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BY MARK MORGAN

Kelly Lamrock promised last year in his campaign platform "to cut the red tape" at the Student Union (SU). Well, he may have not cut the red tape, but his council has done a splendid job hacking and slashing the budgets of most SU funded organisations. But I suppose this is no surprise to the average *Brunswickan* reader, considering what we told you way back in October. The budget has been in disarray and error since it was drafted and approved last March.

The Student Union has now "adjusted" it's 95-96 budget to better compensate for over expenditures. They cut 10%, or $70,000. To do this, the budgets of the financially responsible groups had to be cut and the money reallocated to the big time spenders. Thanks to these cuts and financial hocus pocus, the SU now anticipates a $23,962.70 surplus for this year. This is a big turn around compared to *The Brunswickan's* initial projection of the "SU budget $37,752 out" (Issue 6, Oct. 20 1995, pg 1). It interests me as to what the union will do with their "new found " surplus–aka what is left of your Student Union fees.

The Union came up with a10% cut across the board without adequate consultation with the organisations involved. Some organizations knew they were going to get cut, but many had no idea, and some won't even know until they read the numbers in this week's *Brunswickan*.

It seems that the only hope for your group was if you had someone on council who could argue on your behalf. If you did not–you got dinged.

Three main sources drained the union's coffers this year. Orientation, traditionally a strong and financially responsible organisation, overspent its budget by $25,000 (that's 5 times it's budget). The soon-to-be-defunct CASA was originally allotted $10,500 however they've spent $13,563 to date and the Union is now giving them only $7,000.

Finally, The Cellar is under scrutiny concerning its finances. The Student Union has "advanced" The Cellar another $22,000. But nobody wants to tell how this decision was reached. Council never authorized this "advance" so who did? To make things worse, The Cellar wants to keep its records away from you. The Cellar may claim its finances are private but when our union fees go into the place we deserve the right to view their books. Possibly after seeing those books we could all rest safe knowing the Cellar is spending its money wisely and we are not funding a dud.

With the "new and improved" budget the union has effectively jeopardised the quality of Student Union cultural, social, faculty and media organisations on this campus. Take a look at the numbers - you'll find things like the cut of nearly 30% to the campus safety budget. Maybe students should feel 30% less safe on campus as well.

In the future, the union might want to pay closer attention to spending and maybe exercise more budgetary control instead of a hack and slash reduction.

I know it's cold Student Union but you can keep your hands in your own pockets.

The Mugwump Journal

"HEY KELLY! I HAVE A SURE FIRE SCHEME. THE NEXT BIG JACKPOT ALL WE HAVE ...."

"It could be you"

It started about a year ago with this one simple catchphrase Repeated over and over, on billboards & tv screens. The start of an obsession. An obsession for the whole country. Tickets are cheap enough for almost anyone to buy and who wouldn't be tempted by the cash? Britain's National Lottery. A background rumble through the week, gradually increasing it's volume until Saturday when it becomes a yelling scuffling seething scream as the 5pm cut-off approaches.

It's kinda hard to hear what someone's saying behind a wall of noise (ask anyone who's heard one of those bands with more fx pedals than members) but if you could turn the volume down, and filter out the background noise of shuffling feet, lottery terminals and harassed shop assistants you'd be able to hear the collective noise of 30 million minds whispering to themselves.

"I'm going to be RICH"

The National Lottery is a text book example of how to make money. The initial prizes were large enough to make it seem like you'd be dumb not buying a ticket, large enough to wipe out your old gambling habits and give you a brand spanking new one in its place. It has legitimacy kindly donated from the Government and the BBC. And it has rollovers. Where the prize isn't won and gets topped up again. Obscenely large rollovers. If these rollovers where trousers they'd be flares with 200 inch ankles.

There are always those who look askance at gambling, the clergy being the most vocal. The instigators and runners of the lottery have the perfect answer. Look at all the money that's going to good causes. Look at all the people who we've made happier. In fact look at everything apart from the amount of money that stays within the lottery company or heads towards the tax vaults.

But the best stories are those of how this weekly waving of a gigantic wad of cash has affected my usually restrained fellow Brits. The stories have been fabulous. The gutter press's search for the first winner (whose name and location was discovered within a couple of days - my it's so hard to remember whether the punter checking the NO PUBLICITY box means he wants clues to his location leaked or not) Even better than that was the comments of the mother and ex-wife of one winner. Both sullied him with large quantities of ink, essentially saying that he was such a bastard that he didn't deserve the money. Which misses the point of gambling entirely. You give freely of your money, on the off chance that you'll get something in return. If you are willing to chance your £1 at odds of 1:several million then you deserve everything you get.

Neil Duxbury

Blood 'n' Thunder

Pillar: Chemical Reaction

Attention: Mark Morgan

Most likely, you are familiar with an article which ran in the place of the editorial column in the December 6 issue of *The Pillar* entitled *Woman: A Chemical Analysis,* It is truly unfortunate that this article was published and *The Pillar* sincerely apologizes to all those who may have been offended. A retraction was written and distributed immediately after the release of said issue.

Shortly after the printing of the retraction, the Editor in Chief of *The Pillar* newspaper was voted out of office by the unanimous decision of the Editorial Board. As well, the holidays have seen several changes take place at the office of *The Pillar* newspaper; including: a complete restructuring of the newspaper hierarchy, the installation of a new constitution that reflects the organizational changes, the removal of some existing staff and the addition of new staff members the addition of a lecture for newspaper staff on journalism, ethics, and the institution of a new editorial policy.

These changes reinforce the commitment of *The Pillar* newspaper to its readership and will ensure that the mistakes of the December 6 issue will not be repeated.

Sincerely,
Andrew Gorlick
Interim Editor in Chief, *The Pillar*

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To *The Pillar* Editors;

This e-mail is to inform you that I am not impressed with the *"Tbsi (sic) is Not an Editorial!!!"* article printed on page 2 of the December the 6th Issue, (Volume IX Issue 4) of *The Pillar.*

I do not wish to be associated with anyone or anything who thinks and/or prints such a derogatory, insulting and inconsiderate article. Whoever is resposible for this has tarnished the reputation of *The Pillar* and those associated with it as well as students, staff, and faculty of Engineering.

Please remove my name from the "staff list", I was never an official staff member just a technical advisor.

Thank You.
Rob Murray

Metanoia by John Valk

The Search for Meaning

We are approaching the middle of January. New Year's resolutions have come and gone, as have their best intentions. Daily pressures bear down on us and again we are caught up in our individual pursuits.

Our culture celebrates the individual. Individual choice and freedom is highly cherished. Great sacrifices have been made for it. When, however, does individual choice and freedom become detrimental — to oneself, to one's community? When does it become self-serving individualism, a threat to our neighbour's welfare, the unborn, the environment? How will we know?

Our culture also celebrates progress. Progress is the engine that drives our economy, our technology, if not our education. But what constitutes "progress"; what is real "advancement"? How will we know?

Is a memory of the past necessary to answer such questions? Do we wander aimlessly into the future, or thrash about in the present, if we have no awareness of our past — of what is valuable, of what is worth preserving and nourishing?

What we hold valuable is derived from the values we hold. What are those values? Are they individual: determined or clarified individually? Are they communal: assisting my neighbour, far and near? Are they spiritual: rooted within a religious tradition? Do they touch deeper aspects of meaning and purpose of life?

What are the values operative in the present-day university culture? Students have been presented with all the cold, technical details of safer sex. Have they also been taught to value the emotional and sexual intimacies of long-term committed relationships? Can they recognize, and understand, the devastation that occur outside of these? Who gives them guidance and modeling?

Students are told of the value of education, but is its value only in jobs promised? What happens if the jobs are not forthcoming? Is education then valueless? Have students been given false hope?

What is the value in being a critical thinker, as opposed to a thoughtless consumer? Who transmits, and affirms, these values — from the past, the present, the government, the schools, the corporate world? Which dominate?

Students recognize the value of jobs. Do they recognize the value of work? What is the meaning and purpose of work itself? Is there any that goes beyond the money generated from it? What work is to be valued? How is it determined? Who determines it?

Our culture has come to deify the marketplace, where profit and lowest price are idolized. Pursuing idols has consequences. Neighbours and family members are becoming unemployed, or superfluous, through corporate mergers, downsizing and automation. Yet, students and others are enthusiastically encouraged to pursue careers with the very corporations that have, subtlety or otherwise, brought hardship or devastation to family, friends and neighbours. Have we lost the ability to make, or even see, a connection in all of this?

Perhaps we forget the things of the past, even the present, that were (are) precious and valuable. We storm foolishly toward the future, expecting salvation from the very idols that foul our nests, destroy community, and make us numb towards each other.

We ignore those things that speak of meaning and value in life, in work. We ignore our spiritual heritage, our traditions. Are we losing our memory, and the spiritual principles that ought to guide our lives?

Might it not be educationally beneficial for a group of students to study values and principles arising out of their spiritual and cultural heritage, and comparing them with values and principles currently dominating our culture? Might students be better prepared for the challenges of tomorrow by developing critical thinking skills related to values and principles, rather than absorbing detailed technical information (data) that changes overnight?

Might such an endeavor be appropriate for a communal setting a student residence, for example? Might one call such an undertaking a course in "The Search for Meaning"?