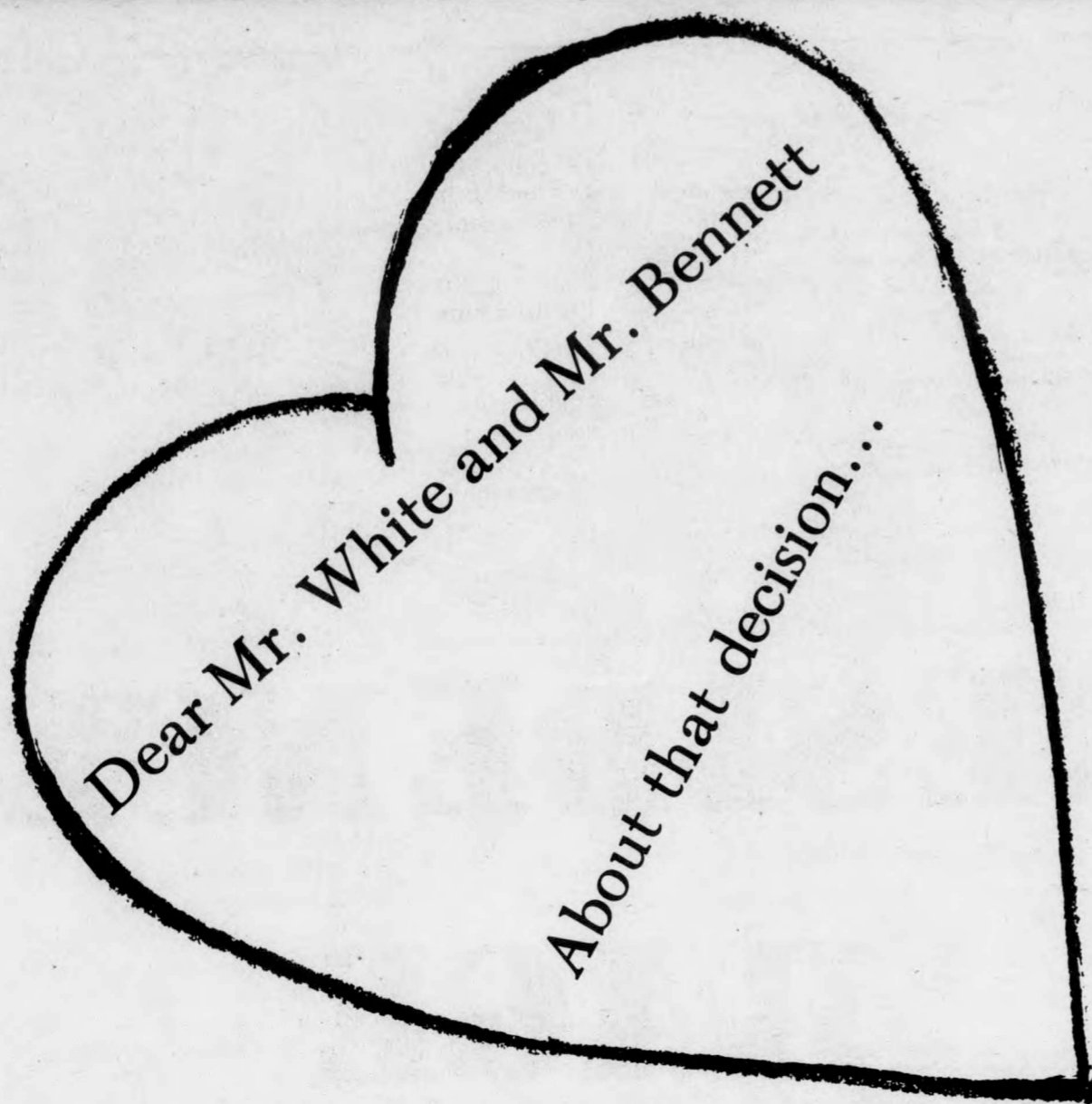


# EDITORIAL



One thing I have always admired in people is their ability to stick by their decisions. People who do what they say they are going to do are to be applauded. People who are decisive and stand by their decisions are people given credibility. When these people talk - masses listen.

It is kind of strange that a well reputed man like UNB President James Downey backed out of his decision to suspend UNB students Micheal Bennett and Barry White. A suspension from university is not a weapon to be wielded lightly. You don't suspend someone from university and then a week later rescind the suspensions! That is absurd! Why suspend them in the first place?

I don't really care one way or the other whether the boys deserved to be suspended or not - that is not for me to decide. I do think that those boys should not be jerked around. President Downey said that he rescinded the suspensions because he felt that the purpose that they were set down for had been served. Hogwash!

Downey's excuse leads me to wonder if that is the real reason? I am sure that Downey appreciates the gravity of the subject matter so as not to treat it lightly. Does Downey really feel the boys learned their lesson? Or is he succumbing to pressure of some sort. Certainly the Board of Governors of the university could apply pressure if they felt like it. I am certain that the threat of lawsuits has worn thin... or has it. Can you imagine a lawsuit against the President of the University because you were suspended. I hope that is not the case.

I think Dr. Downey is taking a gross step backwards by rescinding the decision. It makes him look like he regrets his original decision to issue suspensions. And who knows, it could reflect badly on any punitive measures Dr. Downey takes in future. Made as you go rules.



Mugwump  
Journal

By VALERIE WHITE  
Managing Editor

Hey, it's Friday the 13th! And guess what? If you're superstitious, you had better get over it in a hurry because there's going to be another one next month. How fortunate for you, for if you don't experience enough bad luck this time around, you'll get another chance. But how about if I give you a head start. The tentative exam schedule is out this week. Oh my God!! It's time to start getting acquainted with your courses. It's time you knew your professor's name. It's time to start studying for those final exams! (I think I'm getting carried away).

I made a promise to myself and I'm sure all you readers out there will be overjoyed to hear it. I'm not going to write about the Student Union anymore. They're boring. And besides, they always come down here and freak out every Friday afternoon, or else they ignore you and pretend they aren't pissed off. But alas, no more. I'm on to bigger, better and more useful topics.

You know I heard something funny the other day. The news editor from the Mount Allison student newspaper called *The Brunswickan* and wanted to know more about the press releases she has been receiving from Lana Grimes and other folks who just happen to be good buddies of JB. It seems that in a desperate effort, these people have written to other Student Unions (in a modest 14 page letter) asking for monetary assistance to aid them in their battle against the corrupt politics of UNB. They've got to be kidding! They really must be joking! Asking for money?! Law suits must be getting expensive these days.

By the time you read this, Winter Carnival will be well under way. Too bad it had to be minus 2 million degrees outside. I'm afraid that may put a stop to some of the outdoor activities. It's also to bad it's so damn windy that it's impossible to try and build a snow sculpture. But I guess it's not all that bad — at least there's snow! But there won't be a bus pull. It seems that the Fredericton City Police won't allow a bus pull on Queen Street tomorrow. Traffic jams, they say. Oh darn, and I couldn't think of anything I'd rather do than pull a 4-ton bus up and down a busy street in the midst of below normal temperatures.

Did you notice that we have a new addition to our comic page this week? Yes indeed, we now have "The Far Side". Just what we needed to add a touch of professionalism to the paper. No offense intended to the skilled cartoonists from UNB because we really appreciate your submissions. However, sometimes you go a bit too far. Sorry Captain Neville, but we couldn't print your strip last week. It seems that the topic of well-built female robots that are programmed for sex may upset a few people around campus. Believe me, we did you a favour.

Red 'n' Black is fast approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to extend best wishes for a great show to all of those involved. Now keep that kind note in mind when we write the review of the show next week. I say that now because it seems to be a tradition around here: you put on the show, we kill you with a bad review, you write us nasty letters and so on and so on. But believe me, no matter what the review will say, I'll enjoy the show and so will many others, I'm sure.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Tomorrow is Valentine's Day. How could I forget when I'm surrounded by roses and chocolates? Hah!!! I hope some of you out there will take advantage of the services provided by AIESEC and send your sweetie a singing Valentine. Oh come on, it's only once a year.

P.S. — Wish us luck. The *Brunswickan* staff is off to Halifax this weekend for an ARCUP conference (That's Atlantic Region Canadian University Press). Hopefully, we'll come back with the knowledge to improve our paper: write better stories, conduct neater layout, and generally upgrade our standards. Something for you to look forward to!