



mugwump journal

By SUSAN REED

Welcome once again my friends, to the show that never seems to end. It's a three ring circus with no ringmaster. In short it's the SRC.

Wednesday night's meeting was yet another fine example of how to waste an evening without getting anything done. Almost an hour was spent debating whether to accept the minutes of the previous marathon five and a half hour get together.

That idea of limiting the meetings to 3 hours served only to cut down the number of things accomplished.

What the council so desperately needs is an authoritative person who can take charge at the meetings and make decisions. What's that you say? A chairman? What a novel idea.

Admittedly chairing any meeting at which Councillor Bosnitch is present is a difficult task. The councillor seems to delight in leading the council gaily down the garden path. Any point, be it ever so small, is quibbled about at incredible lengths.

The end result may be that the entire council resigns in frustration. Clue in guys.

A word of advice to new President Gerard Finnan: Keep a cool head when under fire. Letting the more obstreperous members of council get to you is not going to accomplish a thing. Avoid the open mouth, insert foot syndrome. We know you're no angel. . . .

To outgoing President Kevin Ratcliff: I think we're all looking to see if a new person in the job will change the seeming present presidential policy of abstaining from voting on all important issues.

With three seats now vacant on council, a byelection will have to be called. Let's do it right this time.

I'm told it took three days for the SUB parking lot to be cleared after that last storm. Obviously this posed problems for the more affluent among us who can afford cars.

The paths around campus are generally icy and difficult to manage. How about some sanding or salt to help make life easier?

A big thank you to Gord Loane for helping out with this issue. Gord was managing editor last year and took pity on our short-staffed plight. We really appreciate it.

According to the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations half of the keypunch machines at the university are broken down, with no money in sight to repair or replace them at this time. Surely this is creating an overload on existing machinery as well as inconveniencing students and faculty. Is it too much to ask for some kind of solution?

By the way, welcome back everyone. Hope you had good holidays so that you all have something to remember when you get back in the grind. Happy New Year.

soundoff

Grits defended

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was submitted to us by Secretary of State Gerald A. Regan as an article. In view of its contents, we feel it would appear more appropriately as a letter to the editor.

Many students, along with university and college administrators and faculty members, are concerned about the future of government funding for our universities and community colleges. As secretary of state, I share this concern, and I am committed to work to improve the methods by which government funding for post-secondary education is provided.

When I met with student leaders from the Ottawa area on October 29, 1981, I assured them that claims that the federal government would make massive cut-backs in its support for post-secondary education were untrue. The budget presented by the minister of finance to the House of Commons on November 12, confirms the strength of the federal government's support for our colleges and universities.

The government of Canada shoulders the major cost of post-secondary education. Under the 1977 agreement, the national government is contributing over \$3 billion to the operating costs of post-secondary education in 1981-82. That amounts approximately to 56 per cent of the total operating cost of post-secondary institutions.

The government of Canada also contributes over \$2 billion for students loans, research grants, occupational training and other items involved in post-secondary and other education.

These are the facts. Unfortunately, Canada's 1.5 million full and part-time students attending universities and community colleges have been often fed rumours and distortions by parties employing scare tactics for political ends.

The Liberal Party has a tradition of strong support for higher education, and this support has been demonstrated by our actions as well as by our words.

The Liberal government initiated direct support for post-secondary institutions in 1951. It was the Liberal government which agreed in 1967 to provide funding directly to provinces to operate post-secondary institutions according to the local and regional needs of the provinces.

The action of Liberal governments made it possible for new educational facilities to emerge in all provinces. In Ontario alone, Lakehead University, Laurentian University, Trent University and Brock University have evolved as major educational institutions.

As premier of Nova Scotia, I demonstrated my support for higher education because I believed that money spent on a high quality of education was an investment in the future of my province. I continue to believe in the priority of post-secondary education, and my goal as secretary of state is to work to strengthen government support for higher education in this country, and to improve the ability of our universities and colleges to meet national objectives.

At the same time, the federal government is con-

cerned about present arrangements for the funding of post-secondary education. We are concerned about the increasing share of the support for post-secondary education which the federal government is paying through transfers to the provinces, and the decreasing share of the operating cost of post-secondary institutions being paid by some provinces. If an increasing amount of available Federal funds continues to be used in this manner, there will be correspondingly less money available for direct Federal programs designed to achieve national goals and objectives.

Likewise, the government of Canada wants greater assurances from provincial governments that money from the national treasury is actually being spent on post-secondary education. Under the present arrangement, there is no accountability or visibility for the Government of Canada's contribution to the provinces for post-secondary education.

In the immediate future, I am undertaking a comprehensive review of federal support for post-secondary education. I will be consulting with university and college administrators, students and faculty members, as well as with the provinces, in order to determine the best ways to improve government support for post-secondary education.

With the support of the university and college communities, I am confident that it will be possible for me to work together with the provinces to reach an agreement for improving the funding and the very structure of post-secondary education.

Search for myths on

The Bicentennial Commission is developing a project for the collection of New Brunswick folklore, tall tales, myths, and legends. We would like to be as all-encompassing and as representative of the various provincial regions as is possible, although a collection of such a nature understandably could not be considered 'complete'.

A deliberate search of the traditional sources is being made, but folklore is elusive. Much of our mythology survives through the oral tradition and is infrequently

recorded in print. As well, each region of our province would seem to have its own particular traditions which remain largely unknown to other areas. The sharing of our folklore among all the people of New Brunswick offers an opportunity to explore our multi-faceted culture, and to discover further similarities and differences in interpretation.

With the themes of exploration and discovery in mind, the Bicentennial Commission invites you to share with us any item of information you felt would be of in-

terest, whether that be a traditional story or belief, a saying common to your area, a tall tale, or a legend from the past. The participation of all citizens of New Brunswick will ensure that the spirit of the Bicentennial Celebrations will continue far beyond 1984.

Sincerely,
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