

NEWS

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An interview with Charles Waddell

by Mark Savoie
Brunswickan News

The long saga of Professor Charles Waddell's status within the University of New Brunswick came to a conclusion with the announcement of his retirement effective August 31, 1994.

This brought an end to a controversy which reached its height upon his return to the classroom during intersession, following several months in the Woodstock Provincial Jail for an indecent assault conviction. He is currently out of jail on parole.

The charge for which Professor Waddell was convicted was indecent assault of a nine- to ten-year-old child in the years 1980 and 1981.

At the time of his conviction Waddell was assured by the university that his job would be safe upon his return. This point was referred to several times in the parole assessment released by the National Parole Board, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Brunswickan*.

Waddell put part of the blame for

his retiring on the shoulders of the media in his exclusive interview with *The Brunswickan*.

"The relentlessness of it. It just went on and on and on and on. There was nothing new, they were just writing a story to say that they had written a story . . . very yellow journalism. It's definitely a witch hunt."

"I elected to retire because I was just tired of fighting it," he explained further, "and it's not going to go away, and it's not going to get any better; it's going to get worse."

There is a certain bitterness in Waddell's response when asked if the university's administration had supported him throughout the incident.

"Well, up to a point . . . they supported me. There was nothing that happened in the last two years that the university did not know about. I was open with them as the process unfolded. They were aware of what happened in 1981, in 1981. It . . . wasn't news to them, so there were no surprises."

"I think I was mistreated by officialdom, and I've gotten an apol-

ogy for that; a written apology. They have changed quite a number of their policies because of what I went through."

Tom Traves, Vice President—Academic for the university, declined to comment on this matter, stating that it was a policy of the Board of Governors not to discuss the university's relationship with its employees and/or students.

Waddell has admitted to accepting a severance package, the details of which he is unable to discuss.

He acknowledges that the UNB Student Union did not take any overt action against him, but he also claims that the attitude which he received from the Student Union was threatening, should he return to the university.

Current SU President Paul Estabrooks did express some concerns over the possible impact of Waddell's return to the classroom on students.

"I think it's [Waddell's retirement] best for the students. The Student Union is pleased with the fact that the students who would have felt uncomfortable in the classroom no longer have to; because that par-

ticular discomfort, or awkward situation, is gone."

However, Estabrooks did admit that the situation could have become problematic for the SU.

"Our position was that if even one student were to feel discomfort from [Waddell's presence in the classroom], that that wasn't the right way to go, that it would only take one for it to be an issue."

Estabrooks went on to admit that he did not know where to draw the line as to what would constitute discomfort.

In two similar cases in the province of Manitoba, Richard Carter of the University of Manitoba and Vaughan Thorsteinson of Brandon University were both dismissed by their respective universities on the grounds of gross misconduct.

Waddell does not feel that his actions warrant a designation of this nature.

"It hasn't been considered that by anybody that I've talked to," he said. "My colleagues certainly didn't take that stance, and this is non-university related. The Manitoba incident, I think his misconduct was that he lied to the university. I think that's very serious, no

matter what it's about. I admitted what I did, took responsibility for it, paid the price for it. I thought that it was all taken care of in 1981, because the police were involved and the Crown was involved and they decided they would not proceed. Then they recycled it."

In Brandon University's statement with regard to the dismissal and subsequent grievance of Thorsteinson, no mention is made of his having lied to the university.

UNB's Student Union is currently considering whether a similar gross misconduct clause should be added to UNB's collective agreement with its faculty members. They expect to have a position paper prepared on this issue by Thanksgiving.

Traves does not feel that such a step need be taken, claiming that many of those who are asking for a gross misconduct clause are ignorant of employment law. He states that employment law allows the university to fire any employee, provided there is just cause.

He was unwilling to explain what circumstances would indicate just cause, saying only that it would vary with the situation.

Outdoor concert takes shelter inside

by Mark Savoie
Brunswickan News

This was the first year in memory that the traditional Orientation Week outdoor concert was held indoors.

Instead, the Aitken Centre played host to Lawrence Gowan, Sue Medley, and Hemingway Corner. It was also the first year in memory that admission was charged for this event, as upperclassmen were charged \$5 to attend, while freshmen were admitted free.

Orientation Committee Chair Debbie Calvin had met with Campus Security's Pick Peacock and Campus Police's Sheila O'Shea prior to the event, and decided that there were too many risks inherent with holding the concert outside, and so moved it indoors.

"From a security point of view we are leaving ourselves open for someone to get hurt by holding an outdoor concert," explained O'Shea.

At last year's Pursuit of Happiness concert O'Shea felt forced to shut down the concert after a Campus Police Officer was struck and injured by a thrown beer bottle.

Campus Police's advice to Calvin that the concert be held indoors was heeded.

"If the Campus Police don't want to do it," said Calvin, "then you can't have the function on campus without Campus Police."

However, O'Shea was adamant that the decision to move the con-

cert indoors was left to Calvin, and that Campus Police were willing to work an outdoor concert.

The cost of supplying CPs for an outdoor concert would have been much greater. Twenty-two Campus Police are required to work an outdoor concert, in addition to six Fredericton police officers. In contrast, the Aitken Centre concert required no city police and only three CPs. These CPs were paid for by the Aitken Centre. At presstime it was not clear who paid for the numerous AUC staff working the event.

This year's concert was attended by some 400 upperclassmen and 700-800 freshmen, according to Calvin's estimate. Although no figures have been kept in the past, Calvin believes that attendance in previous years was greater, simply because until this year non-university affiliated people were not allowed to attend.

The decision to move the concert indoors was not made lightly, according to Calvin.

"At first I was a little hesitant, because it was such a tradition to have it outdoors."

"I'm happy that we did have it indoors. We wouldn't have had it this year because it rained and if it wasn't indoors it wouldn't have happened, and I would have spent all that money and then had no concert."

It is not yet known whether the Orientation Week concert will be held indoors or outdoors next year.

New pub goes underground

by Janice McConnell
Brunswickan News

The Cellar, the Student Union's latest offering in watering holes, opened last Thursday, sporting a flashy new paint job.

It takes over from the now-defunct Pub in the Sub in the basement of the SUB.

The Cellar continues a tradition of pubs in this basement locale, beginning with the Social Club in the mid 1970s and most recently with the closure of the university-run Pub In The Sub last April.

The Student Union has stepped in with renovations and additions which include a big-screen TV and a pool table. Dart boards are located on the newly constructed

stage that will also be used for live music.

Daily food specials will offer chili ("made to The Cellar's own recipe", according to Manager Steven Firlotte), nachos, submarine sandwiches, samosas and German sausages.

The Cellar will be introducing 'happy hours' and will permit smoking.

This is the Student Union's first venture in managing a drinking establishment. Student Union President Paul Estabrooks cites competitive pricing with the Social Club, along with advertising and a large number of special events, as the factors that will enable The Cellar to succeed where its predecessor did not.

Students and faculty are automatically members and should present their ID at the door.

The manager, Steven Firlotte, emphasizes that The Cellar is available for club/faculty meetings and parties as well as special events.

The Business Society is having a Grog on Friday, Sept. 16 that is open to students from all faculties and will feature a live band.

The Grand Opening Party will be Friday, Sept. 23 with live entertainment, so look for the green canopy next to the main entrance to the SUB cafeteria to give The Cellar a try.

The pub's hours are 11:00 a.m. to midnight from Monday through Thursday, and 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.



The Cellar, the newest establishment on campus, is now open. Manager Mike Firlotte inspects the splendid new sign. Photo by Paul Mysak