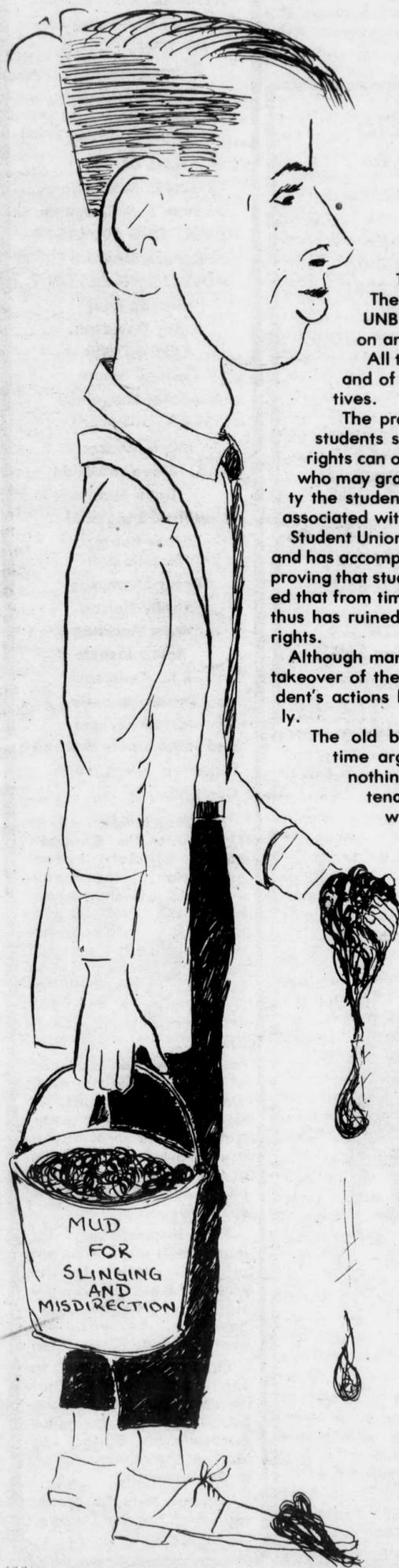




## EDITORIAL

### Bosnitch ruins credibility of students

—Administration takeover sets alarming precedent



The students **should** have total control over the Student Union Building. The students **should** be free to run a variety of enterprises for the benefit of all at UNB. The students **should** have more influence when major decisions are made on and off campus.

All these statements reflect the goals of Student Union president John Bosnitch and of many students. *The Brunswickan* wholeheartedly endorses these objectives.

The problem is the key word in all these statements: "should." The power students seek, to determine their own destiny is not a God-given right. Such rights can only be gained by violent revolution or by gaining the respect of those who may grant such rights. Since violent revolution is not condoned by our society the students must prove they are capable of taking on the responsibilities associated with these rights, while at the same time asserting their desires.

Student Union President John Bosnitch has made great strides for the students and has accomplished much. His failing though has been disastrous: instead of proving that students are capable of managing their own affairs, he has proved that from time-to-time students are not able to manage effectively and thus has ruined the credibility arguments which propose more student rights.

Although many questions remain about the nature of the Downey takeover of the S.U.B., *The Brunswickan* supports the UNB president's actions because the SUB was being managed atrociously.

The old board, with Bosnitch as chairman, spent its time arguing procedure and accomplishing virtually nothing. Critical issues such as leases for the tenants were not dealt with. Hiring and firing were haphazard causing staff morale to hit rock bottom; employees did not know whether or when they were working, turnover was high and training was lacking. No minutes for SUB Board or its twin SUB Holdings were produced for months. Finances were being handled in a careless manner—money was being left lying around. The final straw came when the director was fired and no replacement was named. The list goes on...

Bosnitch's running of the SUB was coupled with other bodies he runs or is involved with. *The Brunswickan* is especially critical of his tendency towards politically-motivated appointments. When the Downey takeover was announced, Bosnitch attempted to maintain legitimacy of the old SUB board while at the same time destroying the credibility of the press—he tried to convince *the Brunswickan* to appoint a staff member to one of the vacant UNB student positions.

The new board of trustees, composed mostly of students, seems to have the interests of the students at heart. Although the student trustees share a general pro-administration, anti-Bosnitch bias; Downey was smart to make the choices he did because renewed political infighting had to be prevented at all costs.

The trustees, most of whom were contacted individually by *Brunswickan*, share a common view that the board is temporary. After restoring functionality to the SUB they will work towards restoring a student-appointed board. It is critical that they do this with student input, and the willingness of the trustees to talk to students this week inspires confidence.

Although in favour of the takeover, *the Brunswickan* urges the administration not to consider their actions a precedent. Might the Student Union or the CSL exchange be next? The steamroller effect must be prevented. An important step would be to require that any change of an administrative structure be explicitly approved by the board of governors. The carte-blanc for Downey was dangerous, and many still question whether the actions taken were legal.

Now is the time for student administrators, like Bosnitch, to learn their lesson and start placing good management as a priority. The road to renewed respect from the administration a long one—it is time the trip is started.

