

soundoff continued

Facts on ASU situation

Dear Sir:

On behalf of myself and, because I have been personally associated with where the issues are in the present ugly situation in the African Student Union, I would like to present certain facts to the student population and the public in general. Should anybody ask me why, my answer is "many people saw the apple fall, but only Issac Newton asked 'why'."

It is my conviction that the pen is mightier than the sword. Last Friday, a Brunswickan staffer, Mr. Peter F. Kuiten-

brouwer, brandished this mightier-than-the-sword with reckless abandon. He succeeded to fan the embers of bitterness (that had already been accentuated by the scheming from the SRC) among the African students. This staff reporter's distortion of facts, and his twisting of truths to suit his whims, could best be left for the public to judge. He would pass very well for a high school cartoonist excepting that he allowed his imagination to run haywire. However, it was interesting to notice him give vent to his pent-up feelings (of he knows what I mean)

without due justification.:

1. The issue of the African Student Union, Mr. Kuitenbrouwer must be told again, is not the issue of "who is in the right in Ethiopia"; it is rather the issue of a student, or a handful of students for that matter, publishing any trash and purporting to be "The African Student Union View: On the Oromo Issue." In the first place, Ethiopia is not for sale, so why should the question of right or wrong bother anybody, anyway?

2. Truth is bitter; but sometimes it must be told. ASU has been unwillingly dragged

into the present quagmire by the machinations of one student.

Hardly Mr. Ernest Jones, the former president of ASU. Mr. Jones is a man of integrity and was always bamboozled by his former vice-president;

(a) how could anyone explain somebody usurping the office of treasurer thereby keeping the liquid cash of a group of Africans without any scruples;

(b) this same someone, in the most surreptitious manner, caused the publication of the so-called African Student Union View: On The Oromo Issue. If the audacity was pardonable, what of the arrogance to include A. C. Chukwu's name as being party to that document when Mr. Chukwu was known by the rest of the Africans to be diametrically opposed to the publication; would anybody not frown at this same man signing the said document for Mr. Sam Boye whom apparently Sam may not even know what we are talking about - the 'Mustapha' report.

Then it was the issue of Mustapha's "coups a problem in Africa." Fortunately I have never expected miracles from Mr. Kamara, especially having dealt closely with him for the past four weeks or so. His main problem may be that he might have left home many years ago; or it could well be that this young man has a pen-

chant to offer unsolicited services with the Immigration. His article in last Friday's Brunswickan was repugnant and amounted to the activities of a quisling. I am glad he knows that some coups may be "justified." In the interest of what is left of his excellence, I shall spare him some embarrassments if only he stops washing his "dirty linen outside;" otherwise the struggle continues.

3. My sincere concern for the administration of Kevin Ratcliff. I know that Mr. Ratcliff passed through fire to the post of president. However, he seems to be taking forever to come to grips with the demand of his office. Initially there was the case of his support for the former executive of ASU before knowing the issues at stake. He allowed himself to be misled. Like experts, his detractors worked on his Achilles' heel (his inability to know when the opinion of the majority must not be dismissed with the wave of a hand) and exposed his apparent ineptitude as a student leader.

I would be deceiving myself and all that is just and equitable if I said that my confidence in the SRC is not shaken to its foundation. My opinion of the SRC, therefore, is that it is sick.

Yours truly,
Isong Akpan Ekanem

Reply regarding coups in Africa

Dear Sir:

My I use the medium of your paper in reply to an article that appeared in last Friday's "Brunswickan" about coups in Africa. It is true that Africa does not need the leadership of people of Nguema, Bokassa, Arun calibre and the writer did good service to us all who saw the article, by reminding us that fact. He continued to allege that, here in Fredericton, there is a group of African students who "slipped through the vigilant Canadian Immigration" and they brought with them coup mentalities. For the benefit of all concerned, may I remind the writer of the article that he failed totally in one respect. He did not have the necessary courage to name the students he knew slipped into the country illegally. May I challenge him to prove that he is not among the 89 out of 100, by naming the students who are at Fredericton illegally. If he has no courage to release the names to the

"Brunswickan" why doesn't he give the names to the Immigration Authorities, the police, or at least to the University Authorities since these students are attending university illegally.

May I also ask him to tell us under whose umbrella and under what capacity he is advising African Students? Is he working for outside forces? If so, I shall remind him of that story told over and over again; of that frog that blew itself up to look like a bull and that exploded in its efforts, in the face of its admirers and enemies. Those enemies who had been inciting the frog to go further and further whispering to each other: "it will be its end." Did he attend the meeting that discussed persons and not issues, or how did he acquire that information? How does he define the word "vigilant" if people can slip through controlled ports of entry?

He had also a good opportunity to remind the public that A.S.U. elections had been re-

scheduled for March 15th, while the SRC president had informed the same public that the elections were for March 22nd. Will the public follow him or the SRC president? I believe the public will have a choice. May I remind him at this juncture that the "Ides of March" came and went and we did not hear of any elections.

Simon Kahari
Holy Cross Room 48

University should have been closed in morning

Dear Sir:

I am writing this with reference to the closure of the university on Tuesday at noon. It seems it would be more advisable to close first thing in the morning or to not close at all. It is not fair to those students, faculty, and staff

who make an effort to get to the campus in the morning, only to find their efforts have been futile - there are too few students to hold a class and at noon everything is officially closed down anyway. This is hardly the time of year that

Continued on p. 9

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