EDITORIAL

It is always interesting to look at back issues of the Brunswickan, to get a perspective on how much things have changed (or remained the same). Recently, the New Brunswick government proposed a freeze on funding for post-secondary education, which has lead to speculation about a $400 tuition increase for undergraduates at UNB. The Student Union is in the process of drawing up its budget for the 1992/93 school year, which may or may not affect our student fees next year. The consensus seems to be that we need more money for the services that we want and expect from this university - but, of course, we want to pay less. What was happening 50 years ago (in times, without doubt, and perhaps understandably, more patriotic than our own)?

From the *Brunswickan*, January 16, 1942:

The Preliminary Budget for the Spring Term was presented last Wednesday, and to numerous students the ponderous sum of $4164 seems an outrage and disgrace in these dark and uncertain days. When studied, the budget has, generally speaking, no padding of items but represents large expenditures, some of which are not needed!

Money is scarce; Canada is calling upon her citizens to do their utmost, and yet a budget of over $4100 has been introduced for 325 students. Indeed this exceeds the final spring budget of a year ago by just short of $1000, and that budget was considered excessive. It represents the payment of over $12.50 from each student, in time of war, to support a term's proposed activities. Truly, there is no sense in quibbling over small, insignificant amounts - it is the large quotas which matter.

Students! We the undergraduates, are a privileged group - the government has given us special sanction to attend university, when our country is fighting for its existence. The general public is intently watching our behaviour; our actions are "under fire", and unless we act as best we are able in furthering the War Effort, our reputation will be blemished as never before.

Surely then we are not going to misuse our privileges by consuming large sums of money in hopeless and worthless enterprises. This is not the time for college teams to travel outside the province, to spend much needed money in two, three or four hundred mile jaunts in order to play what are really nothing more than exhibition games!

Athletic sports are very beneficial and their rewards are great. But, indeed, can we not find opponents nearer to home and not beyond the province? Can we not, encourage, promote and develop inter-mural athletics to a point where more students will benefit, more money saved, and the reputation of our student government raised and not lowered?

The abolishment of trips outside this province would save the SRC over five hundred and fifty dollars; the restriction and elimination of other non-essential items, if done with a stern hand would save two hundred dollars more.

It is not the consensus of opinion of a few but of a very large number that the total amount budgeted is such that it concerns the interests of each undergraduate. Every student is free to express his own opinion; but at your class meeting, when the budget is discussed remember - that our country is at war; that we, as students, are privileged; that our actions are watched; and that if we are to have an upstanding reputation and a clear conscience we must act accordingly and cut the budget! *E. R. Erskine Carter*

Some things, however, do remain very much the same.

From the *Brunswickan*, February 14, 1942:

At the top of the Brunswickan masthead on the second page, there is a notice which says that the Brunswickan is, "the weekly news and literary journal of the University of New Brunswick". Have you ever paused to think what that means? Indeed it signifies that this is YOUR paper, published for you and by you.

However, that is the ideal, and we regret to say, the ideal has been of necessity far removed from reality. There have been frequent occasions when it has been stated, about the campus, the the Brunswickan is a "clique" paper controlled by a minority, and that it serves only as a medium to express their views and further the plans of that minority. Such charges are ill-founded and are emphatically denied.

This term we have striven to secure a representative group of reporters. So far our program has met with considerable success as far as the news department is concerned, where efficient organization is rapidly coming into effect. However the success of obtaining a large number of students to submit material has not been completely satisfactory. We want writers of all classes of material. We need people who can do feature and sports articles. Your work on the Brunswickan will not go unrewarded.

Remember that this is your paper. We need you all to make the Brunswickan truly the publication of the student body of the University of New Brunswick. We will welcome your assistance enthusiastically.

From the *Brunswickan*, January 23, 1942:

What do you think of the *Brunswickan*?

The only objection I have is that although they ask for criticism they very seldom take it. *Ernest MacKay*

The Brunswickan

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The University of New Brunswick

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