

U.N.B. : ALIVE

By Richard Daley

(All photos reprinted from "the brunswickan")

Bailey Hall, University of New Brunswick's Science building, is not an unusual place at first glance; red-brick, fake-Georgian exterior and pastel-painted, drab interior, make it much like any other institutional building in Canada. But for the last six weeks, Bailey Hall has been unique among Canadian campus buildings; it is the home of "Liberation 130". Liberation 130 is many things to many people; a symbol of resistance to administration authority, or a symbol of student irresponsibility and immaturity; a bastion of student power, or a minor nuisance. Liberation 130 used to be a nuclear physicists office in a quiet Maritime University; it is now a den of idealists.

When Professor Norman Strax was suspended from teaching duties because of his part in a protest against the identification card system in the university Library, he was ordered to vacate his office within twenty-four hours. So far, no one else has taken up the ponderous labours of science in Strax' office; for two days later (September 26) the office was "liberated" by students who had worked with Strax on a number of activist projects.

I entered Strax's office about a month after it was liberated. We approached the building quietly -- security police ("rent-a-cops") occasionally turn nasty and prevent entrance; "130" was clearly marked, with the red flag of socialism and the black flag of anarchy flanking the only lighted proclaimed, MONEY TALKS BUT JUSTICE SPEAKS LOUDER. Liberation 130 is not opposed simply to the firing of Strax; it is deeply antagonistic to what

it sees as the business-establishment orientation of the entire university and its policies. Another poster, inside "Liberation", asks WHO IS GOD? COLIN? B OF G? "Colin" is Colin Mackay, president for sixteen years of UNB; and the SDS (Struggle for a Democratic Society) group inside Liberation 130 doesn't ignore the businessmen on the university's Board of Governors -- a group which includes K.C. Irving, donor of the library where the revolt started.

Once past the commissionaire and through the door with the jammed lock, one is on ground held sacred by the student power movement at UNB. Liberation 130 was once the symbol of defiance to administration "totalitarianism"; now, as the occupation of the office continues unmolested, it has become the centre of SDS activities. Intermittently, plans are made to "liberate" other offices, while antagonistic students, mostly commercemen and engineers, attempt to "re-take" Liberation 130; one recent such attempt resulted in the commercemen accidentally gassing themselves with tear gas.

It was clearly once a physicists office; bound volumes of the PHYSICAL REVIEW dating back to 1948 line of shelf, though more recent occupants of the office have added to the stock of reading materials a number of light novels, and the latest issue of PLAYBOY. Sounds not usually heard in the halls of academe issue from two guitars and a record-player which, barely audible, transmits the message of THE CREAM to an audience more interested in hearing the story of Liberation.

The office was the centre of defiance to the ad-



Brunswickan Photo by Henry Straker

Professor of physics Norman Strax addresses students prior to issuance of controversial circular announcing campaign against plasticized identification cards. SDS's initial attack against unauthorized use of student cards took place at the Harriet Irving Library.

Admin suspends Strax; protest

"Strax better than successor," say students asking his return

brunswickan, september 24, 1968

Dr. Norman Strax's fifth year electrical engineering class approached him Friday afternoon to tell him, "We want you back as our prof" Ken

MacNutt tells SDS members "You cannot manage a large institution on democratic principles"

Mackay won't talk of Strax

UNB included in special CTV

The Brunswickan expected a full explanation of Dr. Norman Strax's suspension Thursday at administration-president Colin Mackay's annual press conference. We were disappointed. During the student demonstration Wednesday, Professor Thompson

CAUT complains re suspension

Liberation 130 held for twelve

The Canadian association of university teachers has taken an active interest in the Strax case.

sit-in continues SDS



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