

# Blood and Thunder

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus  
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday

### The Student Union Ink?

Dear Editor:

#### The perfect University?

One doesn't expect a university president to take sides in the internal affairs of student government. Yet, President Downey continually does so. Welcoming students back in September, he stated that "the academic year 1986-87 saw a new beginning for student government at UNB. After several years of dissension... (the student governing council) began to restore order and purpose to student politics."

Many students see this "new beginning for student government" as nothing more than Administration interference in student affairs.

President Downey disapproves of "dissension" without realizing that when everyone thinks alike, no one thinks at all. He equates opinions differing from his to heresy, and expects students

to accept his views as infallible.

Nevertheless, President Downey was wrong to lock out the elected Student Union government. His "new beginning for student government" has led to: thousands of dollars spent on at least seven lawsuits, an Administration takeover of student finances, illegal buggings, suspensions and expulsions, removals of students from the Board of Governors, refusals to seat students on his student governing council, bans on elections, trespass notices, deployment of city police on the campus, the banning of students from the SUB and alumni from the campus, student appeals to the Lieutenant Governor, the doubling of student fees without referendum, and much adverse publicity for UNB. In fact, there is no university from sea to sea, that can match President Downey's record for student repression.

In the midst of all this repression, Downey's "student governing council" claims to be "the perfect" student government at "the perfect"

university.

If this is "perfection", maybe we were better off with "dissension"!

Sincerely,  
Barry White

### Old ideas

Dear Editor:

It's funny how old Student Union ideas are starting to resurface.

In March, 1986 UNB Student Union Vice President (Academic) Michael Bennett announced the introduction of a campus wide student handbook and date book. Bennett said this informational guide would be a great asset to students and would be provided free of charge. Advertising in the book would pay the costs of production. The "Beaverbook" idea was born.

Supported by the Student Union President John Bosnitch and Vice Presidents Hugh Brown and Tony English, Bennett went ahead with his plan. Three weeks later UNB Presi-

dent James Downey locked out the UNB Student Union government and set up his "student governing council".

The "student governing council" cancelled plans for the book and gave reasons why such a book was unnecessary. They carefully failed to mention that they were spending tens of thousands of students' dollars on lawsuits instead of delivering the promised book.

At long last, with money from a \$32 fee hike that nobody got to vote on, the "student governing council" has finally produced what the Student Union would have produced (with no fee hike) a year ago. We can thank President Downey's "student governing council" for the unnecessary \$32 fee hike. We can thank Michael Bennet for the smart idea that led to the printing of the "Beaverbook".

Sincerely,  
Lana Grimes

### Relationship

Dear Editor:

There is an interesting relationship between K.C. Irving, the Harriet Irving Library and the UNB Administration. It seems the administration named the library after Irving's wife, Harriet, in the hope that the wealthy industrialist would bequest a substantial donation to the library building fund. Much to the chagrin of the administration, K.C. didn't take the hint. Mr. New Brunswick donated (roughly) \$1,000 to the library in total.

Either the man does not put much stock in higher education or else he is a tight-wad. The university community should justifiably be offended by the meanness (in the traditional sense) of a man who has accumulated a fortune by exploiting the physical and intellectual resources of his home province. But perhaps, New Brunswickers will have the last laugh after all.

KAREN SKINNER

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