



Hi. As cliché as it may sound, Welcome to UNB! Yeah, yeah, I know you've undoubtedly heard it a million times already this week but you might as well see it in print, before your ears bleed too much from hearing it. I guess your eyes might as well be assaulted by salutary visual beatings too. Anyway, I'm the *Editor-in-Chief* of this fine campus paper. What do I do? Well, that's still to be determined on what you Frosh and returning students want.

The Brunswickan is an open forum for the university community. Be it student, Administration or Student Union, input is the most valuable thing that any media has. Not the "Trial of the Century" mentality media has adopted as of late. People count and people matter. Remember without you, the readers, there wouldn't be *The Brunswickan*.

The Brunswickan Frosh issue usually amounts to nothing more than mere banner waving and congratulations on making it to the wonderful world of independent thought. That's university, just in case. I believe that if you've made a decision to further your mind, than you do deserve that congratulations. University won't be easy. If you came because you thought it was going to be, exit stage left. University is about being away from the parental teat. It's about you deciding for yourself. There's no curfews and nobody to help you lick your wounds unless you help yourself. It's true what everyone of your Valedictorians said as you fidgeted in your uncomfortable seats back in June, "You are about to embark on the greatest journey of your life."

You did well picking UNB. For those of you who think of UNB as an alternative choice. I'm afraid I'm unfamiliar to an alternative to the best educational institution in Canada. Maybe I'm biased to UNB or it's because I can recognise a winner. After all I've never picked the Bills to ever win the Superbowl. Just ask OJ or Jim Kelly how many Superbowl rings they have.

This year could be the biggest year of your life. Many conventions and ideologies you held as black and white fact will now become grey. That's the problem with being on your own, you might just learn something. If you came from rural New Brunswick like I did, you will be very wet behind the ears as what a university can offer you. Luckily there are towels on campus like *The Brunswickan*. It's my duty to ensure you, the students, are getting the information that will make your transition from Jimmy or Janey High School Kid to James or Janet University Adult. The paper can't offer you all the information but it can orient you as to where to secure it. *The Bruns* has for nearly 130 years and will continue to do so as long as there is a UNB.

Let's tell you a little about *The Bruns*. Plain and simple we're a conglomerate of watchdogs. *The Bruns* is full of bark and more importantly we bite too. *The Brunswickan* each and every week will give you the news as it is and its relevancy to the student population of not just UNB but Canada.

The Bruns is now online. It's a project that was inevitable in the day of the mythical Super Information Highway. If you have access to a web browser you type in this location; <http://www.unb.ca/web/bruns> and instant *Bruns*. The two versions are a little different from each other. I won't tell what. You'll have to look at them on your own. Morgan rule #43 says "Nobody in the real world will do anything new for you if you can't do it yourself"

Thanks for picking up *The Brunswickan* and look forward to a "real" editorial in the following weeks.

The Mugwump Journal

So you finally made it, 12 years (13 if you're from that big province in the middle) of homework, curfews, and 9-5, and now you're here for some fun. Well somethings change, somethings don't. Remember those house rules you were looking forward to getting away from - forget it, you're living in UNB residences. So to ensure that every one has the same lack of fun, there's rules to make sure that you all live happily ever after. Lots and lots of rules. You thought you needed a good memory for all those exams you're about to get? Nope. A good sized chunk needs to be set aside right now to remember exactly when you have to get those no good men out, and where you can smoke and exactly how many people will get notified if you get caught smoking that illegal stuff. And don't even think about starting your own pirate radio station. Just like home, you'll soon find that there's one rule for you, and one for those who've been around a little longer. Oh yes, and make sure you don't rat out those nice people on the house committee to us nasty hacks at *The Bruns*, cos witch hunts have never really gone out of fashion.

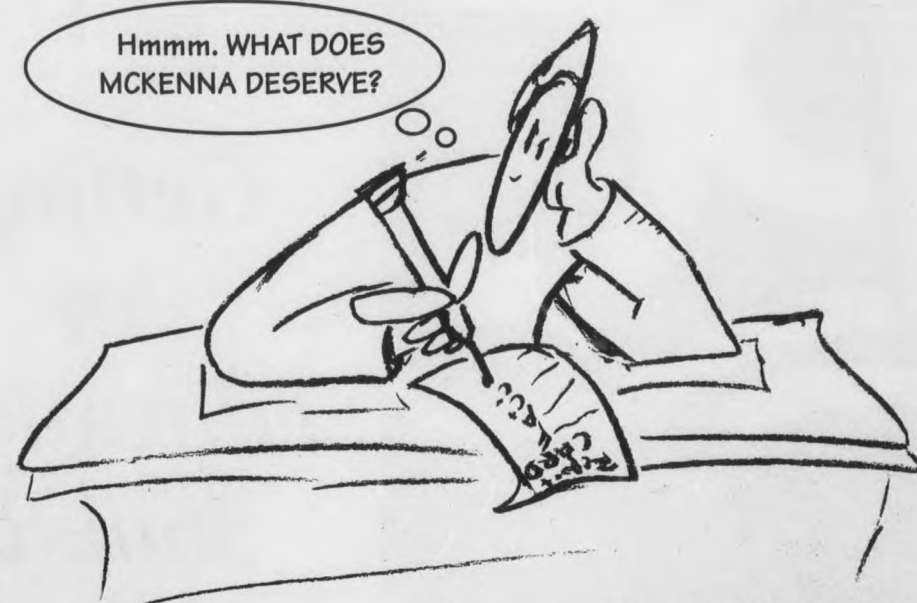
And you remember how you had trouble studying for those important exams when your [insert expletive] little sister wouldn't turn that damn Jamie Walters down. Well the volume of the music hasn't changed but the quality's sure gone downhill. Yes - you can now bounce around your room to the frenzied mix of beats created by 20 different stereos playing "Short Dick Man" and "Wiggle It" to a backing beat provided by your next door neighbour and their partner.

Well at least the 9-5 element is officially over. By stereotype, engineers get lectures in the morning, arts get their's in the afternoon. Not entirely sure why that is. Maybe the arts students need the extra time to get up cos they've spent half the night debating whether *The Great Gatsby* really is an allegory. But then again, those engineers need the extra sleep after long nights of scabbing. Oh well, sucks to be an engineer - I guess. Anyway, 8.30's are miserable and missable. At least 1 person's bound to have been there and photocopies dead cheap if you know the right place to go. Same things goes for the 9.30s except more people are likely to be up by then, yet more by 10.30. Hey, sleep 'til lunch time, it won't catch up on you until that surprise test (worth 20% of your course grade) - that you would have heard about had you been at that lecture which you were too hung over to make it to - that you just missed.

And finally...do you want to be part of an efficient well-oiled machine producing a classy, stylish newspaper? Sorry, wrong university. But if you want to help us produce Canada's oldest student publication then drop by our office in the SUB, Monday at 12.30pm.

Neil Duxbury

Making your vote count in this election Who makes the grade?



Finally Joe Student Gets to Mark the Politicians

by Kelly Lamrock
Student Union President

If you're like most students, you've been trying with grim determination to keep your summer from being interrupted by electioneering politicians. Now that we're back to the grind, however, the realities of the September 11th vote have kicked in. For many of us, the realities affected by political issues have kicked in, as well — paying tuition, hunting down student loans, looking for jobs, and searching for quality, interesting courses.

The UNB Student Union, along with the New Brunswick Student Alliance, have been working hard this election. We have met with the party leaders, MLA's and candidates to present them with policy ideas that will help students. We've launched radio and TV ads to raise awareness of education as an election issue. And we've prepared this report card on party platforms to give you a guide to issue that matter to you.

These aren't the only things that will influence how you vote, but they are issues you should be aware of. Most important, make sure you vote. If you need help getting enumerated, call the folks at Elections New Brunswick at 1-800-308-2922 and make sure they tell you clearly how to exercise your right. If you still have problems, come see me or Pat FitzPatrick in the SUB — we'll get you registered. Now then, I'll explain the report cards subject by subject:

Tuition & Funding: You've got to give it to the McKenna Liberals — our tuition growth has been the lowest in Canada over the past three years. As well, the Premier has made a commitment to not just pass the federal cuts on to students. The Tories get low grades here — they simply have made no statement on how they'll keep education affordable in light of reduced federal dollars. The NDP has a zero tuition policy, but it's five years old, and while they get full grades for good intentions, they don't give us the plans that make us think they really would carry through (Bob Rae had a zero tuition platform before he was elected, too.) COR's only statement has been that they would save money by ending educational planning for francophones — bad intentions, dumb idea. Winner: Liberals

Student Aid: We got a huge win here — the Liberals have reduced parental

contribution (the amount they make your parents give you before you can get a loan) by \$3000 to \$5000 across the board. This, and the Liberals' commitment to a debt load cap, are good news. However, they are still keeping the credit check policy that means New Brunswick is the only province where an overdue bill can deny you a student loan. The Conservatives have also committed in their platform to review parental contribution and get rid of the credit checks, but no word debt management. The two parties score about even. The real

new jobs for recent graduates, is very good, as are the Premier's commitment to work with the NBSA on piloting new ideas in venture capital and the job corps. The NDP offers a job guarantee for youth, but again, good intentions lack specifics. COR sent us nothing. Winner: PC's

University Reform: It's high time for us to change university charter acts to make budgets public, to force administrative overhead down, and to reform Board of Governors by putting people who actually care about education on them. Elizabeth Weir is committed to moving those changes in the Legislature — top marks for that. Both Mrs. Valcourt and McKenna have expressed private enthusiasm for the idea, but no public commitment. Mr. Valcourt's stakeholders group proposal has merit, if not efficiency, and the Liberal government's commitment to holding a national conference on the issue resuscitates somewhat a stand pat performance. COR has made general usings about the idea, but little more.

Winner: NDP

Quality of Education:

In short, the Liberals score with several innovative programmes, commitment to new co-op programmes, and the national conference. The PC's and New Democrats muse about making things better, but few specifics. COR is out to lunch. Winner: Liberals

Openness and Accessibility: When you're number two, you try harder. That sums up the Tories, who from Bernard Valcourt on down have made a real effort to meet with students and get ideas. In particular, Fredericton Fort Nashwaak candidate has completely outclassed his Liberal opponent in visiting campus and listening — he's been by unprompted over 20 times, and we had to call Greg Byrne to get one 20 minute meeting. The Liberals, and Frank McKenna, have been very open from August on, but with the exception of Camille Theriault had little time for us before. We'll wait and see. Elizabeth Weir has been very open to students, but few others from the party have paid attention this campaign. COR wouldn't even send us their platform — must have thought we were the Gary Ewart campaign calling incognito. Winner: PC's

	LIB	PC	NDP	COR
Tuition & Funding	A	C+	B	F
STUDENT AID	B+	B+	A	F
Jobs and Summer Employment	B	B+	B-	F
University Reform	B-	B+	B+	D
Quality of Education	B+	C	C	F
Openness and Accessibility	C+	A	B+	F