

# editorial

## Just a few questions

*I say Perry, think we should drop over to the office this afternoon?*

Righto



*Benson, old chap, perish the thought. Why don't you pop out and get us another drink.*

"Journalism, to those of us in it, is the noblest of professions. We see ourselves as the last angry men and women stalking the truth wherever it leads and however it might be ascertained. But too many, especially those who hold positions of public and private authority still seem bound by the tradition that holds that the average journalist is an irresponsible bounder, a black guard with his ear at the keyhole. Such an anachronistic view rejects the double doctrine of the public's right to know and the journalistic right to tell. Those who complain about the power of the press forget that the press has little influence (and even less power) except perhaps to help set the agenda for public discussion." These words echoed by Peter Newman in a recent editorial adequately explain the role of the student press as well. It is with a view to setting an agenda for public discussion that one must talk once again about our student government.

The operations of the student union over the past summer must be discussed and answers demanded. For many months we have watched with disgust as events and circumstances at the student union evolved - events that are in our opinion wrong and

need correction.

Apparently our student union President Perry Thorbourne has been receiving two salaries over the summer. How and why is this so? The president receives a salary to maintain regular office hours and conduct the business of the student union over the summer. Why then is he allowed to collect a salary from a second source during regular union business hours? Why has he been allowed to break his apparent election promise by doing so? Perhaps only he can explain it.

Why also have regular office hours not been maintained over the summer at the student union office? Several times this summer we in the press have questioned why services have not been provided. A country club atmosphere has existed for too many summers. Office hours are being arranged around personal schedules. We believe an end should be put to this. Why, the mail box for the student union building was removed from the SRC office because, over the summer months, no regular office hours were maintained and people like to get their mail.

Why too has there been such a long three month delay in appointing a new student union admin-

istrator? Have suitable people not been available? We think not but why the delay? Surely we should all ask ourselves whether personal reasons or practical reasons are the answer.

Why has the SRC Comptroller collected a salary for keeping the accounting records of the student union? By virtue of the honoraria of nearly \$2500 per year paid to the comptroller we feel he is responsible for keeping the financial affairs in order. If the SRC bookkeeper resigns, as happened this summer, the comptroller is responsible until a new bookkeeper is found. No salary should be paid to the comptroller in our view. The honoraria he receives is sufficient. We in the press remember several years ago that the student council did not pay the comptroller a salary for keeping the books under similar circumstances.

Why has a new student disciplinary code been introduced without adequate public discussion? Council has not discussed this document or approved it. Yet our student union president pretends to represent the interests of students by getting this document passed by UNB's board of governors - and at the August meeting of the Board too. Only by

chance did the Board of Governors not get to this item at its August meeting. We feel the new student disciplinary code does not represent the best interests of the students. Surely the support of the SRC, the media and all students is somewhat important if this document is to be worth the paper it is printed on.

The process of communication around our student government is deficient. Members of the media cannot in recent memory recall a time in which some members of the SRC executive visited us and asked us about our concerns and problems. The progress of the whole CHSR-FM application is a good example we believe.

We also believe the lack of communication has caused a serious split in the executive of the union. Threats and demands for resignations seem to rule the day.

UNB's student representative council meets for the first time this academic year September 29th. We believe council should demand answers from our executive and recommend solutions for the present and future. Surely common sense would suggest that these answers and much needed solutions are long overdue.