

Student Union Roundup

It's getting cold in here...

by John Campbell
SU VP Executive

I found inspiration for this SU Roundup in a strange place. I was sitting in my office trying to think of something to write about, then I heard it. Coming over the internet radio station I was listening to was a blast from the past. The lyrics from this classic wordsmith spoke to me in a deep and profound way. Even now, his words still ring true.... "Ice Ice Baby...."

So what does this have to do with anything? Well, this coming Tuesday, your Student Union will start to decide whether or not to support a province wide tuition freeze campaign along with the other schools in the New Brunswick Student Alliance.

At our last NBSA meeting, the group was asked to support a tuition freeze campaign aimed at the Province of New Brunswick. Now, your UNB Student Union needs to decide whether or not to join with the seven other campuses across the province, and support this campaign.

In its simplest terms, a tuition freeze means that UNB would not raise tuition for a specific amount of time (let's say three years). If they do that, then the provincial government would give the university extra money to make up for the lost income they would receive from the tuition raises. They would try and make this whole process revenue neutral, meaning that the university would not be making any money, and would not lose any money either.

It's a difficult thing to do. This means that both the government and the university have to be honest with each other about the finances, and must be transparent to each other how the

money is being spent. It's a game with both sides trying to do what's best for themselves, and possibly hurting the students in the process.

What's wrong with this plan? Other than the uphill battle getting the government to agree on what to do, and getting the university and government to sit down and open their books, we still run the risk of our school not getting the right amount of money. The last time the government set how much they give to the universities in the province, the formula they used ended up giving us a smaller amount than what they had said. They had promised to give us a 2% increase a year (and they still claim they did), however, because of how they determined what a full time student is, we ended up only getting about 1.73%.

And of course, when you're talking about millions of dollars over three years, you're talking a lot of money. So, we have to be concerned about how the amount of money we get to subsidize our tuition is determined.

If it's not done right, and we end up getting not enough money, what happens? Well, since tuition can't go up, the administration will have to start saving money. When the British Columbia tuition freeze was on, they saw their class sizes double in two years, faculty laid off, and student services cut. Not the most desirable outcome from a freeze. However, if it is done right, we can finally get a handle of tuition rates that have been soaring by over 132% in the past 10 years.

It's a big issue for sure, and it's hard to explain everything in the one article. If you want some more information, some clarification, or to express your opinion please drop me a line at 458-7164, or suexec@unb.ca.

Because everything is political

Turn off your television

by Tan-Nee Ng

I wasn't able to sleep last night and today I am tired as hell. Last year I lived with three strangers and by the end of the year I hadn't gotten to know them any better than when I first said "hi" and shyly took my suitcases down the stairs to my room in the basement. What do these two trains of thought have to link them together? A common cause: television.

That's right! Because of TV, not only was a whole year that could have been devoted to creating new friendship and bonds with different people wasted, but I also have large bags under my tired eyes as I stare at the monitor this afternoon from my lack of sleep yesterday due to the fact that someone (who shall remain nameless) refused to turn off the freaking television until three in the mother-f-ing morning!

Jesus... I hate TV. Although many would argue that television is an educational tool (i.e.: TLC), for the most part, television programming these days is just mindless entertainment. Why are we spending our leisure time in the least constructive manner possible? I suppose in a society that takes nothing seriously outside of the "professional world" of production, exchange of goods and services, and accumulation of wealth it seems only natural. Right? Maybe?

There are so many negative effects of watching too much television, some which are much more complicated than they appear to be at first glance. Let's focus on one. When we watch television, our relationship with this media is one of spectator to spectacle, and life itself is less fulfilling for those who watch than it is for those who act.

The media make regular people like Britney Spears and Brad Pitt out to be

superstars who have much more interesting lives than any of us will ever be able to live. So much useless information about these individuals is spewed at us daily that we cannot help but eventually pay attention... and soon we know even more about Paul McCartney's new marriage than we know about our own roommates!

And if you thought that was bad, it can get worse, because soon we even begin knowing more about fictional characters versus the very real people in our very real lives! Just listen to some casual conversation in a restaurant and we begin to notice how much time is wasted talking about television shows, old movies, and comic book characters when it could be spent making better plans for our own lives or getting to know each other better. *sigh*.

When you spend your spare time watching television rather than traveling or falling in love or playing soccer, you come to believe that the most excitement you can have is in watching a travel show, a soap opera, or a sports game on television. And the more you watch these programs on television, the more you forget that you can actually be out doing these things yourself, rather than just watching them.

Believe me, it's much more exciting to be making music than to be watching MuchMusic, just as it is much more fulfilling to be making love than it is to be watching pornography, and the like goes on and on and on...

I guess the bottom line here is this: are you satisfied to watch other people do what you could be doing yourself, if you didn't waste so much time watching, didn't spend so much time working at a job you hate to buy things you don't need, just to pay (perhaps) for more watching?

THE BRUNSWICKAN

CANADA'S OLDEST OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

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The Brunswickan, in its 136th year of publication, is Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication.

We are an autonomous student newspaper owned and operated by Brunswick Publishing Inc., a non-profit, independent body.

We are a founding member of the Canadian University Press, and love it so. We are also members of U-Wire, a media exchange of university media throughout North America. We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 10,000.

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While we endeavour to provide an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered by the editorial board to be racist, sexist, libellous, or in any way discriminatory.

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This issue is dedicated to:

Shaggy - the lyrical gangster. Also, no shout outs to cankers. They hurt us.

SWAP TALK

Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP)

- SWAP arranges work visas and offers orientation, accommodation, and support services overseas
- Find out about working holidays the UK, Ireland, Australia, and more

Wednesday, October 30, 2002
2.00pm to 3.30pm
Student Union Building Room 103

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Just a thought...

On being welcome

by Joanne Barr
Campus Ministry

Over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, I travelled by car with my son to Ontario. He is in grade 12 and has expressed an interest in attending college next year. The college which he hopes to attend is located north of Toronto. We made arrangements to visit the campus and made plans to tour the facility and the residence.

Upon arrival there, we received a royal welcome. A young woman, a recent graduate of the college, acted as our tour guide. She provided information about the courses and the buildings. Another young woman showed us through a residence which had just been built. We had dinner in the dining room, where we met and talked with a number of students. What particularly impressed us were the welcoming smiles on the faces of the students. Everyone we met was so gracious. The atmosphere was inviting.

I know that many individuals visit our campus each year. I would hope that they would feel as we did... welcome.... it's just a thought.

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2002

12:30PM

SUB ROOM 35

Annual General Meeting

All staff to attend

(The Brunswickan) All staff requested to be present, the Date: Nov 1, Time: 12:30 PM.

The agenda includes: finances, audit, by-laws, upcoming elections.

All others welcome!

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