

Is the Engineering degree losing its "value"?

UNB, famous for its engineering faculty in Canada, the US and other countries, has made a drastic change in the structure of this degree. Following the current trend among Canadian universities, UNB has chopped the time spent earning a BScE or BE from five years to four. This in itself is not bad but what happened in the process, in this case, is.

In order to eliminate an entire year, something had to go. Unfortunately the subsequent cut of some courses and rearrangement of others has resulted in a decrease in the quality of the degree.

It has been impossible to obtain concrete reasons from the administration as to why the degree earning time was shortened. In the spring of 1974, a special EUS meeting was called in the Head Hall lecture theatre with Dean of Engineering Leslie Jaeger. Though the purpose of the meeting was for Dean Jaeger to enlighten the then very concerned Engineering students as to what was being done concerning the degree, it turned out, at least as far as Dean Jaeger was concerned, to be an attempt at quieting down the students while still not telling them anything. Jaeger showed considerable skill in the art of "beating around the bush", avoiding some questions and getting around others. His apparent intention was to avoid telling the students enough to make them want to participate in the discussions concerning the degree.

A sometimes mumbled reason for the change is the money. The university seems to feel that, in order to gain more income, the five years should be shortened to

the more attractive number of four years.

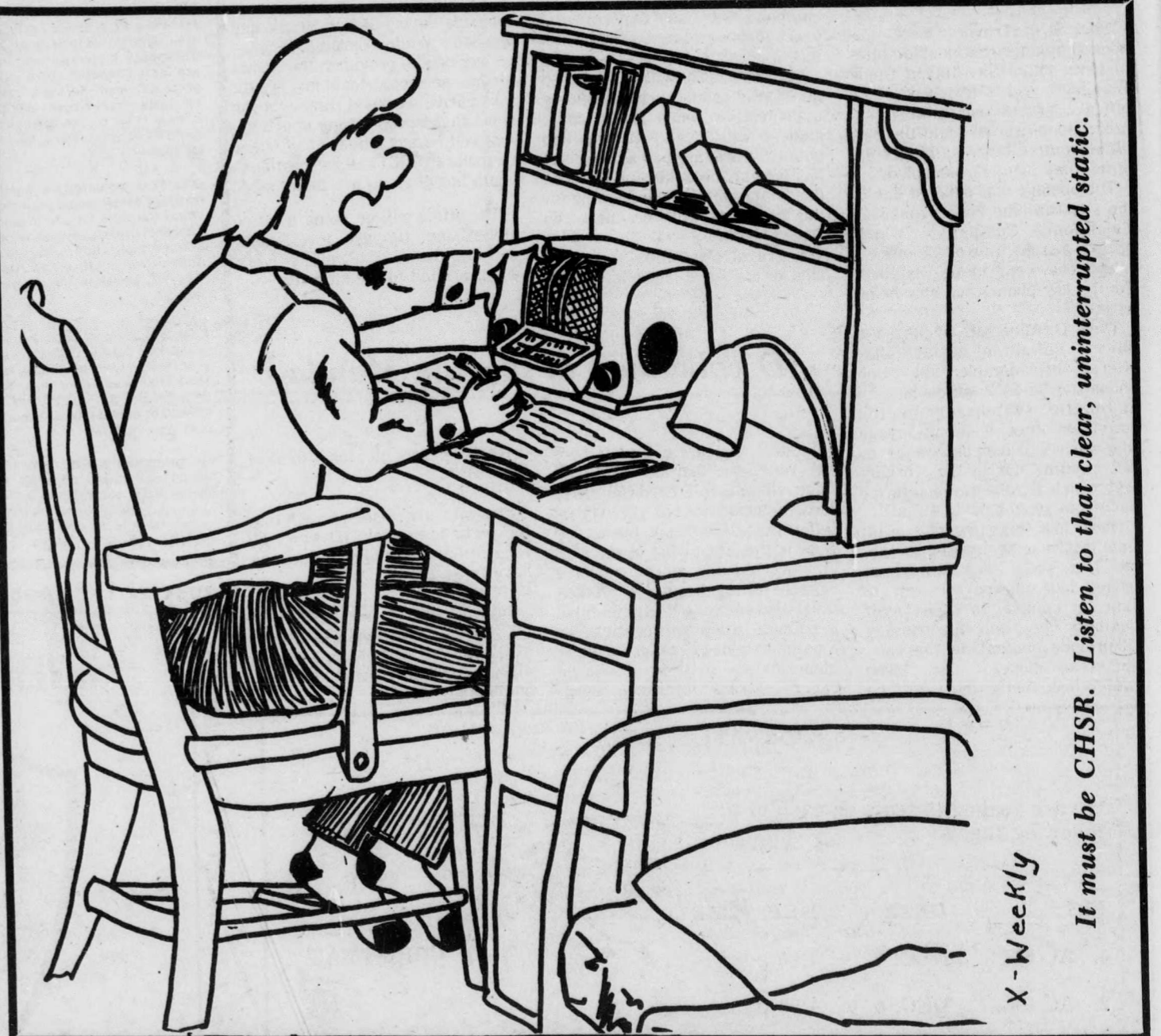
In view of present policies (ie. granting of honorary degrees to and naming buildings after wealthy people) it only seems reasonable to wonder where the university places its priorities, high quality education and thus a well respected degree, or money.

Certainly money is needed to operate a university, however, lack of co-operation concerning informing the students is, in our opinion, reason for suspicion.

The degree has definitely been hurt by means of some important courses being cut out and others condensed to the degree of leaving out important material.

We think there is reason for

concern about the university's priorities. It may very well be that we, the students, by way of the most effective method we have, our student representatives on the Senate and Board of Governors, are going to have a check on the university in the interest of maintaining the respect this university currently has and may be in danger of losing.



It must be CHSR. Listen to that clear, uninterrupted static.

X-Weekly

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