

# NEWS

Interim Editor: Stephen Marks

Thank You

Student Union examines Brunswickan independence:

## Considers all the options

By KIM DOYLE

On February 18, 1988, the UNB Student Union passed a motion to empower "appropriate individuals to take such actions as outlined in the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations with respect to the Brunswickan.

The recommendations were as follows:

1. That in consultation with the editor of *The Brunswickan*, the Executive Committee of the S.U. take immediate steps to provide Council with an actionable plan to make *The Brunswickan* an independent body under the authority of a Board of Directors which is representative of the University Community.

2. That the Board of Directors referred to in recommendation 1 be requested to develop an editorial policy for the Brunswickan that would guard against editorial and advertising copy that is unacceptable to the university community.

According to Larry Hansen, 1987-88 Vice-President Internal, the main reason behind the formation of the Board was to "create an independent organization" in order that the Student Union would "not be exposed to liability."

Mr. Hansen also stated that with a board of directors for the Bruns, "the Student Union would have no excuse to go down (to the Bruns) and interfere." As well, the Student Union "would not have total control over appointments" to the Board. The only connection between the S.U. and the Brunswickan would be in the form of an agreement with regard to funding, and the paying of bills.

The mechanics of the appointments to the Board have yet to be worked out, however it is clear that all members of the Board are to be volunteers, and that the majority of Board members should be students.

On Wednesday, March 30, 1988, Mr. Hansen spoke with legal counsel on the issue of a Board of Directors for the Brunswickan. Mr. Hansen was advised of the only three options which could be taken with regard to the Brunswickan. The options are as follows:

1. Create a Board of Directors which is responsible for the editorial policy and budget, and acts as an agent of the Student Union.

2. To do away completely with the Brunswickan; thereby disposing of the Student Union's current liability.

3. To incorporate the Brunswickan, to insure that the Student Union is not open to any liability, but remains as an administrator of Brunswickan funds.

Under the first option, the Student Union remains liable,

which according to Larry Hansen, defeats the purpose. The second option obviously appears not to be in the best interest of the student community. The third option, however, meets the requirements of the Student Union.

Larry Hansen forecasts that

the Student Union will proceed in the direction of the third option. The Student Union hopes that they will have all of the mechanics and a course of action completed by the end of April, so that implementation can take place in the coming year.

## "No recourse but to seek legal action." Student Union may go to court

After the Student Union decision that publicly convicted James Taylor of sexual harassment, and his subsequent eviction from the Student Union Building, Mr. Taylor said in a public statement that he had no recourse but to seek legal action.

Upon review, Mr. Taylor's lawyer has advised the Student Union to review their decision of Feb 18 and if this should produce no results, Mr. Taylor "would have no option other than to pursue his legal remedies in the matter since there does appear to be some indication of an implied defamation of his character by the Student Union, Ms. (Karen Jean) Braun and others."

Mr. Taylor's complaints are based on his view that he did not have "by any definition, either proper notice of the proceedings or of an opportunity to present a fair and reasonable defense under the circumstances."

Mr. Taylor's statement says, in part, "After the Council meeting of Feb 18, 1988, in which I was 'convicted' of sexual harassment (in abstentia, I might add), I sought the advice of legal counsel.

"My attorney contacted the Student Union on Feb. 25 and asked for the following: 1) a copy of the original complaint; 2) a copy of all material that ensured Mr. Taylor received a fair hearing; and 3) a copy of his employment conditions.

"In response to the third request, my attorney was told I had never been an employee, which is in direct contradiction to paycheque numbers 001137 and 001055 — cheques that were issued to me by the Student Union. . . .

"In regards to sexual harassment, I ask you, is it possible to sexually harass a person that you have never met or spoken to — and while she's

not there?

"I feel that the Student Union has publicly defamed my character and under the advice of legal counsel, I am considering formal legal charges to be brought against

the Student Union, namely Larry Hansen and Jane Arnold.

"Furthermore, I personally find Ms. Braun's fraudulent misuse of student government time in this case to be utterly

disgraceful. A person does not ruin three months of another person's life and not expect . . . full legal recourse.

"And to state, for the record, I did not sexually harass Karen Braun."

## Two day conference on Enhancement of University Teaching

University teachers and students from across New Brunswick will gather at Mount Allison University on May 3-4 for a conference on the Enhancement of University Teaching - L'enrichissement de l'enseignement universitaire. The bilingual conference will be jointly sponsored by Mount Allison, the University of New Brunswick, (Fredericton and Saint John Campuses), the Université de Moncton and the University of Prince Edward Island.

The two-day conference will open on Tuesday, May 3 with the keynote address by Dr. Janet Donald, Director of the Centre for University Teaching and Learning at McGill University. Her address is entitled *The Enhancement of University Teaching: Policy, Strategy and Enlightenment*.

Of special interest to students is the Wednesday afternoon session of "Creative Approaches to Teaching." The conference organizers hope students from each university

will participate in the small group discussions, providing their impressions of teaching methods currently in use.

Students interested in attending the conference are urged to contact *James Small, Student Union Office*, for information and pre-registration forms. Registration fees and meals during the two-day conference will be free of charge for students. Residence accommodation is available at reduced rates. Deadlines for registration is April 23.

# X-tra X-tra

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