

Brunswickan

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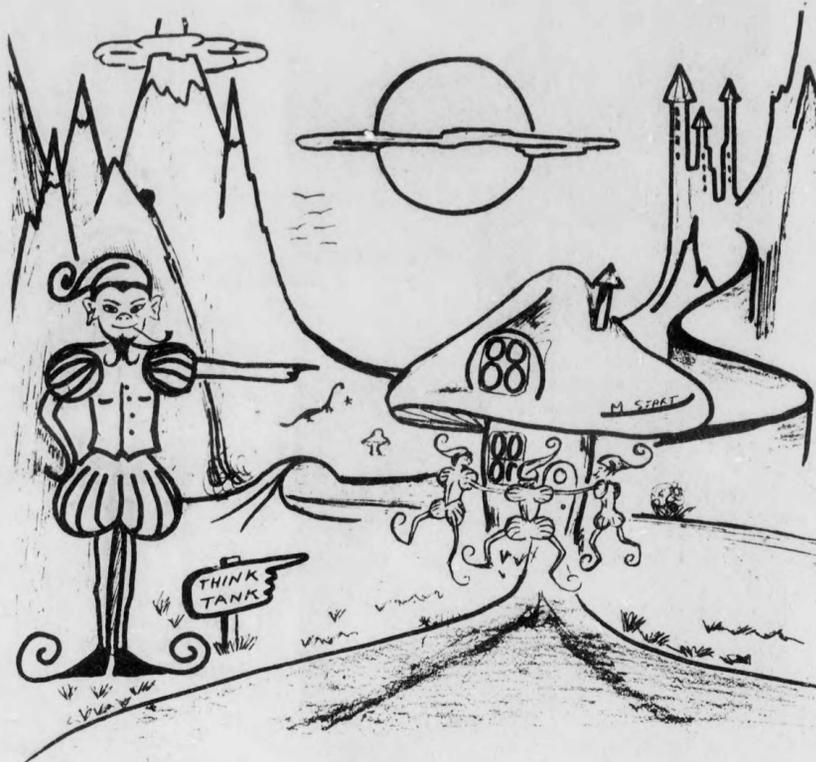
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EDITORIAL

Council Creates Comedy of Errors

Last Sunday's "meeting" of the SRC can only be described in the most euphemistic terms as a sad debauchery of what a student council is supposed to be. Eighty-five per cent of the Council did not even have the initiative to speak. Those who did, were certainly a far cry from the student leaders they imagine themselves to be.

Disorganized they were. Incoherent they sounded. Ludicrous they appeared.

Such an occurrence can not be allowed to happen again. If the student body is un-

aware of the petty politics of their representatives, then, we urge them to attend future council meetings for proof positive; if they are not concerned enough to take note, then they deserve such representation.

We strongly urge the student body to attend future Council meetings to see what fools they are

To think that these are the people who will shortly disperse over \$100,000 of your money would almost be worth that much in entertainment value were it not for the fact the situation is so pathetic

We Are Being Read

As evidenced by the Letters to the Editor column, not to mention the almost immediate scarcity of last week's issues, we are now being read.

Comment varied on the change. Some called us "irresponsible"; others lauded us for "no more pussyfooting around."

We shall not stop here. The *Brunswickan* is the only tangible return by the student body from their compulsory levies. Fifteen dollars also goes to the Students' Union Building, but the rest is, in effect, divided up among the perhaps ten per cent of the student body opportunist enough to opt for it.

It may be rather a large task for the *Brunswickan* to justify its own budget as well as compensating for the thousands of dollars eaten up by Council, but that is the task we have set for ourselves.

Letters to the Editor

RESIDENT STUDENTS CHILDISH

Sir:
I'm sorry to see the *Brunswickan* wasting so much energy on a phony issue like open rooms in residence. Considering the present administrative set-up of the residences, I see no reason why the demands of some students for more open rooms should be taken seriously. It's obvious that what a self-respecting adult does in his own room, provided he remains within the law is no business of the university authorities. But many residents are not responsible adults but boozers who drink themselves sick, throw food at meals and shout obscenities at girls. It is these people who make some "open houses" into horror shows, and there's no reason for the Administration to assume that this behaviour will improve with more "open rooms".

Further, if parents cop out of their responsibility to teach at least the mechanical facts of birth control and prevention of disease, then the university community, simply to get on with its own proper work, must discourage casual fornication, and the social pressures which can force immature students into it.

Thirdly, the parents who support most freshmen and sophomores have been assured that students in

residence will be under some kind of supervision, and this promise must be kept. (For this reason alone it seems unlikely to me that rule changes could be made during this year.)

The real issue in residences is how they are run, by whom, and for what purpose. As long as the Senate sees the residences as a sort of barracks, where students must be housed, fed, and kept in order, then its inclination will be to run them from the top down, by regulations made at secret meetings. It is *this* set-up that makes the residences work the way they do: with 30 or 40% annual turnover, with most people in first or second year, no continuity, and above all a feeling that nothing can be done. It is this which drives out the older or more mature students, who would rather live in an overpriced dump downtown where they can be free, than put up with the present paternalistic structure.

As long as independent students feel that residence is hopeless and that they have no control over the way the place is run, many of them will go on moving out as soon as they can.

The administration can continue to accept this situation and be thankful that people leave after a few years, to make room for freshmen — or it can take residences seriously as a part of the community

of teaching, learning and growing up. It can help us make residences a real educational experience where students learn to be responsible by exercising real power and making real decisions.

Let the residents of each house, including the faculty members of each house, hire their own proctors, appoint their own dons on three year contracts, set their own fees, and make all their own rules openly and democratically.

The Administration will say that students are not "responsible" enough for this. But students will never be responsible in the present set-up, because they are powerless. Only the independent exercise of power, where results really matter, can teach responsibility.

As a first step one residence should be leased to the Co-op and operate in 1968-69 as an autonomous self-governing house, on the lines suggested above. Its success should be evaluated by an open committee of students, faculty, and administration. If it works the system could be extended. But the way it is now residences are run like high schools — and it's no wonder people in them act like high school students.

Nelson Adams

Sir:

The *Brunswickan* freedoms for asserting the institution. wielding unrestrictions.

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