Resignation demand is typical of campus politics

The knives were out at last Monday's SRC meeting.

In a surprise move members of the SRC executive brought forward a motion asking for the resignation of president Warren McKenzie.

The move was typical of student politics on this campus. McKenzie was given no advance warning of the motion, and hence very little chance to defend himself.

We feel it is deplorable that student politics here have degraded to such an extent. No longer are issues brought out into the open and discussed in a reasonable context. The continual use of back room tactics leaves us disgusted.

Three important issues came to light from the incident Monday night First, there is too much of a tendency to use questionable tactics in campus politics here; second, there is a breakdown of communications between the executive council members; and the third, most of the executive members have become inaccessible to the general student body.

The question of whether or not the SRC president had any intention of defrauding the SRC is unimportant compared to the broader issues involved.

The call for the president's resignation originated from within the executive of council, but McKenzie had no idea of the intent behind the first motion. Instead of confronting McKenzie with the apparent problem and giving him a chance to explain or clarify the situation the movers of the motion used it for shock value to have regular council business suspended.

How can students expect to have any effect or input on basic issues such as housing and student aid when apparently we cannot even manage our own government properly.

Petty squabbles such as that seen Monday can only do students damage at the bargaining tables with the administration, and government.

All the executive council members must share the blame.

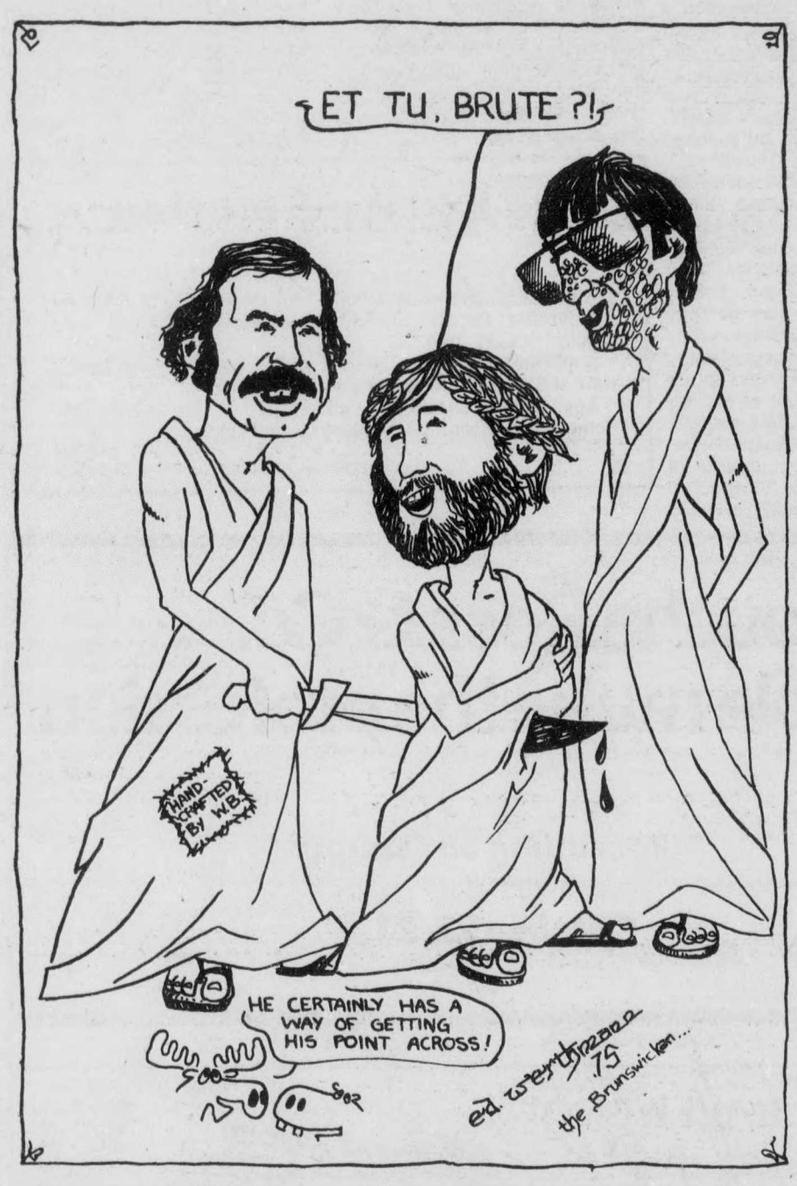
However, some good may come from the incident. Apparently the executive has thrashed the matter out, and found an equitable solution.

We just hope they all remember the incident in the future, and will strive to prevent similar incidents.

This is not to say council should hesitate to confront the president – or any council member – when irregularities appear to be taking place.

However, it must be remembered that incidents of this nature often are best handled without the use of sensationalist methods.

It is obvious that there is too high a dependence on back room methods in campus politics – and the method is not even being used very well.



Bricklin's request believeable?

Malcolm Bricklin, chairman of Bricklin Canada Ltd., said Tuesday he would ask the federal government to provide $15 million for his car firm - a firm which just recently was placed in receivership.

Apparently Bricklin wants the firm to be subject to private control under an agreement whereby the province's percentage of ownership would be reduced.

While the venture may have had some promise, The Brunswickan is opposed to continuing the operation on several grounds.

The project involved too much secrecy – unjustified secrecy, in light of the extent of the taxpayers' involvement.

The government should have a system of priorities which would not place so much emphasis on the production of a sports car designed to cater to the affluent members of society only.

Funds spent on the Bricklin project could have been put to a better use in initiating programs to facilitate and encourage indigenous industries – industries that would not threaten characteristics of Maritime life, and would appeal to many who live here. The local farming and fishing industries certainly could use additional funding for research and development.

On the grounds that taxpayers won't be allowed to have clear access to information about Bricklin expenditures we oppose any further government involvement.

What should become an immediate priority for the province is the re-employment of those workers whose incomes are threatened by Bricklin's unstable financial state. Unfortanately, it seems that these people will be the ones hit hardest if – probably when – the firm goes under.

THE BRUNSWICKAN

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