

OPINION & EDITORIAL

Letters to the Editor

Campus parking continued

Dear Editor:

I read with interest Shea Tompkins' letter to the editor in the January 19th edition of *The Brunswickan*. Although I respect Mr. Tompkins' opinions and admire his desire to respond to my January 12th letter to the editor, I was disappointed that he never once dealt with the issue at hand: campus parking.

Normally I would restrain myself from replying to a letter that does not provide constructive discussion but I feel Mr. Tompkins' comments were critical of my person rather than my positions on campus parking. For this reason I am compelled to respond.

To start, Mr. Tompkins states that I, as a student, am 'privileged' to own a 'luxurious' vehicle. He adds that he feels all students should either walk to campus or take a bus. The problem with his argument is that not all students at UNB are from abroad and live on campus.

Additionally, it is presumptuous for him to assume that all Faculty/Staff and Students live within a 15-30 min walk to campus. In fact, a large percentage of students call Fredericton home or are from neighbouring communities such as New Maryland, Oromocto, Naquawic, etc. Others have cars because they go home on the weekends to see their families in Saint-John, Moncton, Bathurst, etc. Is this a privilege? Of course it is - we are thankful for it and we do not take it for granted. How about a luxury? Not when you have a vehicle because you saved money by living at home or farther from campus. The extra cost of transportation is offset by the savings incurred when paying for room and board.

In fact I inconvenienced myself by riding the bus for my first two years at UNB before I bought my own vehicle. I don't have to preach the sparse service *Fredericton Transit* provides. Personally, I had to reserve 45 min each way to ride a bus to campus, that is, if I could find a bus to ride. Some areas do not have bus service at all. After working two jobs for three years (one full-time and one part-time) in the summer as well as tutoring high school students three to four hours a week during the school year, I was finally able to afford paying both my tuition and buying a 'luxurious' vehicle for \$800.

I believe that my personal story is typical of the average hard-working student and I do not think we should be punished for firm morals of work ethic. Was it Mr. Tompkins' goal to insult most of the students on campus? I would have enjoyed a constructive addition to my set of

recommendations for campus parking, such as reserving parking permits to students living outside a certain radius from campus. Was this his suggestion?

Second, my statement about UNB officials "ignoring the reality that this distribution of parking is highly inefficient" was completely misunderstood by Mr. Tompkins. If I was not clear the first time, I can clarify now.

The inefficiency in question regards the extreme deficit of parking in the north west corner of campus and the extreme surplus of parking in the south east corner of campus. My suggestion is to reevaluate the existing parking permit allocations to accommodate this inefficiency. The energy consumption efficiency of the human body compared to a car that Mr. Tompkins refers does not solve the campus parking problems since there will inevitably be Faculty/Staff and students with vehicles that have parking needs.

I have taken some philosophy classes myself (yes, even as an engineer!) and while it is good for solving and understanding social issues, this is a case where it cannot be used to solve an engineering problem. Mr. Tompkins might also want to check his sources about the human body being "the most efficient machine on the planet." Although this may be true for biological processes, it is certainly not true for mobility (what are we going to do, digest ourselves to campus?).

Third, Mr. Tompkins ends his letter with social issues such as sedentary lifestyle, rising tuition fees and 'metric tons' of garbage which has nothing to do with campus parking. Thanks for trying. Next time try to look before you leap Mr. Tompkins, and do not try to insult your fellow students by wrongful accusations and absurd generalizations. I would also suggest to Mr. Tompkins to refrain from using my name in his pointless diatribe.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my position that steps must be taken to solve UNB's parking service failure and that Mike Ryan and Elizabeth Parr-Johnston must take action to ensure proper and fair distribution of parking on campus.

The next step is to illustrate student support by pressuring UNB officials. A petition will soon be organized. I am asking students to send me an e-mail showing their support of action for proper campus parking (m4r7w@unb.ca).

Yours,
Scott A. Davis
B.Sc. Eng. Civil IV

To the Editor:

Both Mr. Davis (Jan 12th edition) and Shea Tompkins (Jan 19th edition) had legitimate complaints and resolutions to the parking problem on campus. Shea, however, neglected to calculate in one particular group of students who are affected by the parking dilemma through no fault of their own. These are the students who do not reside in the city of Fredericton.

First off, I do not consider myself lucky because I own a car and am able to drive to school. As a mature student attending school full time, working part time, and raising three kids, a car is a necessity not a luxury. I live in Oromocto which, unfortunately, does not have a bus system that allows me to travel to campus by a more economically and environmentally friendly way. I do, however, car pool.

I do not believe that lack of parking is a problem. I feel the problem lies in the ignorance of other drivers. There are many mornings where I drive through the parking lot cursing because someone has taken up one and half parking spots therefore offsetting the rest of the parking and ultimately making less spots available. If drivers could be more courteous in the way they park...some of the stress in finding a parking spot would be alleviated - at least for me anyway.

I also feel, however, more effort should be spent on halting the increase in tuition fees and doing something about the cost of books - rather than focusing on parking.

L. Johnson
BA 1

New and modern Indian treaties and the new modern Indian

So what else is new? From their ivory towers in Ottawa the Government of Canada has embarked upon another Indian initiative to redo the old treaties under the old, paternalistic guise of helping the poor Indians. Why? Because it does not agree with what is contained in those "old" and "outdated" treaties because they lean towards guaranteeing the rights of Indians.

As history has shown, the government uses its white foreign system to solidify the "rights" of the white population which, in turn, puts Indian rights far behind. This ideology which says that whites know what is best for our people is as deadly as their "white is right" and "might is right" mindset that managed to annihilate many of our peoples - including the Beothuk.

Our mistake in the past was to trust in the honesty and the integrity of the Government of Canada and we must be careful not to make the same mistake when it comes to dealing with Canada's proposal for "new" modern Treaties.

Our ancestors did the best they could but they were limited because of their lack of knowledge of the English written language. We must remind ourselves of the many instances where government officials were sworn to tell the truth but lied anyway. We must also remember that of all the treaties signed, not one was honored by Canadian governments.

No new treaty arrangements can be made until we deal with the one important treaty right which was never kept... the treaty I am referring to is the treaty that said our homeland was and is ours for as long as the grass grows and the rivers flow. If there is no respect for our treaty

rights to the land, then do we honestly believe that respect, integrity, truth or honesty have increased in Canada's governmental leaders since the first treaty was violated?

As I see it, these modern day treaties will only provide new, modern and more effective means and methods of controlling and oppressing our people.

We must resist the government's pressure to change the existing treaties and, instead, get them to fully implement and honor the existing treaties. The government's initiative to force our people into agreeing to new modern treaties has little to do with the so-called old treaties and all to do with attitudes. That, in turn, brings into play respect, integrity, truth and honesty or a lack thereof. How will new modern treaties change this?

Given our two peoples' 500 year history, why would our people now wish to subject themselves to negotiating and actually agreeing to new modern treaties with a Canadian government that used treaties to steal our land?

Today's Indian leadership has suffered the effects of 500 years of control, oppression, propaganda, abuse, brainwashing, white education and white socialization, therefore, we must gently remind our own brothers that some of us have forgotten our original instructions and our Traditional Teachings.

Those who forget their true identity will have to be reminded that they are in a position to be the new modern day warriors who will defend, protect and fight for the survival of our people.

• All My Relations,
Dan Ennis



*Sharing our
Wabanaki
Perspective*
By Dan Ennis

**Bruns Elections for
Editor-in-Chief, News Editor,
and Sports Editor* will take place this
Friday in Rm. 35 of the SUB at 12:30pm.
Come on out to the staff meeting and
become a part of the team.
We have great parties!**

8

**If any of the current editors run and win one
of these positions then there will be an
election for their spot too.*

Helping save lives

Captain Bruno Castonguay coordinates air rescue for the Canadian Forces. He and his colleagues and partners help Canadians in danger. They respond around the clock to emergencies on land or at sea and help save lives. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

For more information on government services:

- Visit the **Service Canada Access Centre** nearest you
- Visit **www.canada.gc.ca**
- Call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**

TTY/TDD: **1 800 465-7735**

Canada

