

# Comptroller and his staff above us all?

One wonders, often, does anything mean anything? The meaning of various abstractions encompasses the reality of a situation and those ideals surrounding it.

University: from the Latin *universitas*, meaning the whole of anything. We often speak of the 'University Community'. That must mean the whole - students, faculty, staff. In such case, all of us - students, graduate students, post doctoral fellows, instructors, professors, chairmen, deans, vice presidents, and even the president constitute this university, this whole in which we interact to learn and provide grist for the economic mills and cause the expansion of man's intellectual horizons. The ideal.

Somehow, it seems, the Comptroller and his staff are above the rest of us. Letters to the editor in the present and in past issues have outlined a story in which the university comptroller finds himself unable to deal with the Brunswickan in a normal fashion. Now it seems official policy of the Office of the Comptroller to accept written questions only, deigning to answer only when it suits.

Dr. Anderson has often stressed the importance of students obtaining a well-rounded education, one which includes such activities as working for the Brunswickan. Putting his proverbial money where his mouth is, the President has always made an effort to answer the questions of the campus media.

A paradox is created. As much as the functionaries of this university try to deny it, the existence and *raison d'être* of this institution is, simply, students. The government does not fund UNB to give Misters Mullin and Morehouse a job, it funds UNB to give 6,000 students a chance to make a positive impact on the economy in future years.

If the Brunswickan has questions for the Comptroller or his assistants, then immediately they are questions of several dozen students who believe that several thousand students and some of the rest of our *universitas* are or perhaps will be interested in the answers.

It seems so odd that the financial affairs of this university

are so time-consuming that limited periods of time are unavailable for students. Even those who write for the Brunswickan.

It seems doubly odd that the President allows a senior executive to implement a policy in a whole department which is contrary to that established by the most senior executive.

A glance at the archives of this paper will find a statement made by a president newly in his term. "This university is for the students". Such a statement seems so far away from the

actions of the Comptroller's Office. Such a statement seems so far away from the reality of the intimidation felt by all students dealing with the pushers of paper at this institution.

What then is the meaning? The illusory meaning talks of an institution to mediate learning for coming generations. The reality seems often to be a place where people collect fat cheques for making certain we, the students know we've filled out their forms incorrectly, we've come to bother them, and, God, worst of all, we've misquoted them in the Brunswickan.



This Brunswickan paper... One change on this... The ma... the Co... I bel... those s... Brunsw... up to... Mullin... proces... them i... Germ... colum... The... studen... viewpo... The... debate... individ... to kno... rights... Havi... been n... are du... holds... can be... are er... If w... takes... intervi... over o... are no... not kn... crux o... blowing... data... furthe... The... to the... This... Pill... have... feel th... harm... planni... not tak... in fetu... save... article... or nu... Wa... help... lightin... years... attent... in cha... the li... the p... I fo... shoul... messag... that t... been... victim... My... alrea... think... At... Golf... 25/2... recre... Wo... h...