

Mobilization Meeting Disrupted By Violence

Firstly, the following story is not from 1985. So don't be shocked. This year we are going to be running stories from old Brunswickans. This one

comes from November, 30th, 1967. At this time in history UNB was caught up in the anti-war movement and this article shows the radical nature of students in the 1960's.

Each week we will be running a different story so be looking from them. Dr. Norman Strax was apolitical activist on campus, as well as a physics proffesor here at UNB. His influence on the community was felt for those tense anti-war years. Looking at the past history of UNB through the Brunswickan is a novel idea, but one that

can give insight to the many different events and happenings through the years, that shaped our present university community.

Any events you may rememeber from the past that would benefit this section, please feel free to contact us in the Bruns office.

At 7:30 p.m. Nov. 28, an angry jeering mob estimated between 80-90 persons disrupted a scheduled meeting of the "Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam of UNB".

The group, almost all of whom were wearing red leather UNB jackets, trooped through the Student Center of the University at 7 p.m. carrying banners, rolls of toilet tissue and placards reading "Make Love and War", "Fight VC as well as VD", "Kill a Commie for Christmas" and chanting "Down with Strax".

Much of the mob's anger was directed specifically at Dr. Norman Strax, an American citizen who teaches Physics at UNB. Dr. Strax organized and led the UNB contingent of 150 persons who were bussed to Washington and marched on the Pentagon in the International Day of protest on October 21.

Dr. Strax organized the subsequent meeting tonight for the participants in the Washington March, and for any other sympathetic or interested students.

The mob then entered Loring Bailey Hall and repeatedly rushed the doors of the meeting room and pummelled and assaulted those students blocking their entry. After a flanking manoeuver, at the other set of doors failed, they demanded again to see Strax, who entered the jammed hallway and agreed to speak to the group. After prolonged jeering and cat-calling that visibly angered and disturbed Strax, and after ignoring his orders to leave, the demonstrators quieted down. They then sat down in the large hallway and allowed Strax to speak.

Dr. Strax told them that two and a half years ago he also believed in President Johnson's policies and urged the demonstrators to do some intelligent reading on the subject. He added over loud objections that according to current American polls, those supporting the war were in the minority.

Some spokesmen of the group demanded a question and answer period and asked who financed the Washington trip, while implying that the Communist Party had subsidized the March as well as Strax. The group was partially mollified by Strax's insistence that the required funds had come from himself and legitimate private sources.

The conduct of the demonstrators rapidly deteriorated into screamed charges of "Communist" and scattered obscenities.

Professor A. E. Boone, head of the physics department, escorted by several commissioners demanded that the demonstrators disperse immediately.

All left quietly and quickly leaving scattered placards and toilet paper and other litter in the corridors. The group congregated for a while outside the doors of the building where they built a bonfire with their remaining signs and argued among themselves until the cold finally scattered them into the night.

The meeting inside the building proceeded as scheduled and attracted 50 people in spite of the demonstration.

As the last knot of people left, someone cried "we'll be back tomorrow with a lynch rope!"





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