

Sound Off

Jaeger defends degree

Dear Editor,

The editorial article in your issue dated 15 November 1974 makes a number of very serious, though unsubstantiated, allegations about the revised engineering curriculum. Space does not permit me to answer all of them in the columns of The Brunswickan but I can deal with one or two of them in that manner.

(1) On the matter of what change has in fact been made: It is wrong, though by now common, to talk about a four year degree. The new requirements are for a degree of 180 credit hours, which may be taken in not less than four years and not more than eight. This content may be compared to the UNB requirement of 120 credit hours for a Bachelor degree of four years duration. To complete the 180 credit hour degree in four years is not everybody's "bag." It is also worthy of note that any student who wishes to take five years over the degree, and cover the 205 credit hours content of the old degree requirements, can do so. The content of such a curriculum would be very close to the former content, though not identical.

(2) On changes of quantity and quality: One of the few statements with which I agree in your editorial is that a reduction in course content is not, in itself, a bad thing. On the quantitative side, your readers might like to know that even at the 180 credit hour mark the UNB curriculum is in the top 25 per cent of Canadian engineering degrees, most of which fall within the range 165 to 170 credit hours. It is important not to fall into the trap of thinking that a five year degree

is "complete" and a four year degree not. So far as engineering studies are concerned, neither degree is "complete."

Much more important than simple quantitative considerations, however, is the question of quality. Perhaps the writer of your editorial thinks all Canadian engineering degrees are of poor quality? If not, then the editorial would appear to be criticizing the curriculum committees of the Faculty of Engineering, as being incapable of doing in 180 credit hours what other Universities can do in 165. I have great confidence in the various curriculum committees, and am satisfied that the quality of the revised engineering curriculum at UNB is among the best in Canada. This confidence is based upon detailed study of the curricula of many other universities and the knowledge that the new degree meets (with something to spare) the requirements of the Canadian Accreditation Board.

(3) On involvement of students in the decision-making process: One of the more regrettable aspects of your editorial is the suggestion that the engineering students have been hoodwinked by a callous and unprincipled Faculty. Three points are worthy of mention here: (i) the special meeting of the EUS to which you refer was requested by myself, not the EUS executive, in order to obtain more student input into the discussions. The EUS executive gladly complied with my request, and the meeting which resulted was helpful to many students, judging by the subsequent responses to me by individuals. One would scarcely go out of one's way to request a

special meeting merely to give evasive answers. In fact the documentation prepared ahead of time for that meeting, and others held about the same time, took many hours to formulate. (ii) engineering students tend to be wide awake people. I do not believe that it would be possible to lead them by the nose in the manner suggested in your editorial. (iii) the Faculty of Engineering has been in the forefront of student participation in decision-making. In particular there was much more than token student participation in the work of the Faculty Council during the detailed debate of the revised curricula. Typically ten or twelve students would be present at each of the meetings; the debates were long and tough, points for or against were made with vigour, and the students had their full say.

(4) On the matter of money: Perhaps the most regrettable aspect of your editorial is the implication that the Faculty of Engineering would change a good degree into a bad one for the modern day equivalent of thirty pieces of silver. I can state categorically that financial implications played no part in the policy formulation, for the very good reason that nobody was able, then or now, to say what the financial consequences would be. At present, opinion among professors is divided about equally between those who think that we will get less financial support, and those who think we will get more, as a result of the change.

(5) On the reasons for making the change: There are many reasons; among which the following may be cited: (i) UNB is the only university in the Maritimes to give the complete engineering degree "top to bottom." Because of this, it is desirable for our degree to be in line with the national pattern, so as to facilitate transfers, in and out, by students coming here from other parts of Canada, or other parts of the Maritimes. (ii) over the past several years the curricula of engineering degrees has been strongly influenced by the Canadian Accreditation Board, which bases itself on a four year curriculum; the stage has now been reached where nearly all universities have this basic pattern. (iii) there has been evidence that the "high flyers" among New Brunswick High School graduates (those who are likely to be offered entrance awards, etc.) have tended to accept awards in other parts of Canada, where a four year curriculum was available. No front rank University can long tolerate a situation in which it fails to attract its share of the more capable students; it is to be noted that this particular point concerns academic quality, not student numbers. (iv) where a student is capable of doing the work in four years there is every reason for making that path available. Given the situation on student grants and loans it makes no sense to compel a student to take the extra year.

Yours sincerely,
L.G. Jaeger, Ph.D.
Dean of Engineering

More letters page 9

Slalomers displeased

Dear Editor:

The Fredericton Motorsport Club was approached by the Fall Fantasy committee to organize sports-car slalom for Sunday Nov. 17, to take place on the road from the SUB and around the traffic circle. We were under the impression that we were to be provided with pylons, flags, stop watches barricades, and some people from this committee to man the barricades and marshal the corners. We were also informed that the Special Events van from the Moosehead Brewery would be at our disposal. We were provided with \$50 with which trophies and plaques were purchased.

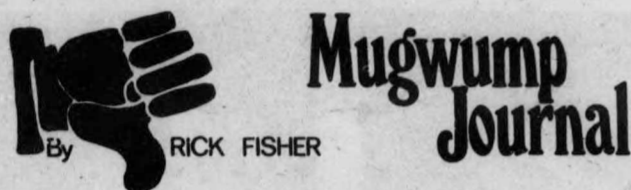
Upon arriving at the SUB Sunday morning we found no representative from the committee, no pylons, or flags, or stopwatches, or barricades. We then proceeded to the Services Building to obtain barricades. It was closed. We had to run around and scrounge enough barricades for the event. We contacted the Campus Security and were informed that pylons were not available unless permission was previously granted in writing. No one from the Fall Fantasy committee had approached them. We made do with some oil cans. Stopwatches and flags were supposed to be signed out from the gym by the

committee. We rounded up some stopwatches and had to make do without flags. As for course marshalls, we were lucky to have a few people volunteer.

As for the special events van from Moosehead, it was there, sitting behind the SUB with a flat tire. The campus rep. from Moosehead (whose name I didn't catch) soon showed up with a new tire. When asked if the van was available to us he informed us that the committee had not scheduled the van for the slalom and it was due in Bathurst that morning. He was supposed to leave for Bathurst at 7:00 that morning but apparently whoever had the van Saturday night had backed into a car with it about 4 o'clock in the morning, gotten a flat tire, and driven around on it ruining the tire. The roof mounted speakers were still in place, and apparently this is not the prescribed procedure. The opinion was then expressed that the Fall Fantasy committee would not be given very much consideration in the event they had the nerve to ask for the van again.

The Fredericton Motorsport Club also expressed the doubt that they would organize an event for the committee again under these circumstances.

Mike Corbett - Treasurer FMC
Brian Smith - Organizer FMC



By RICK FISHER

Rick Fisher, (normal?) author of Mugwump this year, has graciously consented to allow a take-over for this week only.

* *

By WARREN MCKENZIE

An appropriate item to lead off this week's column concerns the SRC. Last Monday council again lacked a quorum. Notice of meeting had been posted and everyone had known for some time that it was the meeting at which the new council members would be seated. Some of the people elected last Friday were forced to run in two election when ballot stuffing invalidated the first one. The lack of consideration shown these obviously keen and enthusiastic people by those councillors who didn't bother to show up is appalling. Maybe if they're lucky they might be allowed to take their seats this coming Monday. I hope so!

* *

Did anyone catch Red 'n Black at the Playhouse last week? It was a very well done show but it did receive one interesting review. The apparent thrust of the article was a criticism of the show because the kickline was female and Al Bonner the M.C. was not. The whole thing was an insult to the students of this university but just to be on the safe side, perhaps R & B should send Al off to Sweden before next year's performance.

* *

I understand that Peter Galoska is still talking to Barry Thompson, our new Dean of Students, about the proposal that the Deans office be moved to the SUB where he will be more accessible to students.

* *

Thompson appears anxious to make his office more available to the students he represents and the students would certainly benefit from the move so why is everyone still talking instead of acting? Speaking of the Dean, a new sub-committee on discrimination has been struck by a Senate committee under his jurisdiction. Any student who feels that he or she is being discriminated against by a member of the university community because of colour, creed, sex, place of origin and so on will have recourse to this committee. Dean Thompson will be saying more about the mechanisms of the committee in the near future.

* *

Has anyone besides Galoska noticed that the coffee shops in the SUB seems to be operating on a system of flexible working hours. Something is certainly wrong when the staff just decide to close up early with over fifty people sitting around. I watched that happen last weekend. Whoever is supposed to be enforcing the contract with SAGA, either the SRC or the SUB might look into this situation.

* *

Residents of UNB's newest residence have shown a tremendous amount of resourcefulness this year in not only coping with very inconvenient living conditions, as alterations to the building dragged, but also by generating a lot of house spirit in the process. I think that the girls deserve a round of applause from those of us in residence who had it comparatively easy.

* *

Last week the women of McLeod received a residence fee rebate from the university but word has it that a number of people are not happy with the method of determining the amount. Other complaints are brewing up the hill as well and after all of the hassels McLeod people have put up with this year, I hope that their grievances receive prompt and serious consideration from the administration. Galoska asked me to say something nice about him but sorry Pete you'll just have to wait for Rick next week.

* *

Similarly any comments on the elections and Hatfield's retention of power will have to come from Fisher. Good-day Mr. Sims.

* *

ninth year of
Oldest Official
A member of
Press. The
Brunswick's largest
is published
on campus of the
Brunswick. Opinions
newspaper are not
of the Student
or the Adminis-
tration. The Brun-
swick is published
in the Student
George Hill, Freder-
icton. Acadia Printing
Subscriptions, \$3
paid in cash at the
Permit No. 7,
rates available
307 Davenport
ad rates available