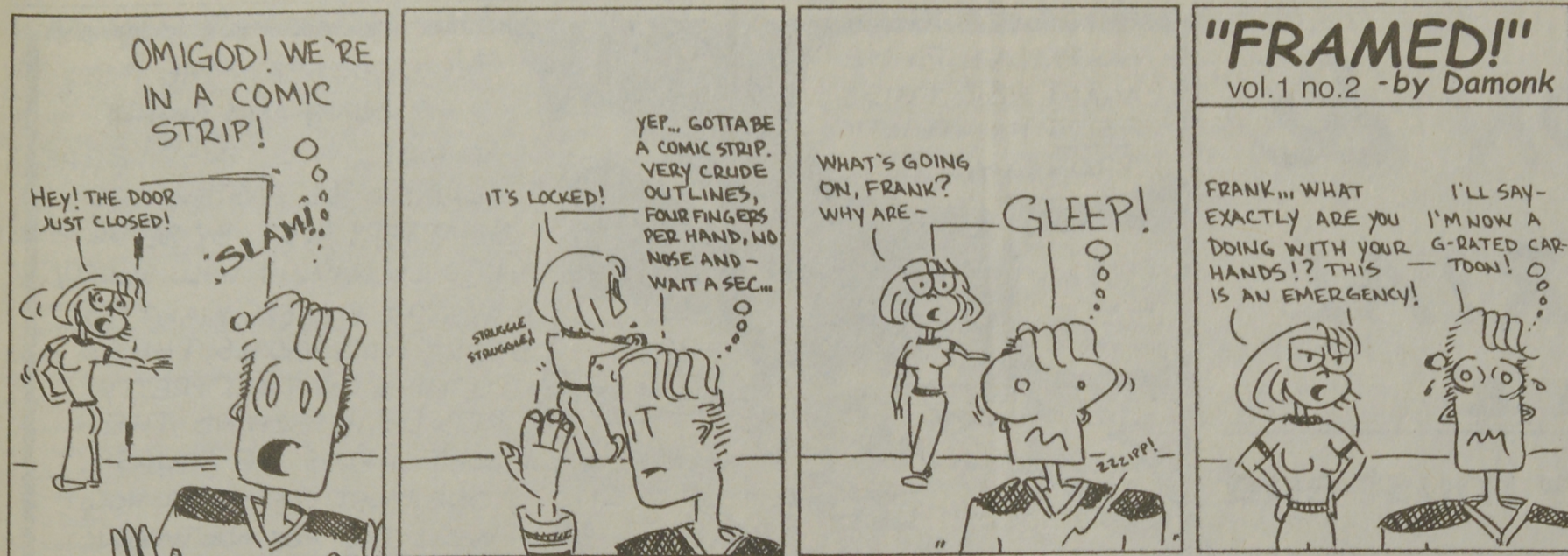




Letters to the Editor

Wulustul Grand Council upset at desecration

At the monthly meeting of the Wulustuk Grand Council held at the Woodstock First Nation on Saturday, September 16th, the Council reached a consensus that a public announcement is required at this time to report the apparent unwillingness or reluctance, of the New Brunswick government; the Long Potato Company of Clair, NB; and the RCMP, Edmundston Detachment, to move voluntarily on this matter of willful desecration of Native Burial grounds at Connors, NB.

Ordinarily, quick action can be expected when a cemetery, whether it be white, black, or representing any other race, is disturbed anywhere in this country as a matter of course.

In this current situation the opposite is the rule. The authorities and

perpetrators have not only ignored the attempts of the Wulustuk Grand Council to find an amiable solution, but are proceeding with apparent acts of arrogance, disdain, and offensive rebuff, to further erode the damage already created at the Val Oakes cemetery in Connors.

All the Council's attempts to come to a settlement have been met with rejection, resistance, and glaring silence, by the authorities involved.

One exploratory meeting, however, was held in Grand Falls, at which a provincial representative, Robert Stanton, Assistant Director of Crown Lands, Natural Resources and Energy, was present (unannounced). At that time the two sides met and discussed their respective positions. Both sides respected

a verbal agreement that later discussions would serve to resolve the outstanding problems.

We feel, however, that the Long Potato Company had no intention of resuming discussions as originally agreed. We believe the company was acting under the advice of their lawyer, Mr. Jean Francois Cyr, who is apparently an acquaintance of the provincial official, Robert Stanton.

The Grand Council has now been left with no choice but to take further measures due to what we see as the continuous refusals by the Long Potato Company and the concerned authorities to take responsibility and proper and remedial action.

At the September 16th meeting of the Grand Council a question was raised

asking why white cemeteries across the country receive automatic protection when desecrated and none follows when the same offence is committed on a native cemetery, such as the one at Val Oakes. Inaction such as this smacks of systemic collusion and racism.

Our ancestors demand of us to fulfill our responsibilities to protect their final resting place and, therefore, we are compelled to take whatever action is required to end this desecration.

At this meeting, the Long Potato Company was accused of destroying the memorial plaque (that was erected on August 19th of this year) on the Val Oakes Cemetery, showing the desecration goes on.

• Wulustuk Grand Council

New solutions to old problems: it's not easy for a society to decide who is to die and who is to live

Continued from Page 9

of differential diagnosis and management. This part of the work is intertwined in the evidence collection also, as they try to get appropriate evidence and extend much beyond after the patient has left the office.

Routine information processing is the paperwork related to the execution of patient management plan, such as calling prescriptions, arranging tests, and related forms appraising employees, insurance companies, etc., and work related to the collection of money. The compensation structure, on the other hand, focuses on narrow evidence collection - primarily that too if the patient is seen in person.

If you telephone the doctor or send an e-mail to describe your problem, this does not substantially reduce the work of the physician. Only a few minutes of face-to-face interaction is saved (probably at the expense of key clinical evidence, who knows?). But the physicians does not get paid at all. There is a total lack of understanding of the component of work.

The knowledge-based processing is like a proprietary software. It has been built up over years of hard work, endurance, sleepless nights, strained relations, and a heavy debt load (for example, student loans).

The actual process time does not reflect the complexities of the development time.

It is this inability to unbundle the work which results in payment-based patient visits. Even if the technology can eliminate some of the waiting time and give flexibility, it will be resisted unless the compensation packages recognizes

the nature of work.

The other difficulty in measuring is the large line item office visit. Each patient comes with a different complaint and the time required is totally different. The compensation on the other hand is a piece rate system, rather than a time rate one. Hence, one should be careful in eliminating some of the aspects as the compensation package has to be redefined. Let me give an example.

As described earlier, there are all types of office visits bundled under one category. Let us assume in a typical hour, five of the visits will take 11 minutes each and one visit only five minutes long. The office visit compensation is \$20. This will result in an hourly compensation of \$120. If the last patient is to be out-sourced (being something, say a nurse practitioner can handle) then assuming the old rate of \$20 per visit will result in a real reduction of wages. The average hourly wage will be based on \$100 per 55 minutes or about \$109.10 or roughly a 10 percent reduction. It is this aspect which results in territory-shielding behaviour and arguments may be made (among other things) in the name of quality and safety. The phenomenon is simple. In a bundled product there may be cross-subsidies, but if unbundling removes some component, then a new pricing has to occur for each component. The problem of bundled price with too much heterogeneous items is it can also stifle enrichment.

A number of physicians may be capable of performing the bottom end of a specialist's job but the incentive structure is not conducive. If it is going

to take more time and the compensation does not reflect that fact, then there will be no motivation. There are similar problems among RNAs and RNs too, except that the compensation is not piece-rate in their case.

One may be tempted to conclude that a market mechanism can unbundle products and price them right. Perhaps the pricing part may be alright but the market may not ensure availability of service for all those in need. In a market model, if there is no population base in Fredericton, there will be no train service to Fredericton. The market mechanism will result in selective services available in a selective place at a right price. That is not the solution one is looking for.

I remember reading a quote, "I stopped weeping for shoes when I saw a man without legs." We have moved a long way from passively stopping to cry, to actively provide for a leg and shoes to another. That defines the value of the society. Some may feel why should one wait until the other person gets a leg, when one can afford to pay more for the provider to attend to him first and make the second shoes.

So it is here we have to look for solutions. As we try to improve the quality of life, the successive marginal improvement is going to be more and more costly. If we as a society believe in such improvements for all, we have to make a way to fund it. If it is not feasible, we need to identify at what level we may say "enough."

It is not easy for a society to decide who is to die and who is to live. Probably this is where we need the help

of philosophers and thinkers away from the political arena to identify what we want as a society and then energize the people to make it happen.

Our action should be goal-driven and not budget-driven.

G. Srinivasan
UNB Professor of Finance

Stay tuned!



"Sharing our Wabanaki Perspective" will return next week.

Did you hear? The Strange Adventures Comic Bookshop is moving to 366 Queen Street!



Same great stuff! No stairs to climb!

Visit us at

366 Queen Street

(about 50 feet from our old spot!)

450-3759

http://www.comic.to/strange_adventures
comics • games • books • cool beans!

NORGE

CLEANERS AND LAUNDROMAT
"The extra care cleaners since 1962"

Attention Students

We offer a full laundromat with:

Maytag Washers
35lb and 50lb Oversize Washers for your extra big loads

And 30 lb dryers

Our Facility has:

Color TV
Reading and study area
Air Conditioning
Ample Parking

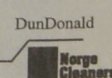
We also offer on-site drycleaning

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 458-5535



We are just minutes from campus
Dundonald St. at Beaverbrook Ct
Next to Greco

Drop by and see our most modern laundromat facility today



Hey Students!

Need help job hunting?

How about learning more about our province?

Want to read something other than a stats text book?

The Telegraph-Journal is *your* answer. We have everything you're looking for:

- Useful columns on current issues
- Reporters all over the province
- Job Listings • Apartment Listings

Student Discount...
65% off newsstand!

Student Subscription only \$1.60 per week*

Call today 1-800-222-9710
or subscribe on-line...
nbnews.com

*Offer valid for one, four or eight month subscriptions

EXTRA BONUS!! With any paid subscription for 4 or 8 months, you'll receive a HOMEPAC® Redeemable at Sobey's, each HOMEPAC is filled with premium brand name groceries and household products. Subscribe today and get yours!

NEW BRUNSWICK
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL
YOUR PROVINCE YOUR PAPER