



Downey replies to letters

Well, so this is what its like to be Editor-In-Chief of a big college paper, smack in the centre of campus controversy, having to contend with 7,000 irate readers and a handful of overworked, underpaid editors. For this dubious honour I would like to thank the academy - (Susan, Jeff, Tim, Anna, Tom, Dave, Carole, Rick, Ann, Derek, Bob, Debra and the rest of the all-star cast) and especially my Mom who instilled in me the belief that you can always do more than you originally set out to do. (She also had me believing in Santa Claus until I was thirteen!).

To start off, I would like to apologize for a typographical error that somehow made its way into a Classified ad a couple of weeks ago. Because of this error "Gæeks" was transformed into "Greeks" and since the context of the ad could be considered insulting, it was therefore offensive to some. We're really sorry for this error, and I'd like to be able to say that it won't happen again, but we're only human.

I'd like to spend this whole column, my first attempt at Mugwump, talking about frivolous, lighthearted issues. But we all know that there is a lot more than that going on around UNB. For instance, the letters that we have been receiving at the Bruns about sexual harassment have been more than a little disturbing. Although it may be tacky to say it, I almost wish that we had heard about it a lot earlier in the year. What better way for the administration, to sweep a sticky subject under the carpet and forget about it, than to have summer arrive conveniently just when the issue starts to boil over. The controversy that the Sexual Harassment Survey has provoked will very likely lose momentum over the vacation and I for one, hope it does not. It is a serious subject, to say the very least, and it should not go uninvestigated, it should not be swept under the carpet, it should be stopped, because no one, male or female, has the right to impose their sexual desires, if it can even be called that, on another human being.

Next, for those members of the Student Party, and they know who they are, who think I am easily swayed, and think that they can suddenly be nice to me now that I'm editor in order to get what they want, when they've been real pricks up until now, can forget it.

I'm really looking forward to the challenge of being Editor of this paper. I've been around enough in the past two years to know that it is a difficult, time consuming and thankless job, but I'm willing to give it my best shot. Unless you've worked for the Bruns you can't possibly know how much effort, by all concerned, goes into making this paper every week. And I'm sure you don't appreciate it as much as we do. If you're really all that concerned with improving it, then come on down next year and help.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Reed for all her help and support. She taught me everything I know -not all of it useful in the newspaper business but interesting information just the same. I hope she'll be able to stand me yelling "Susan, what do I do now. . ." next year, as I've done this year.

Finally, I'd like to say hi to all my friends in newspaper land especially Moose, who has been encouraging and helpful throughout.

Since this is the last issue of the Bruns (control yourself, kids!) I want to wish everyone good luck on their exams and I hope everyone has a safe, happy and profitable (wishful thinking, I know) summer.

Dear Editor:

With reference to the letters appearing in last week's and this week's issues of the *Brunswickan* alleging sexual harassment against one or more UNB professors, I should like to make the following two points.

First, the University of New Brunswick regards sexual harassment as a serious breach of professional ethics, a serious abuse of academic or administrative authority, and a serious offense. Such exploitative behavior is contrary to the spirit and purpose of the academy and, where it can be proven to exist, the University will take appropriate disciplinary action against those who have abused their position and authority.

Two, the University of New Brunswick does have procedures for dealing with complaints of unprofessional conduct against faculty. (A copy, which I hope you will print, is enclosed). These were drawn up last fall by the Vice-President (Academic) in consultation with the Deans. Should it now appear to some female students that these procedures are not sufficiently hospitable, since most of our Deans are men, I should like to draw your attention to a letter in this issue of the *Brunswickan* from Dean Irene Leckie, Chairman of the Committee on the Status of Women, describing another route. The procedures adopted last fall are intended to ensure a measure of uniformity and consistency in the way complaints are handled. They are not intended to preclude any other legitimate avenue of ap-

MEMO TO: Deans of Faculties, Registrar
SUBJECT: Disciplinary Procedures Involving Faculty Members and Instructors

In the past year, a few cases have arisen in which students and/or other employees have lodged complaints concerning the professional conduct of members of faculty. The most serious of these have involved alleged sexual harassment.

Such situations are receiving greater scrutiny and publicity of late in universities, and it is important that we have a clear and simple procedure for dealing with them as they arise. The following procedure is to be used:

1. Complaints of unprofessional behaviour of faculty members or instructors should be directed to the Dean of the Faculty. Upon receipt of such a complaint the Dean will inquire into the matter.
2. If the matter is considered by the Dean to be serious enough to require formal action, he/she shall bring it to the attention of the Vice-President (Academic) or (Saint John) as appropriate.
3. If the Dean and the Vice-President decide there is sufficient reason to warrant further investigation, Personnel Services will be contacted to provide advice and assistance in developing specific procedures and interviews in the particular case.
4. The Vice-President will be briefed at each stage and, in consultation with the Dean, will provide authorization for each major stage in proceeding.
5. The President should be informed of any formal action to be taken.
6. The President shall notify the AUNBT of any formal disciplinary action to be taken against a member of the Association.

James Downey
President

proach. It is important to remember, however, that, because a charge of sexual harassment is a serious allegation, it is essential that the University conduct its enquiry into any such allegation in a manner consistent with its responsibility to ensure that its actions are proper and just.

Now more than the courts can or should the University presume guilt; but neither

shall we take or treat lightly any serious allegation of professional misconduct against a faculty member or any other employee or officer of the University.

Yours sincerely,

James Downey
President

Women's committee offers aid

Dear Ms. Editor:

The letter in last week's *Brunswickan* on the subject of sexual harassment has raised the question:

"If I have a problem of this sort, to whom should I go?"

Since January 1980, U.N.B. has had an Action Committee on the Status of Women. This committee is charged with the responsibility for seeking appropriate action when problems related to the status of women at this university are brought to its attention.

It is supposed to serve the needs of women students, support staff and faculty. This

committee is the appropriate group to which to bring a problem of this kind.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Leckie
Chairperson of the Action Committee

(and Dean of Nursing)

Special thanks to. . .

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Cogswell and Professor Kent Thompson for the time that they devoted to judging The *Brunswickan's* annual Poetry Contest. I would also like to thank Doug McConnell at the

Campus Bookstore, for the prizes that he donated for the winners. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christie Walker