

Well, it's almost Oliver

Editorial Ramblings

Well, it's almost over this fall term. Sure has been a gas. Say, wha! (credit: DWSH) Just a few examinations left. Mostly first year students sweating them. Gets them used to writing university papers, that's why they and not "upperclassmen" write them. Orients them to the university system, you know. But at least it gives some of the "upperclassmen" something to say: "Hey frosh! ya studyin hard? Har har har."

Over in Vietnam, who knows, if the GI's are lucky, the power-men might give them a few days off from their job, maybe throw a holiday party, get a truce declared for a few days. What a gas. Some of them will live for a few more days. Nothing like a good party before you go. Maybe next year the GI's will be able to spend Christmas in the place of their choice - probably not Vietnam, hopefully not a trench. Make good use of your days off, guys. Figure out how to get back alive.

A lot of things happened at ole UNB this fall; a lot more must happen next term. A Christmas break is so good because it gives everyone a chance to replenish his energies, mental and physical. For many it's the only thing that enables them to stay in Fred for an entire academic year.

We hope this paper will be more energetic next term - will do much better what it has tried to do this fall. Bring your rep bodies to our new office in the SUB as soon as you get back in January. If we didn't use you this fall, sorry - we'll make an extra effort next time, if you will.

(On with this effort, which is largely a looking-back-on-it-all and a glad-that-it's-through, good-bye-for-a-few-weeks effort.)

No hard feelings between us and our readers, we hope. We should call a truce for this merriest of seasons. Anyway, attacks are seldom anything personal from our end; usually it's a political thing.

Merry Xmas yourself, Norman. A lot of people would visit you on the 25th, but there's this rule . . .

Rest yourselves, readers, celebrate the season if you can, and see you the first week in January.

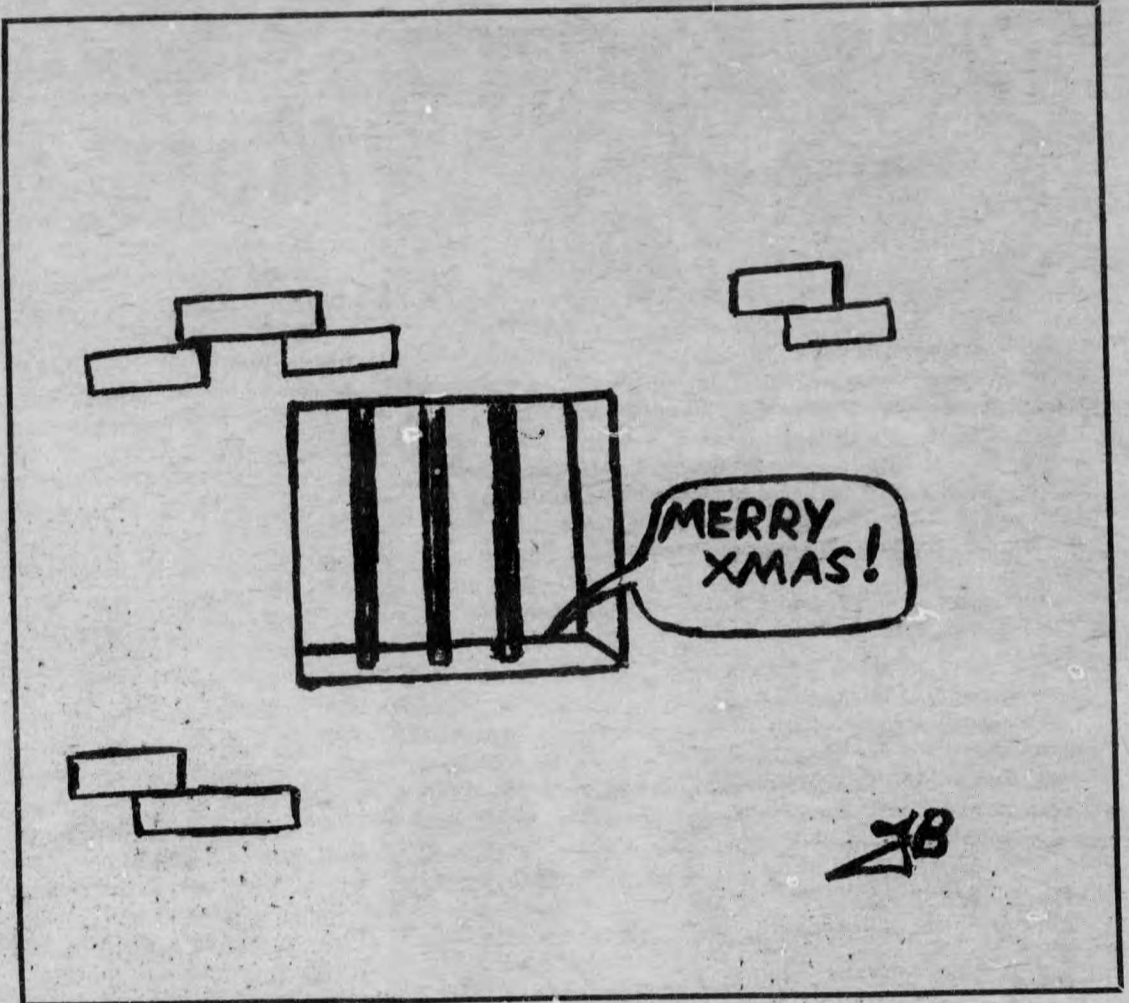
Brunswickan

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Here's special seasonal thank you's to everybody who contributed to putting out this thing this fall. Extra special congrats to those who hacked it out for a whole term: the kind that fail their years for the paper. If anybody got pissed at us, please come back. Anybody who is in Fred till the 25th should offer consolations to freshman features editor Peter Graham. Spink has had all he can take of the Maritimes without a break and is heading for Ontario for a spell. Long enough to spend his Maritime-earned money. It's a long drive to Toronto but we'll be there for the CUP Conference right after Santa comes. A little stop off in Montreal to visit our Mont Habitant Bureau Chief Ian Ferguson. Then to Toronto and Roachdale. High in the sky. We'll straighten things out with Toronto Bureau Chief Lynnda McDougall. Train rides aren't any fun. Da nny, but better than hitchhiking from where Bruce's car . . . Wonder says he'll be there, too, maybe Ip Se too. Wonder says he wouldn't miss it for the world, but he could be bribed for a lot less than that. After that, it's the same thing all over, hopefully a lot better. One editor has promised fantastic things in January and our breath is bated. Merry Christmas Penelope. Thanks and seasonal greetings and solidarity with the people at the Bugle: Bob, Wendy, Danny, Carole, Joan, Dale, Gary, Weldon Harry, Mike, John, Diane, Dawn, Norah. News: Bruce Lantz, Kini Savage, Glen Furlong, Dick Ward, Dave Jonah, John Blaikie, Doug Perry, Danny Chuck, Rob Oliver, Roger Bakes, Corinne Taylor, Joanne Barnett, Karen Fulton, Tim Thomas, Boots (rock reviewer), O.J. (special typist). Photo: Doug Pincock, Tom Hoskin, Dave McNeil, Henry Straker, Ken Tait, Faye in a pinch. Sports: Dave Morrel, Sue Murray, Doug Howes, Bunny Nurmi.



Christmas in Fredericton

by john earl
associate professor of economics

Christmas is only two weeks away. Soon the last class of the year will have been held, the last examination written and graded. Then members of the university community will be free to travel to warmer places or just relax at home. All except one that is. For, in all likelihood, Dr. Norman Strax will spend the holiday season in York County Jail.

Why (an innocent observer might ask) did this happen? Did Dr. Strax commit an act of violence or rape? Did he embezzle funds from his employer, rob a bank, or falsify his income tax return? Or did he drive his automobile recklessly? He did none of these things!

Why then is a man who neither "drinks" nor smokes, who abhors violence, who rarely utters an oath, who donates most of his income to the causes of peace and social justice, who is polite beyond the ordinary, and who sometimes appears to be more concerned about the welfare of his pets than his own well-being, why is such a man in prison? It is because he disobeyed a court order enjoining him from trespassing on University property? Only a legal pedant or simple-minded person would answer this question in the affirmative. Judge Barry is no more responsible for Dr. Strax's confinement than the turnkey who locked his cell door. Then why did it happen? Let us seek an answer by reviewing the events.

After a series of incidents at the library, which by most accounts were non-violent, Dr. Strax was suspended (neither dissent nor peaceful assembly are contrary to university regulations and they are certainly not indictable offences.) The man who suspended Dr. Strax (acting on the advice of senior advisors, some of whom could not apparently abide his views) did not confront him and did not provide reasons for the suspension. The board of governors (most of whom had never encountered Dr. Strax)

upheld the suspension without offering the accused an opportunity to defend himself.

A Justice of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick signed an injunction on the basis of evidence supplied by one Faculty Association, whose duty it is to uphold the rights of faculty members, offered Dr. Strax neither counsel nor assurance that they would insist on due process. In fact, the Executive of the AUNBT has never asked him to discuss his difficulties with them. Instead the president of the association accepted an appointment to a sub-committee of the board of governors, plaintiff in the action against Dr. Strax. Several prominent lawyers refused to defend him, apparently because they also considered him "guilty" (one even suggested he should be thrown from a window).

Finally, counsel for the university (and not a representative of the Crown) introduced the evidence that placed Dr. Strax in contempt of court. In other words the university must assume the primary responsibility for having Dr. Strax imprisoned. This was probably a good move from a legal point of view, but can anyone seriously contend that Dr. Strax's presence at the student center on Remembrance Day constituted a meaningful threat to the security or integrity of the university.

Now each of these acts and decisions was legal, but is, the net effect justice? Should a rather mild challenge to constitute (hereditary? arbitrary?) authority result in imprisonment? Are institutional arrangements and legal procedures that dispense such justice tolerable? Is it not time we abandoned archaic and unjust practices and institutions that minimize freedom to secure order? If order rather than justice is the goal of our society we can no more be free than the Russians.

Why is Dr. Strax in prison? Perhaps because he chose to

live in a society that honors the ideal of democracy but is frightened of the implications? Most of this history now and will be forgotten in time. In the interim let us hope that those who recommended Dr. Strax's suspension and those editorial writers, townspeople, students and faculty who judged him guilty of offences unspecified even before he was tried, those "liberals" who failed to insist he receive at least that degree of protection afforded murders, and all the rest; let us hope they were motivated by good-will and not bigotry, intolerance or vindictiveness. Let us hope they remain convinced of the correctness and righteousness of their actions, for people who choose to play god must be judged by different and more exacting standards than the rest of us. And above all let us hope they enjoy their Christmas dinners.

Oh, by the way, Norman wishes you all a Happy Christmas!

Brunswickan staff retires for Xmas



This is the last issue of the Brunswickan before Christmas. The only thing special about it is that it's 16 pages instead of the usual 12. The next paper is Jan 7 so don't forget to fill in the Where It's at form if you wish to publicize an event. And if you feel well-rested after the long holiday, drop into the office and volunteer your services. There's a job for anyone who wants it.