

Kamara comments on article

Dear Sir:

I would like to make a few comments on an article that appeared in the last issue of the "Brunswickan" with the misleading title "Facts on the A.S.U. Situation."

Apart from the three or four points I will like to comment on, the rest of the article of Mr. Ekanem is the product of a desperate man trying to legitimize his coup. The slanderous remarks by Mr. Ekanem against myself and SRC President Kevin Ratcliff can testify to this fact. I am surprised that Mr. Ekanem and his defunct caretaker committee could charge Mr. Kevin Ratcliff of interference in ASU affairs when the ASU is not only funded by the SRC but also that it was Mr. Ekanem and his gang of 10 who asked Kevin Ratcliff to intervene in the first place. Mr. Ekanem's fury may have been caused by Mr. Kevin's failure to recognize an illegal and unconstitutional way of fighting to unseat the executive of an organization funded by the SRC. Every blind man could have seen that something was wrong with the abortive coup. Mr. Ekanem and his gang of 10 decided to follow Cassius' footsteps but since every one of them is equally power hungry they neglected the planning stage which is so vital to any coup attempt. Their last minute almost deadly struggle to get the required signatures (they failed to get them) is a clear testimony of this fact.

But it seems as if Mr. Ekanem has embarked on another of his tricks -slander and character assassination. I believe and will continue to work against this venture.

Mr. Ekanem's statement that I may have left my home a long time ago is quite true. But it is a very valuable asset and has taught me a lot of things. It has

taught me to respect people and has developed in me what Mr. Ekanem now envies - self reliance.

I believe that if I put my mind to it I can live a very independent life and use my mental capacity to the best possible of all uses. In my travels outside of Africa, I have come to recognize that coups (including Mr. Ekanem's though it failed) are a problem we have to deal with if Africa is to continue its present march to progress. This is because they cannot lead to any positive development. I also think that the presence of people like Mr. Ekanem in Africa with a firm commitment to coups will very seriously undermine Africa's development. As he indirectly admitted in his article, Mr. Ekanem has not travelled much and I therefore doubt his ability to comprehend the difference it makes when one travels.

The difference between myself and Mr. Ekanem is very fundamental. I believe that where the atmosphere of democracy prevails, (as indeed the Fredericton or UNB environment), there is no need for coups. This again is wisdom from my travelling not from a text book. Executive membership of the ASU is not a paid job. Whatever one may be doing for the ASU is obviously at the expense of one's study time. Organizing a coup against such people, who have repeatedly expressed their willingness to relinquish their positions at a moment's notice and have furthermore called for elections, if not based on malice, jealousy, and thirst for power or recognition, is absolutely useless. It may not only divide the ASU (as it has done already), and create bitterness, but it may also set a precedent which may be referred to by any other power hungry individual or group of

individuals. But how can Mr. Ekanem explain his professed good intentions and interest in the ASU when his struggle to gain power has not only divided the union but is also a direct cause for this response.

In his second desperate attempt to present himself as Oliver Cromwell or a saint, Mr. Ekanem charged that I usurp the office of treasurer. I think I have made my point clear on the issue to him and indeed to the SRC. My position is that I can hand over all documents and money that may be in my possession to any newly elected executive at a general meeting of the entire ASU. This is because I cannot reconcile the role the present treasurer is playing to what I stand for. To me he is not much different from Mr. Ekanem. He told me that a vote of non-confidence was passed by 25 out of 91 members of the union (including paid honorary and associate members) on Mr. Ernest Jones' executive of which he is a part. But how can this same treasurer (at the same meeting) become a member of the defunct caretaker committee that was supposed to replace the executive. To make matters worse this same treasurer voted against the executive of which he is a part. But still Mr. Ekanem cannot see anything

wrong with this arrangement.

I am happy but surprised to read what Mr. Ekanem had to write in praise of Mr. Ernest Jones, president of ASU as to his integrity. But how again can we reconcile his praises with the charges Mr. Ekanem and his yahoos laid against Mr. Jones in a letter dated March 9th. This letter was copied to the Dean of Students, the International Students Advisor, and to Mr. Jones himself. Mr. Ekanem charged that a) Mr. Jones submitted ASU to wanton blackmail, b) he mishandled ASU funds, and c) he arrogated to himself the unpopular position of an autocrat.

Was this latest move calculated into dividing the executive? Was it to be interpreted as a move to placate Mr. Jones? If this is an attempt to recant I will therefore like to request a letter of apology to both Mr. Kevin Ratcliff and Mr. Jones for the embarrassment Mr. Ekanem may have caused them.

I would also like to point out to Mr. Ekanem that Mr. Jones administration has done much more than any other administration. So far, Mr. Jones was able to put an unknown ASU-UNB/STU into the map of African unions in Canada. Mr.

Jones sent some of us to the University of Waterloo in Ontario. There we did not only project the image of belonging to a competent ASU but also project the image of our University (UNB). Mr. Jones' administration have added two other African publications to the African literature in the library (New African and Africa Confidential) Mr. Jones administration was able to design and produce the first ASU certificates ever. He organized an Africa Nite that was the best in the last three years. This is just a little bit of what Mr. Jones has done. But what has Mr. Ekanem contributed to the ASU? The answer is he has contributed to the ASU by staging a coup which will (whether it succeeded or not) and has torn the Union apart. These are his good intentions. Having failed to arouse any sympathy from me, the only thing he thought he has got against me is my being "out too long."

As a free advice to Mr. Ekanem, please do not continue to drag the ASU into the mess you have succeeded in putting it. If Mr. Ekanem is not interested in the ASU, surely there are other people who have interest in it.

M. Kamara

...and replies on coups

Dear Sir:

May I use the medium of your paper in reply to the article "Reply regarding coups in Africa" that appeared in the last issue of the Brunswickan.

I would like to suggest to Mr. Saimon Kahari to reread and try to understand the contents of the article he replied to. While I mention and still maintain that there are carriers of

the coup-mentality among us

African students, the article in no way suggests the presence of students illegally in Fredericton. As an answer to his question, it is an undisputed fact that my challenge to the methods used by the defunct Caretaker Committee to form their committee can testify to the fact that I can react if I choose to. But can Mr. Saimon prove that he is not

uneducated? I would like to point out that wearing coats, occasionally getting drunk at the SUB, and attending Univer-

sity is not all there is to Education. The mere fact that Mr. Saimon indirectly accused me of "working for outside forces" can testify to the malfunctioning of his portable computer (brain). I think Mr. Saimon is sick.

In Africa we generally believe that the older one gets, the more wisdom one acquires. But I am really sorry to point out to Mr. Saimon that he is an exception to this belief. Mr. Saimon has got a long way to go as far as education and wisdom are concerned. His literature on the last issue of the Brunswickan can testify to this fact. I can spare Mr. Saimon further embarrassment because he is older and maybe an imp. Furthermore,imps are not known for the possession of superior intelligence.

M. Kamara

S.T.U. yearbook

(Continued from page 8)

anything been done on my behalf. He then promptly informed me that his office did not handle such affairs, that I should speak with Bonnie Wood, then Director of Student Affairs, that she would be able to more effectively handle my request. The next step he took was to give me Ms. Wood's office number.

Immediately following my conversation with Mr. Batt I telephoned Ms. Wood's office, explained who I was, what had taken place and what I re-

quested be done. She assured me that all would be handled quickly and that I should not worry.

This being 1981, my second year at OCA in Toronto and still having had not satisfaction with St. Thomas and their yearbook staff, I am now relying on your paper to settle this affair by jolting the above mentioned people's memory through your readers.

Sincerely,
Scott D. MacCallum

Ratcliff apologizes

Mr. Ayub Mbegha
c/o Surveying Engineering
Head Hall
Campus Mail

Dear Mr. Mbegha:

As you will recall mention was made at our meeting of March 11th that some of the individuals concerned with the situation in regards to ASU were not paid members of that organiza-

tion on that date.

I am aware of the fact that you were indeed a paid member on that date and I wish to apologize for any misinterpretation of my remarks which may have indicated otherwise.

Again, my apology,

Yours truly,
Kevin Ratcliff
President,
UNB Student Union