

Regrets cancellation of ACTIONS conference

Editor:

An item appears in this paper with regard to the cancellation of the ACTIONS Congress.

I have summarized in a statement, I believe as fairly as I can, the considerations which led to this decision. I considered that it would be neither wise of me, nor in the best interests of ACTIONS or of UNB, to add anything further in that context.

Since, however, the letter sent to member institutions implies some criticism of UNB's part in the organization of the Congress, for which I was fully responsible, and since I have been asked by a number of people in the past few days to comment on rumours to the same effect, I feel it would be healthier were I to clarify my position, reluctant as I am to do anything to add to the tensions which already exist within ACTIONS.

The Congress was originally mandated to be held by l'Universite de Moncton. As

internal problems within l'AEUM increased, however, it became clear that this would prove unlikely to be possible. St. Thomas University offered to step in and take on the Congress, and shortly afterwards proposed to the UNB SRC that they share in the project. I was appointed, being at that time Vice-President Elect, as UNB Congress Co-ordinator. At this time, I may point out, STU already had a fairly large committee prepared to work on the Congress. The situation as regards Council here being what it was at that time, I will admit that I found great difficulty in getting an equivalent number of people to work for me. I made this quite clear to the STU organizers — that we could contribute money (which STU was unable to do) and office facilities, accommodation for Congress sessions and such things as printing facilities, but that people would be in short supply. Now I will admit that in the

following two weeks I found extreme difficulty in keeping to the schedule I had set myself for Congress arrangements. Time was very tight indeed, and there were great demands on it. However, by Wednesday 13th, all basic arrangements, accomodation, catering, secretarial help and disposition of the organising personnel, were in fact complete.

The one area in which I had been unable to fulfil planned arrangements was that of printing — of a program, and of a decorative cover for document folders. I had been very anxious indeed that such prestige items should be produced; but in the event, I had emergency alternatives planned, and did not regard this problem as a disaster.

Certainly, as has been complained, a very great deal was being done at the last moment. An incredible amount. But from my previous experience of such occasions — and I have

some seven years of such work behind me — this is so often the case as to be regarded as routine. I was quite confident that the Congress would go ahead and be extremely successful. After all, if people have some-where to stay, something to eat, and some place to meet, the rest is up to them, and no power of reorganization in heaven or earth can do it for them.

Having met, a fortnight ago, the rest of the ACTIONS Executive, I was greatly impressed by their seriousness and eagerness, and foresaw a lively (to say the least!) Congress.

It was therefore, to say the least, a very considerable shock to me to be informed that

evening that the Congress had been cancelled. I expressed at that time the views I have set out above, but as the decision had been taken, and I had not been consulted, there was nothing to do but go along with it.

I most certainly do not wish as indicating any quarrel with ACTIONS or with any of the Congress organizers. I am as deeply committed to the future of ACTIONS as ever I was.

And I offer my most sincere apologies for any part I or my shortcomings may have played in bringing about what I regard as an unfortunate decision, and one which I still regard as not having been necessitated by the circumstances.

More letters to the editor

He creates his own rumours

Editor:

A spokesman for the administration made a public statement on 12 Nov. to correct rumors concerning the bust of Bailey 130. In so doing, he managed to create some new rumors of his own.

Damages which could only have been done by those inside Room 130 are cited; namely, a water pipe broke and did considerable damage. Thus, the deliberate sabotage of a water pipe has been added to the list of Liberation 130 atrocities.

What evidence exists in support of this new accusation? Were secret agents of the administration witness to this deed? Perhaps one of our security guards is clairvoyant? Do the walls have ears? Or eyes?

Also, the statement announces that the Board of Deans could not, and does not condone the assaults made on Bailey 130 by rock, bottle and acid throwing students. Two weeks profound silence on the matter by the Board of Deans belie this supposed concern for law and order.

Indeed, the complete inaction of the administration in this last matter leads one to believe that they found the Kill a Commie for Colin Student Crusades a helpful, if misguided, mob action.

Gerald Pacholke
Dept. of Mathematics

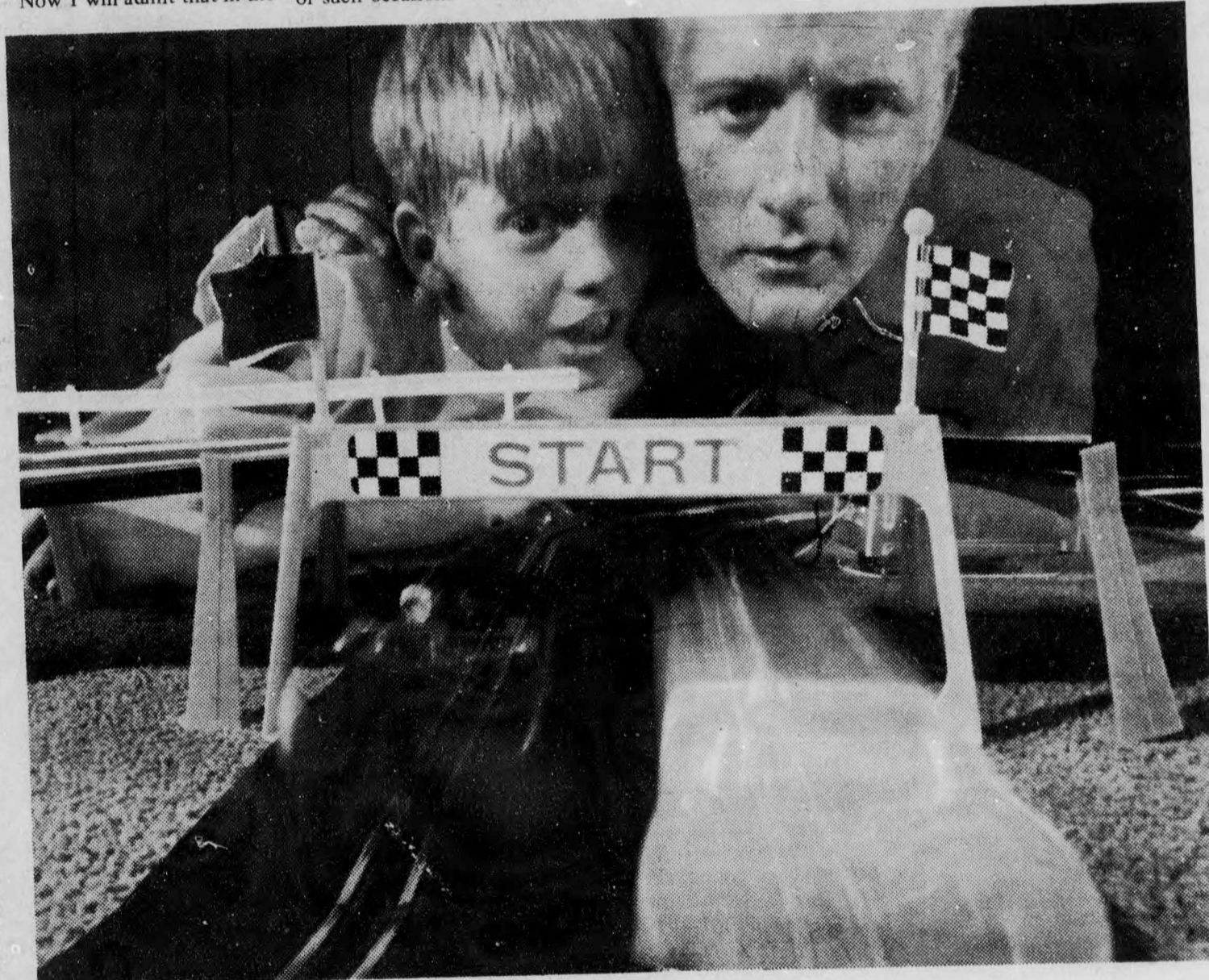
Good Grief!

Editor:

Re the apology to Charles P. Brown: anyone who would be ashamed of that beautiful column by Charles W. Brown (Pink and Grey) deserves to have the Great Bavarian Fungus all over his goddamn prefabricated plastic lawn.

Good grief!

Charles D. Brown



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