

admin must talk or drop charges

Last Wednesday's emergency meeting of UNB's Student Representative Council showed just how concerned are both the Council and many students about the admin's use of police to clear Liberation 130 and its selective charging of Robinson and Archer with "wilful damage of property."

It remains to be seen how concerned are admin president Mackay and the board of deans. They didn't show at the meeting. Not even to talk.

The Council showed great restraint in giving the deans and Mackay a second chance to explain their actions to the student body and its representatives, before embarking on a course of direct confrontation.

If Mackay and the deans are really concerned about this university's public image, and about setting up "dialog" within the university "community," they will appear at this next meeting. However unpleasant the task of answering to the council's questions.

The only other alternative for the admin is to drop the charges of public mischief and wilful damage against Dr. Strax. (The admin must also cancel the injunction order which forbids Dr. Strax to even drink coffee in the Student Centre. He's not such a dangerous threat to the university that he cannot be allowed to walk on the campus).

If the admin chooses to drop the charges, rather than face the student body, it may find some of its immediate problems solved. But the real problem, namely the control of the university in the hands of a few administrators and "senior" faculty, will remain.

give cops a role

What is the role of the security police at UNB? Or of the student "Campus Police?"

The role of the security police has never been defined. Nobody has ever been very certain of what they do or can do, of what powers they have, of what action they are capable. More uncertainty has followed their presence during the Liberation 130 sit-in. The SRC ought to decide what it sees as the role of cops on campus, of both the security men and the Campus Police.

Council should then meet with faculty and administrators to give the cops a role that will satisfy the whole university.

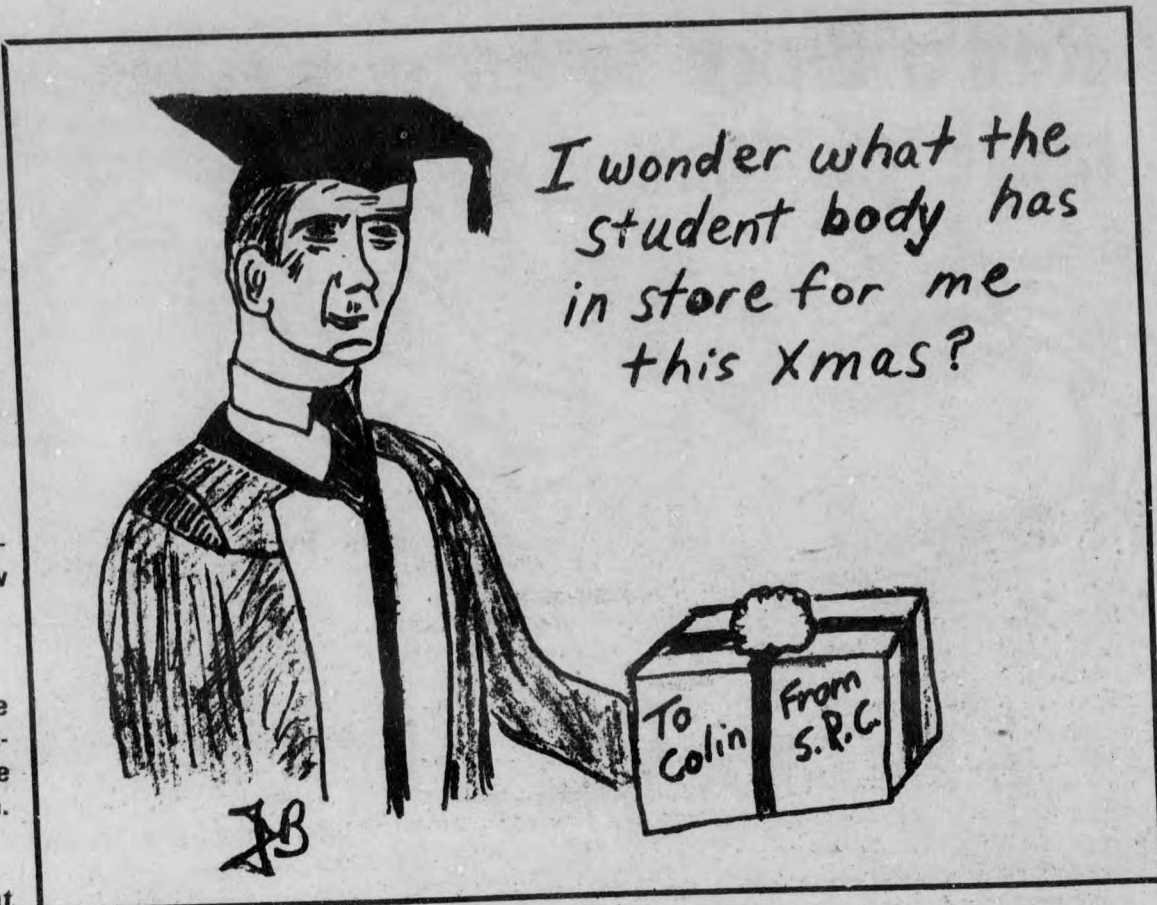
Brunswickan

One hundred and second year of publication. Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication.

A member of Canadian University Press. Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa. The Brunswickan is published weekly at Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick. Subscriptions \$3 a year. The Brunswickan office is located in the Memorial Student Center, UNB, Fredericton, N.B. This paper was printed at Bugle Publishing Ltd., Woodstock, N.B.

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Letters to the editor should be submitted to the Brunswickan office by 5 p.m. Friday of each week. All letters must be signed by the author before they can be printed. Pseudonyms may be accepted if the author comes to the office and discusses the matter with the editor. A letter that is not signed by the author cannot be used.

Letters should be typed, if possible, 56 characters to the line and should be as brief and to the point.

(To the disgruntled and disappointed reader, Mr. W.P.I. Hand, the university has no record of your existence. Would you please identify yourself at the Brunswickan office, so we can print your letter.)

Letters to the editor

Mackay's credibility gap grows alarmingly

Editor:

At the out-set of this letter I would like to make it clear that I do not support or condone any activities of the SDS or those of Dr. Strax, for I believe that in many cases, they have 'gone too far' in trying to impress their beliefs upon the student community.

However, I am deeply concerned about some of the recent events which have taken place on this campus which are only indirectly concerned with Dr. Strax or the SDS. I am concerned about the lack of 'dialogue' between the administration of this university and the students and faculty which make up this university. President Mackay asserts that there must be 'dialogue' ad nauseam, but yet he refused to give direct and meaningful representation to the students on the main governing bodies of this university.

I believe that if he had done so, all this trouble that we now have would be non-existent. He refused to give this representation to the students even though both the SRC and the student body, through a petition of several thousand students, had requested it last year and also in spite of the fact that many other university administrations across the country have made such concessions to their student body.

Last week, he and the board of deans turned down a meeting to be held in public, because he didn't like the tone of the request and because it would be "public" and hence open to the general student body. How can there be "dialogue" when the administration refuses to meet the students and answer their questions? It seems to be that only President Mackay and his "uncles" can be blamed for this lack of "dialogue".

I am also alarmed at the growing "credibility gap" that is further separating the administration and the students. Here again, I cannot help but blame the administration when I see the president and the registrar contradict each other or when I see the vice-president blatantly lie regarding his knowledge of the confiscation of a Bruns' photographer's film.

I am concerned about many of the apparent injustices which appear to be taking place on this campus. I believe that the administration is unjust when they press charges of "wilful damage to public property" against two students who painted some signs on some of the university buildings, when they have refused to press charges against those who caused damage by throwing bottles, etc. at the windows of "Liberation 130" or against those who painted buildings to publicize the events of forestry week and business week.

I believe that the administration is acting unjustly when it presses criminal charges against students who are conducting a peaceful demonstration, for a criminal record means that they will be unable to obtain government employment, they will be unable to be bonded, they will be unable to get a passport or visa, and in general they would have difficulty in obtaining any type of employment or credit. If the administration believed that the protest did have to be stopped, then they could have obtained a court injunction, which would have given the protestors time to think things over and if they would have continued their protest, today they would not have a criminal record.

Also the Canadian Association of University Teachers has ruled that the suspension of Dr. Strax was unjust on the grounds that proper dismissal procedures were not followed and as a result he was not given

a fair hearing. I find it rather ironic that all these apparent injustices stem from a man who is a QC with several actual and honorary degrees in civil law.

My last concern lies with president Mackay's apparent inaction regarding the Canadian Association of University Teachers' demands that Dr. Strax be given a fair hearing which would involve unbiased arbitration. This demand is made under the threat that it could be possible for the university to be blacklisted by the Association, if their demands were not met. This act of censure on the part of this Association would mean that this university would lose a large number of profits and difficulty would be had to try and find any others who might wish to teach here. The fact that Dr. Strax may be guilty is irrelevant - the important thing is that he be given a "fair deal" and that unfavourable publicity about the "undemocracy" on this campus be stopped.

To conclude, I can only hope that president Mackay will reassess his actions and in some cases the lack of actions and hope that he realizes that he has made a number of bad and in some cases, what I feel, are unjust ones as well; and that he do all in his power to correct them as soon as possible.

Dave Lambert
chem eng 2

Disclaims connection with CSM and its ideas

Editor:

At this time I should like to state that I completely repudiate any connection, which has been imputed to myself, with the Canadian student movement and I shall not in any way aid this organization.

Stephen J. Bishop
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