

Mackay won't talk of Strax

The Brunswickan expected a full explanation of Dr. Norman Strax's suspension Thursday at administration-president Colin Mackay's annual press conference. We were disappointed.

During the student demonstration Wednesday, Professor Kent Thompson, speaking on behalf of Mackay, told students "Mackay does not wish to speak to you until he has spoken to the campus media."

Mackay didn't want to speak to the campus media either.

At the press conference, held in Mackay's office, the president insisted that this was simply the routine meeting with the press held at the beginning of every year.

He refused to give reasons for Strax's dismissal. He said that he felt the reasons were obvious. He further indicated that "This is something personal between Dr. Strax and myself." He suggested that his office was always open if Dr. Strax wanted to discuss the situation with him.

The president explained that Strax was hired on a terminal basis. This meant that Strax could leave or be removed at any time "without reason". According to Strax, however, his period of employment was on a "probationary" basis — that is, it would be decided at the end of this year whether tenure would be granted.

Identification Cards

On the issue of ID cards,

Mackay said that: "Until I went down to registration, I didn't know there were going to be ID cards this year". Mackay explained the history of the development of this year's ID cards — continually emphasizing that it was what the students wanted.

"All student decisions leading to the introduction of the plastic ID cards of UNB were made by the executive of the SRC, or Mr. Cox himself."

Security Police

"Obviously there are some misunderstandings here," said Mackay when questioned about the security police. He mentioned a meeting that was already held to define the job description of these police. No references were made by Mackay about any of the incidents in which the competence of the security police was left in question. "Security police", said Mackay, "are like students and faculty — all of them aren't perfect." The security police are responsible to buildings and grounds.

Student Ombudsman

At a meeting called Dialogue I, held Wednesday evening, it was generally felt that a student ombudsman would perform a valuable service. Mackay's reaction was one of reservation. He said that available resources were not being used enough — eg. Blue, the registrar and dean of student services, and Kent,

administrative assistant to the president. Both mentioned were present.

(When Blue was asked if he had time, he said that at present, he could talk to students who came to him for "no more than a couple of minutes.")

Mackay also indicated that he was not particularly in favour of students on the senate or the board of governors. "The source of ideas is in the individual faculty councils. That is where you want students."

Faculty Power

The president referred to an article in the past issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*. "Bundy (the writer) says that faculty have the power." When pressed as to the number of faculty members on the board Mackay conceded that there were just four faculty members on the board exceeding twenty-five members.

Fees

The university debt was given to be \$497,000.00. This, explained Mackay necessitated a fee increase. The earliest date in which the fee increase could be announced was the middle of June. This point was debated by referral to a letter written to Larry Lamont, a second-year student at UNB, signed by Premier Louis J. Robichaud. The letter said the University of New Brunswick could have announced the fee increase March 3.

Other areas touched upon during the three hour interview included student housing, the responsibility of the Brunswickan and Radio UNB, bookstore prices, the social science research center and general student-faculty — administration relationships.

by garr

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM
by Garr
Canadian University Press

Simon Fraser University, the Bethlehem of student revolt, reached another golden milestone in the revolution when Tuesday (September 12) they unveiled a plaque to commemorate the reinstatement of five teaching assistants fired in March, 1967.

The young radicals did not wait all this time to order the "Freedom Square" plaque; indeed, it was ordered in March, 1967. But the battle to install the piece of metal which cost the students the equivalent of 150 copies of "The Quotations of Chairman Mao" took more man hours than the actual revolt it celebrates.

When the students announced they were going to order a plaque to be placed in Freedom Square dedicated to those "who gave of themselves in the cause of academic freedom," the administration balked.

Simon Fraser is primarily a Social Credit government tourist attraction which, on free days, is used by students. To mar the landscape of that memorial to free enterprise with gibberish would be, you must admit, somehow wrong. A reply was sent to the students.

"Dear students: We have checked the plans of SFU and can nowhere find an area designated Freedom Square. If, however, you do insist on making this plaque a gift to the university, it must be approved by the aesthetics committee."

Your servants, The Boys in the Front Office."

The student council saw this as a right-wing ploy. But, just as they were about to act, someone noted that the plaque had been mis-placed.

Arguments were presented by the left wing fringe that 150 copies of "The Quotations of Chairman Mao" would not have been as easily mis-placed and, besides, they would give the students something to read until the plaque was located.

Some months later a young frosh, while busily looking for poster material to make up some welcome signs for the Canadian Legion Pincher Creek Ladies Auxiliary who were about to visit SFU, stubbed his toe on what he thought was a very hip door jam.

His burning investigative fervour, given to him at registration, drove him onward. He flipped the jam over and there, for God and everyone to see, was the plaque.

That nite SFU saw merriment and pizza eating it had never dreamed of. Another student had consciously and adamantly given of himself.

But what to do with the plaque now re-discovered? The administration . . . they must have a safe. And so, before another student could lift a beer glass in the name of freedom, the plaque was dropped into the bottomless pit of the bursar's safe.

Student newsmen immediately picked up the trail and went camera in hand, to snap a pix of the plaque. The administration balked: "If the students want a picture, the plaque must be important."

The newspaper received a communication via the Dean of Student Affairs. "Dear students: We have noted your request and shall look into the matter. A brief call to the aesthetics committee, however, indicates that no plaque has ever been approved. Further, we have checked the plans of the university and can find no space allocation for freedom. Bearing in mind that students are our most important product, we remain yours, The Dean etc."

The newspaper students saw this as a right wing ploy. But just as they were about to act, someone noted that the camera had been misplaced.

Since then the level of student unrest has, like the moon, gone through many phases and were it not for the bursar's annual spring cleaning program, the plaque and all it symbolized would have been lost in a dusty vault.

And now, gleaming on an otherwise dull cement wall, is a plaque which has found its final resting place. Mis-placed and unwanted by many it will, no doubt, come to share the same gangrene hue of the Government upon whose building it is mounted.

Lifeline hangs from 130

Liberation 130 is the scene of the sit-in protesting the suspension of physics prof Dr. Norman Strax.

It was Strax's office in Loring Bailey Hall, the UNB physics and biology building. He was suspended after demonstrations against ID cards in the Harriet Irving library by Struggle for a democratic society. Strax is active in SDS's Maritime-region.

The window of Liberation is decorated with red and black flags, the symbols of student revolt around the world. The red flag signifies the working class and the black flag stands for anarchy.

One poster in the window reads "Hell no, we won't go!"

and another hanging from the sill reads SDS.

Leaflets issued from the office announce daily teach-outs outside the window. These and other leaflets are being mimeographed on a machine in the office and distributed on campus by SDS sympathizers.

There is an average of 15 demonstrators in the office at all times. Demonstrators are replaced from time to time on a rotation system.

The protestors are brought food and other supplies by sympathizers. They also have a rope, "our lifeline", hanging from the window to raise supplies and provide an entry and exit for protestors.

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