

Pratt administers kiss of death

Self-destruction of SRC ahead of schedule

Rumors circulating on campus that students actually have a government of their own have been discredited by the actions of the Student Representative (sic) Council at Monday's meeting.

Council exhibited a perfection of Barnum and Bailey's famed circus techniques in all but the high diving act. The clowns were out in force but unfortunately the meeting lacked a qualified ringmaster.

Chris Pratt's juggling act, was even more unco-ordinated than usual, although his famed sermonettes had more frequency - if lower quality - than ever before. His balancing act between his position on council and affiliation with CHSR was exceeded only by the disappearing act of his status as a "student representative".

Pratt was not functioning as a representative of student opinion - unless we are all anarchists - and showed a complete lack of concern for participatory democracy. Pratt apparently felt that only elected councillors have the right to speak at council meetings. On several occasions he questioned the right of observers of the meeting to address themselves to the debate.

Someone should remind Pratt that students are not simply an audience for council, but have full rights to participate.

The performance, or lack of performance, of the council executive was even more startling than that of the ordinary councillors. Newly-elected (by acclamation) comptroller Peter Davidson's contributions to council went no further than his

vocal support for a motion which would increase the honoraria for (you guessed it) the position of comptroller.

However, voting in favor of personal honoraria (which would once have been considered good reason for impeachment) was not a rarity at the meeting.

Alan Patrick, who replaced Pratt as station director of CHSR this year, followed Davidson's lead by supporting motions which would have increased his honoraria substantially. But no councillors saw fit to even mention that such actions constitute a definite conflict of interest. We only hope that Patrick's actions can be explained by the ignorance of voting protocol so common amongst councillors this year.

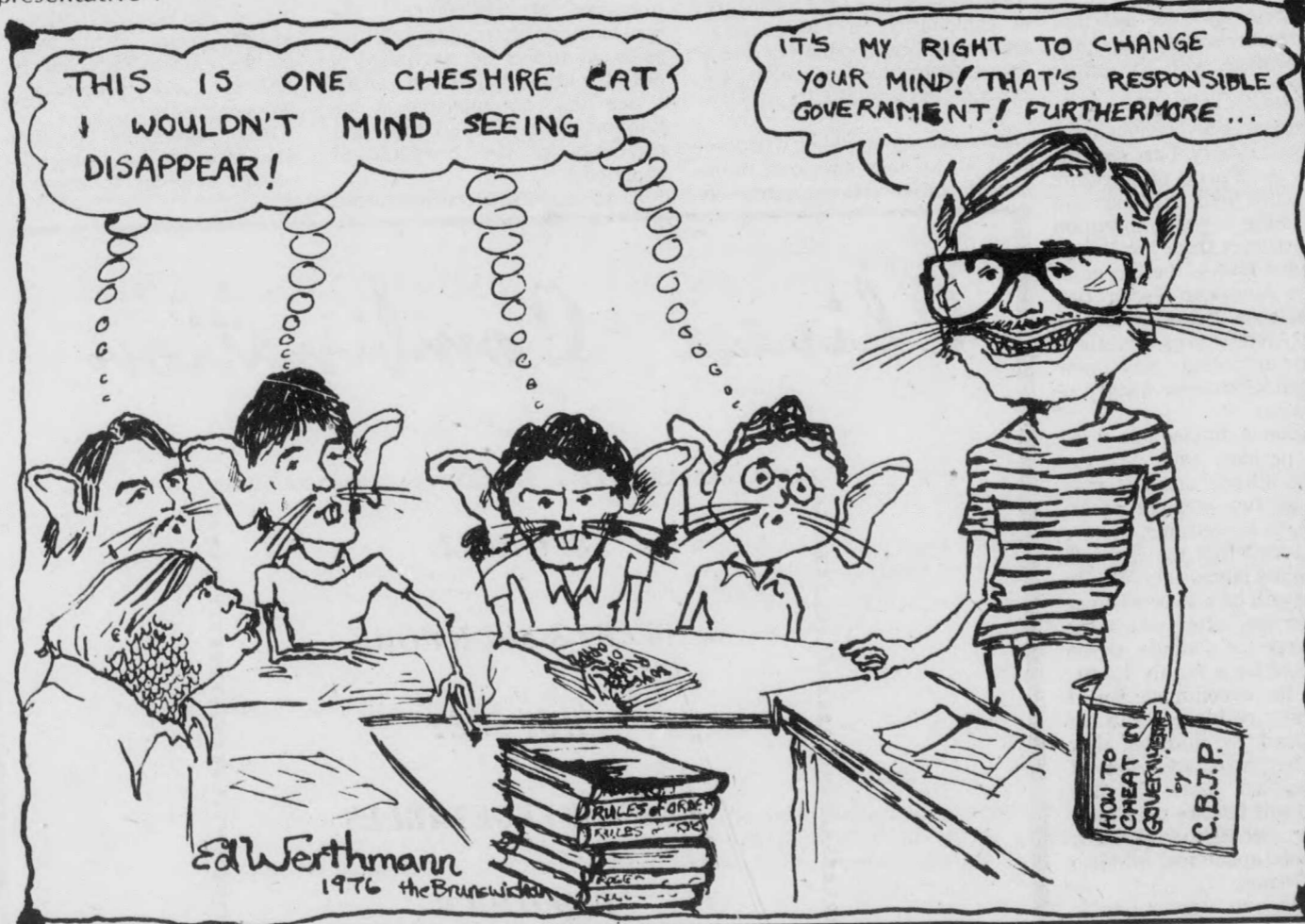
Silence is a virtue, but Jim Smith should be reminded that he is the president, and as such should make some contribution to the procedures.

CHSR's large voting block on council - and the dangers thereof - became blatantly obvious Monday night. The CHSR delegation ignored all normal procedure to railroad a motion through which will give them the funds to purchase a \$3,200 control board. The normal procedure is for all financial motions to be screened by the Administrative Board (the financial advisory body) before being taken to council. Certainly the station may urgently need the equipment but their method of obtaining it showed complete disregard for the required procedures.

Out-going comptroller Wes Batanyita made a suggestion weeks ago which, in retrospect, makes considerable sense. He recommended that all members of the media be prevented from holding seats on council, simply because of the possibility of conflict of interest. We don't advocate preventing all media members from sitting on council, but we do recognize the dangers of allowing the chief executive officers of the paper and radio stations on that body.

We have serious problems in our student government, problems that are hampering that body from conducting even the most basic day-to-day business. The present situation must be rectified while council still retains some semblance of efficiency.

The BRUNSWICKAN calls upon all council members to make sweeping improvements in their operation or resign before the next meeting. Another fiasco like last Monday's simply cannot be tolerated.



THE BRUNSWICKAN

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