Scientific System.

Under F-MESS the university year wouldn't change in length, excepting that it might grow a little shorter. The key to the whole system is that for Arts and Business and a few related faculties, courses would be taught in modular units.

What I mean by modular units is quite easy to understand and easy to implement. All courses would only be a month long and would be very intensive. You would have classes from 9-12 in the morning and the afternoon and evening to study and prepare for the next day's class. Allowance is made to fit all problems, and is not hard and fast. I am sure that more learning would take place than does during a course spread out over the entire year.

There is a tremendous wastage of time at this university and elsewhere. Less than half the students at this university consistently study. They just coast through and cram before finals and when it is all over question the value of a degree. I was like that too so I am not calling the kettle black.

There are other advantages too. For example you took three credits in the fall (in the three months) and you wanted to go skiing in January. You could take off the first modular unit then pick up where you left off.

The registrar tells me that 200-300 student drop out by the beginning of December and under F-MESS they would leave with a credit or two having made the discovery that the system is not really for them. It would make it much easier for students to take a few credits and work for the rest of the year paying their way through university.

Even members of the general population could take these month long modular units. This would come at a time when UNB like other universities are trying to relate more to the communities in which they are becoming less and less a part of.

I think this intensive system F-MESS would have problems and drawbacks. I think the biggest one would be the refusal of people to adapt to change. Perhaps this can be avoided by a limited enrollment in F-MESS, using those academics receptive to change and keen on the new ideas.

I am sure overall though that the plan has more benefit than some of the present traditional useless methods.

Speaking of the value of a degree I read an interesting idea about the cost of university. If you took the cost of a degree at Princeton which is about \$22,000 - and didn't go to university but invested it, by the time you got to be 65 you would have a \$1,000,000 - accumulated. That has interesting possibilities.

The SRC tried to meet this week but couldn't for lack of a quorum. They should have a few openings soon for interested students. It isn't all it's cut out to be. Many people downgrade what the SRC does or tries to do, but they shouldn't be disheartened because the councillors try to make UNB a better place for you. If you like controlling your own destiny you'll shape it yourself. Join an organization.

Despite the fact that there was no meeting of the SRC, many councillors caught up on news concerning what went on over the summer. Consensus was reached that the users committee for the University Center should be re-convened and options re-examined because the project has been greatly altered.

Peter Galoska acted quickly writing to John Anderson and Peter was called that day for a meeting with him and John Meagher. I think that parts of the university are being more reasonable now and that fast action is to be commended.

I personally think that if we are to build a University Community Center we should do it right the first time and not fuss-ass around while the costs go up, so we have to add an extra (\$15.00) to each student's fees. Other universities pay up to \$60 and more. I don't think that would be unreasonable.

Peter Galoska wanted me to say something nice about him this week - catch next weeks column Peter.

Catch the football game this weekend against the Island Panthers. I am expecting more of the Bombers than their show against Al Charuk and the Axemen. Should be a good return match though.

Bill 22, tenure, the new Fredericton bridge, SRC, SUB, Bruns, I still got lots of ideas to go. Will the real John Meagher stand up?

UNB has serious list of crimes

Dear Editor:

It has come to my attention this first week of the new year that UNB has a serious list of crimes to account for.

Now, I know as well as anyone else that good workmanship, materials and probably two or three other excuses will get our University President, John Anderson, over the present difficulties encountered by our girls up at Eddie's Place. But! But, But, But!! What was I going to say? OH Yes. I was sitting in my residence room when all of a sudden I was again confronted by my ole pet peeve, "the computer card fill 'em up 'n punch 'em out hassel". Naturally one must have one's self a soft lead pencil mustn't one. So, OK! No problem. AHA! Little was I to know that my difficulties were just about to begin. What were my difficulties, you wish to know. Well, let me tell you.

I'm just a poor old university student who works all summer like

everyone else so that I can come here and hand it all over through various nebulous channels and then suddenly come to realize that my money is all gone, my daddy's not home, and I'm stuck here. That's OK though, (he innocently said), I'll just get some use out of all I paid for. By now you are probably wondering just what all this rambling on about money and the rest is leading to. Well I'll tell you.

Remember I was accosted by my pet peeve "the computer card fill 'em up 'n punch 'em out hassel" and I then needed a pencil. Well, to make a long story longer, I couldn't find a pencil sharpener. What balls! Desperately I search high and low, in and out, even round about for a means to bring to a point my attack on the evil computer card. Alas my quest was doomed to failure. It seemed no one had the means to my end.

What to do? I couldn't just give up and admit another victory for the computer. Oh No! I would think

of something? Well, what can I say: Like an inspiration from heaven I thought of going to another building in search of my "aide de coupe" (does that make sense). Any way, doggone it, the same situation seems to exist all over the campus. Why, even Kierstead Hall has a recognized record of vandalism of their cherished pencil sharpeners. To prove my point, just try their main office. I think you'll find that they probably have lent theirs to some "spaced out kook doctor" down the hall because he lost his.

And thus my friends, you have my full and unaltered findings upon this campus. So in parting let me just say this: If we can't have pencil sharpeners for our money, let's get to hell rid of those ?&!!&? computer cards. Are you with me gang?

A questing student,

John McCluskey

Definition rejected!

Dear Editor:

What a disappointment to open the first issue of THE BRUNSWICKAN and see the following definition on page 5:

"Faggot— Bundle of steel rods or twigs. (Webster) See River Room for further details.

Obviously, THE BRUNSWICKAN is not as enlightened as I supposed (the same applies to Gary Stairs). This sort of anti-gay prejudice is all too common and it is unfortunate that your paper

chooses to perpetuate it. To reiterate our point, you would refuse to print the following definition:

Coon— A racoon (Gage) See Alabama for details.

Indeed, it would seem that the first issue of any student newspaper should attempt to welcome all members of the community, straight or gay and make them feel accepted; instead you have printed material which

will only reinforce the fears and paranoia of many gays who find themselves in a society where booze and broads are the measure of a man's masculinity.

In future, we hope you will scrutinize your copy more closely.

Sincerely,

Keith Sly
and
Richard Dube

Open letter from Camera Club

Open Letter to UNB Students:

Last year, a member of the UNB Camera Club, had the use of a well-equipped darkroom, and other equipment.

Last spring, no new executive was elected for the Club. At the end of September, all of the past executive will have left the campus. Since the Club cannot continue without an executive, a new one must be elected before that time. For this purpose, I have arranged for a meeting on:

September 23,
at 7:30 p.m. (19:30),
in room 102, of the S.U.B.

A suggested executive would consist of a president, secretary-treasurer, program chairman, and equipment manager.

Everyone interested in photography at U.N.B. should make an effort to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

F. J. Hutcheson

Sound off

Got a beef you'd like to get off your chest? Write SOUND OFF, The Brunswickan, Room 35, SUB. We'd like to hear from you. Work got you down? Brunswickan miss your favourite club meeting? Have you missed a class because you fell in a pot hole? Whatever, your problem, chances are the campus would like to hear about it. Please give us your name when you write to us. (We don't have to print it; it's necessary for legal purposes, though.)
Do it today.

