

# FLASH...

Red and black flags hang from window of Liberation 130

Strax doesn't care if he is fired.

# IT'S OCTOBER 1, 1968

Last week we ran a Brunswickan flashback from the OCT. 1, 1931 issue when the big news was the freshettes - sophettes banquet. 37 years later the "Strax Affair" began to rage.....

Strax better than successor"

Students mock Strax; burn SDS leaflet

"Mackay is irrelevant to what I need in life"

Strax out; admin sets up talk

## Mackay won't talk of Strax

The Brunswickan expected a full explanation of Dr. Norman Strax's suspension Thursday at administration-president Colin Mackay's annual press conference. We were disappointed.

During the student demonstration Wednesday, Professor Kent Thompson, speaking on behalf of Mackay, told students "Mackay does not wish to speak to you until he has spoken to the campus media."

Mackay didn't want to speak to the campus media either.

At the press conference, held in Mackay's office, the president insisted that this was simply the

routine meeting with the press held at the beginning of every year.

He refused to give reasons for Strax's dismissal. He said that he felt the reasons were obvious. He further indicated that "This is something personal between Dr. Strax and myself." He suggested that his office was always open if Dr. Strax wanted to discuss the situation with him.

The president explained that Strax was hired on a terminal basis. This meant that Strax could leave or be removed at any time "without reason". According to Strax, however, his period of employment was on a "probation-

ary" basis - that is, it would be decided at the end of this year whether tenure would be granted.

On the issue of ID cards, Mackay said that: "Until I went down to registration, I didn't know there were going to be ID cards this year." Mackay explained the history of the development of this year's ID cards - not continually emphasizing that it was what the students wanted.

"All student decisions leading to the introduction of the plastic ID cards of UNB were made by the executive of the SRC, or Mr. Cox himself."

Mackay, "are like students and faculty - all of them aren't perfect." The security police are responsible to buildings and grounds.

At a meeting called Dialogue 1, held Wednesday evening, it was generally felt that a student ombudsman would perform a valuable service. Mackay's reaction was one of reservation. He said that available resources were not being used enough - e.g. Blue, the registrar and dean of student services, and Kent, administrative assistant to the president. Both mentioned were present.

(When Blue was asked if he had time, he said that at present, he could talk to students who came to him for "no more than a couple of minutes.")

Mackay also indicated that he was not particularly in favour of students on the senate or the board of governors. "The source of ideas is in the individual faculty councils. That is where you want students."

The president referred to an article in the past issue of the

Atlantic Monthly. "Bundy (the writer) says that faculty have the power." When pressed as to the number of faculty members on the board Mackay conceded that there were just four faculty members on the board exceeding twenty-five members.

The university debt was given to be \$497,000.00. This, explained Mackay necessitated a fee increase. The earliest date in which the fee increase could be announced was the middle of June. This point was debated by referral to a letter written to Larry Lamont, a second-year student at UNB, signed by Premier Louis J. Robichaud. The letter said the University of New Brunswick could have announced the fee increase March 3.

Other areas touched upon during the three hour interview included student housing, the responsibility of the Brunswickan and Radio UNB, bookstore prices, the social science research center and general student-faculty - administration relationships.

## Bulletin

The University administration took another shot at Norman Strax yesterday.

Early yesterday morning Strax was handed a court injunction by the university.

The injunction will supposedly effectively cause Strax's removal from Liberation 130, his former office in Loring Bailey Hall. He and close to 50 students have been sitting in at the office since Thursday night. They were still there last night. There were always at least ten people in the office.

They have been protesting his suspension from the university. Strax, a nuclear physics prof, was suspended after several demonstrations at the Harriet Irving library protesting the compulsory use of ID cards to sign books out. The ID card system was introduced this year.

The library protests were sponsored by Struggle for a democratic society, a group dedicated to radical action. Strax was active in the demonstrations.

Three University of Toronto mathematics profs phoned Strax this morning and indicated their support for him. They said they were going to contact the general secretary of the Canadian association of university teachers concerning the Strax case.

New Brunswick premier Louis Robichaud and administration president Colin Mackay received wires today signed by 14 U of T profs supporting Strax.

"The whole Canadian academic community would suffer if Strax's case is handled repressively," said the wire.

"We the undersigned urge police not be called, that students not be expelled and that Strax be reinstated."

The incident is now being covered nationwide by CBC. This is the first time that the sit-in and reaction to it have reached the national scene.

The injunction came less than 24 hours after Strax had received notice of a board of governor's subcommittee meeting to review and report on the circumstances of the suspension. Strax was informed in a letter from the board Sunday morning that he could appear before the subcommittee if he wished.

According to the injunction Strax is restrained from trespassing on university property and from inciting or encouraging students to disobey any rules of the university. Informed sources say that the University of Maine chapter of students for a democratic society at Orono, Maine, is sending a contingent to support Strax.

"We want you as our prof," says class

Dr. Norman Strax's fifth year electrical engineering class approached him Friday afternoon to tell him, "We want you back as our prof." Ken MacLaggan explained Sunday that the four members of his class agreed that Strax was a good professor. What he did outside his class time was irrelevant to his academic work.

MacLaggan said that his first reaction on hearing that Strax was to be his professor was, "On, No!" This feeling was caused primarily by Strax's involvement with mobilization, an organization with which the class members do not sympathize.

After attending Strax's lectures, however, MacLaggan became "quite impressed." He knew what he was talking about and made it quite interesting. He's the sort of guy who can make a class interesting," he said.

"Personally, I don't sanction his outside activities," said MacLaggan. "But he has never tried to interject his political views into his class."

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