

Sound Off



Mugwump Journal

By

Rick Fisher

A lot of students come to UNB, get their degree, and leave without really finding out much about Fredericton, the beautiful city UNB is located in.

I think this is a shame because the city is a lot more than a few of the other generalizations that characterize Fredericton. One way to get to know Fredericton is read The Daily Gleaner. The Gleaner gives you a good cross-section of what goes on in this city.

One such going on which I think could give you insight into what goes on is a meeting Monday in the Playhouse. The topic to be discussed is the proposed Fredericton bridge.

The Citizen's Bridge Committee bills it as possibly being the most important meeting ever held in Fredericton and I suspect that the playhouse will be packed.

This will feature all of the pros and cons of an issue that has been brewing in the public fore-front for several months now.

The issue started originally a few years ago when the city council asked for submissions as to the location of the proposed bridge. At that time they received few proposals or opinions.

They gave their own input to the planners in the Department of Highways and voila a proposal comes back and it's an issue.

The pros are those who believe that Fredericton needs another bridge. The cons agree with this contention but disagree with the location and input. The cons are in many ways similar to the citizens group which stopped the Spadina expressway in Toronto a few years ago.

Thought for the week "Up the Bridge"; it should be quite a meeting.

Turning to the Provincial by election scene; In York County the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives are engaging in a typical name calling battle.

The conservatives had nominated Dave Bishop and as a minister he is an ideal conservative candidate.

The Conservative strategy here is to bring as many Conservatives back into the fold as possible especially after their defection during the federal election, when Bob Howie's mandate was more than sliced in half. All the plushbottoms have been out stumping the backwoods for Dave Bishop. Even Bob Howie himself is out during his federal vacation.

The Liberals have nominated Fredericton businessman Bob Strange. They aren't slackers either as a goodly number of prominent Liberals have been out beating the bushes for him including the alumni's own Art Doyle, who is a campaign spokesman.

Up in Campbellton the PC's have nominated Bernard Dube, the Liberals Marie Harquail, and the NDP Harold Steeves. Here the Liberals and PC's are engaged in a battle that could go either way as both candidates are well qualified.

This by-election race is much more like the single ridings elections that that of York County. Both the major parties are out looking for well qualified candidates in each riding.

In past there has been a tendency to hide bad candidates behind one or two prominent ones in the larger ridings. Now they will have to stand on their own.

A lot of interesting factors are involved in this election. The firing of J. C. Van Horne, the removal of J. E. Dube from the federal cabinet, and the nuclear power plant at Point Lepreau are just a few of the issues influencing people's opinions.

Incidentally the Telegraph-Journal staff writer covering the election up there, Dave Camp, is the son of Dalton.

Both of these elections are important to both parties, but I think Premier Richard Hatfield has more at stake than anyone else.

If he is to have any chance at leading the Federal Progressive Conservatives he is going to need a solid provincial election, and with four years gone from his last mandate, the by-elections are going to be strong indicators of what is ahead for his government with the electorate.

If the Conservatives don't win in York County they will be in trouble. I think the key here will be by how much they win.

In Campbellton the race is called close with nobody given a clear cut edge and this riding could be a positive or negative indicator for Hatfield.

In both races the liberals and conservatives admit they are having trouble with the young voters who now vote for the person and not the party as they used to in days gone by. This will have more effect in Campbellton than York County.

Planning for the annual Red 'n Black revue is underway again with the executive having met several times already.

The first organizational meeting for you and me takes place Tuesday at 6:30 in Tilley 102. If you can sing, dance, play a guitar, write a skit or do anything else entertaining, come on along and join the show.

We had to show one of our subsidiaries, why they are a subsidiary, as we beat CHSR again in football. Those masochists now want to be beaten in floor hockey. One of these days air pollutions will get us.

All the taverns in town now want NBLCC ID cards and they cost big bucks. In other provinces they only cost a dollar or six bits. Here use passports photos only which cost.

For all you Edison Stewart fans, he is now unemployed and living in Moncton. How unlucky can you get.

I am going into hiding today for a while until tomorrow.

Ed. Note - It's his birthday!

Ma Bell ain't all that bad

Editor:

Re: "Doesn't that ring a Bell somewhere" Sept. 20, 1974.

The Bell Telephone Company has recently been attacked for its application and subsequent granting of a new rate package. My past summer employment within the industry in N.B. has given me access to some relevant information concerning this private monopoly operation. In today's world of inflation and high interest rates, money for expansion and replacement of capital equipment is extremely costly. However, because of its present revenue position, Bell Canada is only able to offer an 8-8.5 percent return on investors' funds, while a bank will provide 10 percent with no risk attached. Short-term savings accounts are consequently attracting much of this vital investment money. Unless the company stock can be made more attractive by offering a greater return, investors will place their money elsewhere. This was the basic premise behind the rate application. Through increased revenues a greater return to shareholders could be generated. Investment funds would thus be attracted to the industry.

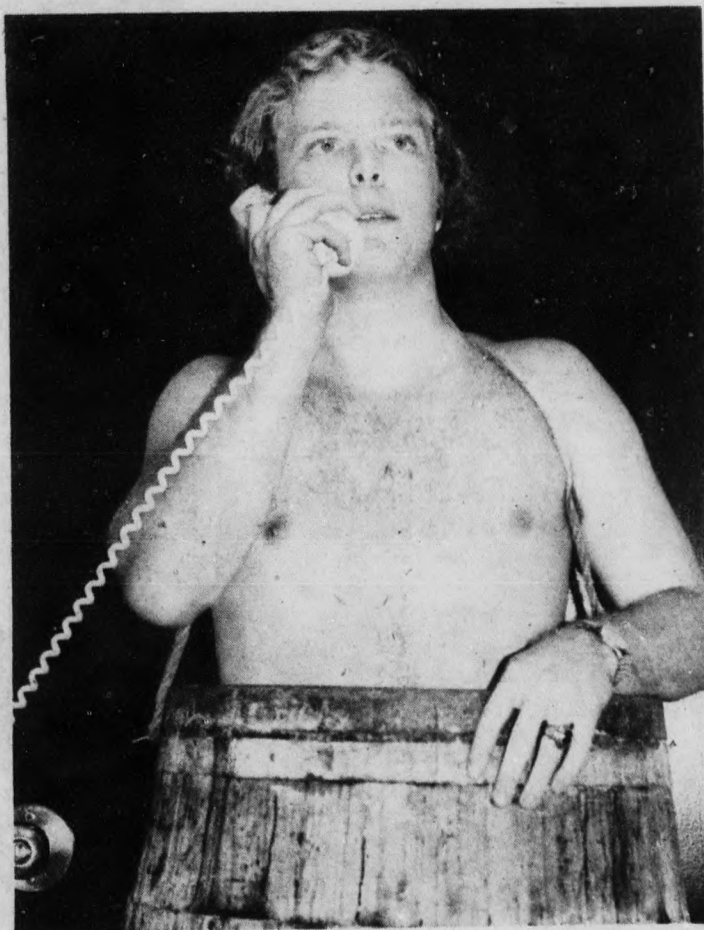
On the other side, it may be argued that such an analysis is limited due to the complexity of Bell's financial position and needs. The real point is this: can we afford to jeopardize the reinvestment motives within the industry? Providing the second-best standard of service in the world (next to the U.S.) does involve large amounts of money. In France a subscriber waits in excess of 100 days for a phone while it takes just under 7 days here. Due to efficient technological expertise, rates have

actually decreased over the last five years. Because the government demands that payments be based on a month-end lease where payment comes after consuming the service, unlike household rent or cable T.V., thousands of dollars are lost each year in N.B. alone from delinquent bills. Some telephones installed in rural areas will never be profitable for the company. Legislation demands the industry absorb the expense to provide this necessary service. Beyond the realm of facts and figures, consider the convenience we enjoy in using the phone to call anywhere in North America within seconds. Communication is vital to out society, to the individual and to the economy. A rate increase of 10 cents is not too much to ask for all the benefits it provides.

I noted with interest the encouraging and intelligent attitude taken by one national labour union. They pledged to direct all regional offices to

withhold payment of the extra fare. One telephone official speculated on the success of their operations after service had been terminated due to non-payment. Another suggestion, this time from the CLC (Canadian Labour Congress), called for immediate nationalization by the government. Sheer stupidity in confronting an operation such as Bell Canada will hardly succeed. If the rate increase is unjust to the consumer, then let us have the experts produce supportive evidence. In the meantime, childish attitudes and weak arguments only waste resources. Bell Canada is there to make a profit. Denying the industry this fundamental standard will only succeed in dislocating one of the best bargains in a lopsided world economy. Next time you use your phone think about it.

Yours sincerely,
Michael C. Don



Remember our feature on Ma Bell's new rate package last week. Well, one reader didn't quite agree.

BRUNS criticized

Dear Editor:

Is the Brunswickan trying to compete with the irrelevance of the NB press, or with the officialness of Faculty Bulletins? A students' rag? Not even that. Where are the students' problems and interests dealt with? From food quality and price on Campus, to participation in Faculty and Departmental affairs? NB and Canadian politics (or education, employment etc. ...)?

Students in other universities seem to make news, - even though last year students' strikes across Canada were not reported in the BRUNS, let alone debated.

Has the hot-dog culture dulled minds as it has stomachs? And if someone thinks sex and drugs are more relevant than all of the above, O.K., but say it; it would be so refreshing. But of course, the pleasure of the senses requires, too, imagination.

Denis Juhel
Romance Languages

Grad calendars available

To all Graduate Students:

Copies of the 1974-75 School of Graduate Studies Calendar are now available from the Graduate School office, room 331, Carleton Hall. The office is open between the hours of 0830 and 1230 and between 1330 and 1700.

I regret that, due to printing problems, the calendar was not available previously and hope that its delayed publication has not been a serious inconvenience.

R.J. Kavanagh
Dean