

## SRC wants explanation from Mackay - calls for open meeting with students, president, Board of Deans

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### Academics score Admin tactics

Professors George Rawlyk, Queen's University, and Mike Cross, University of Toronto, said last Friday that they vehemently and strenuously protest the treatment of Dr. Norman Strax and his supporters by the University of New Brunswick's administration.

The professors gave a press conference at the Fredericton airport. They had just arrived to take part in a weekend history symposium sponsored by the UNB History Club.

They had threatened to boycott the symposium but agreed to a compromise when the symposium committee arranged to hold it at Saint Thomas University.

"The situation here has been ignored across Canada," said Rawlyk. "We are here for one reason—because the students are organizing the weekend."

Cross said he had refused to come three weeks ago. "I felt that UNB shouldn't be dignified by having academics attend a function there," he said. "But I changed my mind because I felt that the students organizing the symposium shouldn't be punished for the sins of the administration."

Rawlyk, who had taught for two years at Mount Allison University, said he had reservations about coming when first contacted. "I knew something about the New Brunswick establishment and feared the Strax suspension was an attempt to neutralize protest against it. Then I received a telegram about the arrests of the seven people and contacted Professor Cross. We protest strongly that the due process for situations like this, as outlined by CAUT (Can-

adian Association of University Teachers) was not followed."

He suggested there was something sick at UNB. "The establishment control in New Brunswick is a classic example of elite control over a province's evolution," he said.

"The observations I made when I lived here are still valid. A great deal of the control is exerted through the media."

He went on to say that in Moncton and Saint John one man had a big influence on the media. K. C. Irving controls most of the media in the two cities.

"Even the power of the CBC is dulled by the power of the province. The CBC is responsible as private interests."

He said the same elite control was exerted by a small group at UNB. Said Cross: "The disruption at the library couldn't have been as bad as the university makes out. One other member of the faculty did the same thing and there were no repercussions. It was just an excuse to get Strax right between the eyes."

Cross said it was ironic that university administrations should talk of university autonomy in their dealings with higher authorities and then call in city police to deal with a situation. "There is a slight behavioural ambiguity here," he said.

They both supported the right of Strax and his supporters to protest. But "a probe from within here would be impossible," said Rawlyk. "What is needed is a breath of fresh air."

Commenting on the police



Prof. Cross

Prof. Rawlyk

### Council to take legal action against admin

UNB's Student Council Sunday night passed a motion that may lead to legal action against the University of New Brunswick's Board of Governors.

The motion provided that the SRC "undertake at once steps toward legal action against the Board of Governors of the University of New Brunswick for the recovery of the film taken from Henry Straker, which film is the property of the Brunswickan, and subsequently of the SRC."

The action may arise out of the confiscation of the film taken by Security Chief James Barnett on Sept 21 at the Harriet Irving Library.

Admin president Colin Mackay had replied to a letter on the matter sent to him by the SRC. Council had protested the confiscation, and had demanded an immediate return of the film to its rightful owners, the Brunswickan.

"Mackay told me the university solicitor had advised them to retain the film, and that they couldn't go against the advice of the solicitor," said SRC president Geoff Green.

The motion was passed with the support of an overwhelming majority of the 21 member council.

coming to campus, Cross said that it was a totally unrealistic escalation on the part of the authorities. "If this had happened at U of T I'm sure the place would be closed today," he said.

At U of T "there have been petitions circulated in support of Dr. Strax. Some people have contributed money to his legal aid fund. There has also been great concern expressed by some of my students," said Cross.

Hawlyk said he condoned the radical action of the sit-in.

"Against the powerful establishment here, radical action is necessary," he said. "The question now is the treatment of Strax and his supporters. There is a principle involved."