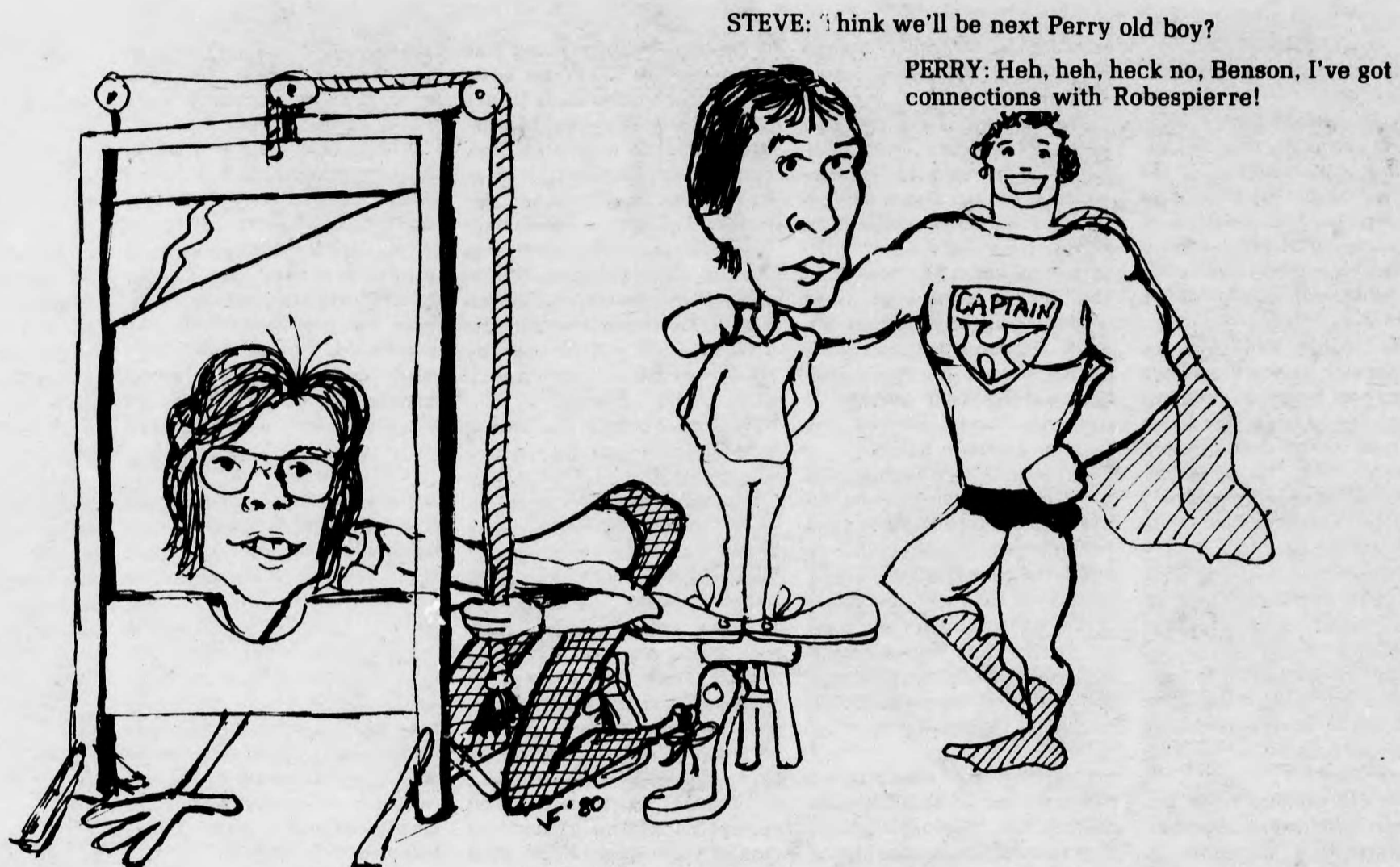


editorial



A matter of principle not practicality

A very serious situation exists within the SRC. At Monday night's meeting of the Student Representative Council, Councillors Mike Hughson and Dave Lawrence presented a notice of motion that called for the removal of SRC President Perry Thorbourne. A second notice of motion called for the removal of SRC Comptroller Steve Howes. These motions are scheduled to be discussed and voted on at the Sept. 29th meeting of Council. With these motions the councillors have begun a process in which the desirability of Thorbourne and Howes continuing in office has been questioned. It is a process that must be carried through to a satisfactory conclusion.

Many of the questions raised by councillors Hughson and Lawrence were raised in the September 12, 1980 issue of the Brunswickan. The text of Thorbourne's summer report was largely a response to these questions. The report itself was not presented in its entirety at last Monday's meeting of council. In a letter addressed to the Students of the

UNB Student Union published in this edition of the *The Brunswickan*, Thorbourne laid the blame for this disruption on Hughson, Lawrence and other councillors involved with this motion. Whether that is true or not, Thorbourne and Howes certainly deserve a chance to defend themselves before the SRC and the UNB Student Community in general.

As mentioned, the written text of Thorbourne's summer report addressed the questions raised at last Monday's meeting of council. Some of these answers seem to be satisfactory. Others raise even more serious questions.

One of the most serious questions in terms of its possible consequences concerns the monies received by Thorbourne this summer in his various capacities. He has been accused of holding two jobs at the same time. The hours for these jobs overlapped. In giving up his job at the Physical Plant Thorbourne had a salary paid to him by the Student Union "in lieu of a motion or mention of it to summer

council."

Thorbourne said that he intended to make a presentation on the matter to a regular session of council. It is his subsequent remarks on the subject that are most disturbing. What Thorbourne said was, "I was wrong, my actions were pointed out to me as being in violation of the union and I accept that. I have now made arrangements to pay this money back as by law I am not entitled to it. Again I will state that I do not regret the action I took this summer or that which I take now."

It is possible that Perry Thorbourne did not intend to phrase his remarks in quite this manner. As they now stand Thorbourne is saying that he violated the law and has no regret about doing so. Hopefully he will be able to clarify this matter at next Monday's meeting of council.

Remarks of this nature, if left to stand, can only add to the mistrust that characterizes many councillor's attitudes toward the SRC executive.

This question and others raised by the councillors on Monday

must be answered in a satisfactory fashion. The allegations include possible misuse of SRC funds, neglect of duties and general dishonesty. If Thorbourne and Howes can clear themselves of these allegations the Student Union will be able to get back to business. If they cannot they should not be allowed to continue in office.

The consequences of their removal would be serious. This should not dissuade council from seeking a resolution to this situation. The SRC Administrator and the lawyer retained by the Union could be appointed as Trustees to carry on the business of the union until an election could be held. If the allegations are ignored mistrust will continue to divide council. If the allegations are allowed to stand and nothing is done a dangerous precedent will have been set.

If Thorbourne and Howes cannot refute these allegations they should resign. Hopefully they will be able to answer these charges to the satisfaction of Council. An atmosphere of trust and cooperation could then be restored to the operations of the SRC.