

The Brunswickan

"Every new wave must eventually wash up against the shore of good taste."

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OPINION...

Accessibility on campus

The average student at the University of New Brunswick pays little attention to the problems of accessibility on campus. Until you are faced with difficulty, accessibility will not be a paramount concern in your life. Its understandable. There is a relatively small population of disabled students on this campus. For those who are, it is evident that there is a lack of services and an absence of any formal policy to grapple with the problem of accessibility. Let us all take one giant step.

In recent years there has been an attempt to increase the independence of the disabled. Plans of integration allow the disabled more than a marginal role in society have, in some cases, been successful. There have been alterations made to some buildings in the interest of giving access. But plans and foresight — no. An incoming student must go through the channels of administration to find the cement shoals of inaccessibility. The current calendar offers no assistance and no

reference to any counselling; if you've been searching for information or help, you've been sadly disappointed. A disclaimer that accurately points out obstacles would be a simple addition to the calendar, as would a liaison with counselling services.

What is to be done? In a conversation with Eric Garland, (assistant vice-president—administration) it became evident that the lack of guidelines is a major obstacle. It seems that it should be relatively easy to make changes. It is also evident that a bit of foresight would make for easier transition. All that would be required is a glance at a calendar from one of the many schools that have provided such information. (Queens University, University of Waterloo, Carleton University, St. Mary's University). From their example a section could be added to our own calendar.

The administration has been interested in raising money to carry the University into the third century of its existence. I

think its time to consider the third century architecture and how it can be changed and adapted. As part of a scheme of integration, funds should be allocated for those ends.

There is not a lack of concern or interest. It was pointed out by Mr Garland, that consideration would be given to special problems. It is the informal network, accepted as adequate, that presents a problem. Barricades of stairs and narrow doors are accepted and no longer even noticed. This policy is not acceptable and should no longer be tolerated.

It is time for a change! If token good will can be exercised into action, then progress is in sight. The past has not been pleasant. The future seems promising. Presently a plan of action is a necessity. Good will with no direction soon loses momentum leaving accessibility dead in the water. This has been the case — it should not continue.

Scott Lutes

Final Slashes: Last Word on Campus Politics

If this were the real world, I could stand chance of having my kneecaps shot off...

There are some who would have been happy had I simply reported, as I did a fortnight ago, that the investigation concerning the SRC (and especially CSL/John Bosnitch) had been closed with no charges laid. Other folks would have been satisfied with last week's column on the checkered history of the CSL. This week, though, I'm going to take a short look at the miserable political manoeuvring which has caused so much grief and taken up so much newsprint over the last few years. And no one is likely to be happy.

Ah, but here I'm taking my role as "journalist" much too seriously. One of the most bewildering aspects of this story is that *everyone* is acting as if the stakes were high. The stakes are abysmally low; and when you fully understand this, the amount of energy that goes into student politics — and I use the word "politics" with every last iota of bad connotation — is truly absurd.

As noted last week, the major split in campus politics seems to be along pro- or anti- Bosnitch lines. How the investigation came about can be looked at through the lens of either group: as might be ex-

pected, the two images do not meld into a coherent image.

Bosnitch and his supporters, most notably VP Academic Michael Bennett, are perhaps most vocal on the political side of things. To quote Bosnitch:

(if the actions leading to the investigation are precedent...) "Anytime a political minority wants to completely disrupt the operation of the Student Union, all they need do is pick a false witness from within their group and have that person make a baseless complaint to the police."

Further:
"I think that the act of making this complaint is probably one of the most irresponsible and politically devious acts that I could imagine."

Bennett:
"The police found no evidence of impropriety and the accusers have yet to tell the public upon what evidence they based their accusations. This leads me to conclude that they had no evidence and that the whole matter is based upon false accusations from the political opponents of Mr. Bosnitch."

And this is, essentially, the scenario as seen from this side. More specifically, the constant confrontations between Bosnitch, et al, and the Administration, set the

scene for Bosnitch's (student) opponents to move in with the trumped-up charges of wrong-doing. If this is the case, we're talking about seriously demented people sharpening their knives on Bosnitch's vertebrae.

Nor would this be the first time such an interpretation could be laid on top of political moves. Bosnitch himself came in with complaints against former SRC president Gerard Finnen. Misappropriation of funds and incestuous appointments...no charges laid, though; and nothing proven. (Actually, Bosnitch used a column in the *Brunswickan* to make these suspicions known. On the off chance that anyone out there is twisted enough to think I'm trying the same route to the SRC presidency, think again. No interest on my part; also, I guarantee that I won't be back after Christmas).

The anti-Bosnitch side of things seems straightforward enough: Someone was messing around with our money. I reiterate: the other sides *seems* straightforward.

The fact is that no one wants to say who made the complaint which led to the investigation. The police say that it was someone on the student council. Because of

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