

Blood and Thunder

Monkey Business

Dear Editor:

I would like to bring to your attention what happened between 3 am and 8:30 am Saturday night. Numerous posters were put up around the SUB and elsewhere and handed out as pamphlets later on Sunday morning. One series of these posters entitled, "no more" mentioned me by name as a collaborator with the administration against the student body. It went on to say that as an "administrative lackey", I sold out my fellow students for "cash and favours". That as one of "Downey's Monkeys" I should be pitied for "turning my back" on the rest of the students.

What brought on this attack was the manner in which the SUB was closed Saturday night. John Bosnitch, Hugh Brown and Jeff Collins (your SRC president, VP services and another V.P.) were at the Social Club. Despite a memo from the SUB director and repeated warnings from myself Mr. Brown failed to sign into the building before it was completely closed at 2:00 and at 2:15 tried to do so. When he failed he threw a tantrum in stereo with President Bosnitch. After some time Mr. Bosnitch conceded the point and later Mr. Brown left.

Later I'm told Mr. Bosnitch let Mr. Brown in illegally and together they proceeded to, in a fit of rage, produce and post various posters using SRC graphic equipment and supplies. These posters included "Fire This Idiot" with a large photograph of Kim Norris, "Downey's Monkeys" (listing myself and others as sell outs) and other gems.

What happened that night was that your SRC executive, judgements clouded by delusions of grandeur, reacted to a known SUB policy much in the same way an ill-reared infant would at bedtime.

I am a substaff supervisor. I have no dealings with SUB policies other than to appreciate them when they work well. At the Monday night meeting I asked the councillors and executives present if there were any problems with myself or the way I performed my job. Mr. Bosnitch replied that he had no problems since I am just an employee and don't dictate policy. At the time this struck me as odd as I read the posters hanging at the meeting. Also at the meeting Jeff Collins wrote in a letter to Mr. Bosnitch that he assumed responsibility for the posters and offered his resignation. What galls me is this. Not only does Mr. Bosnitch fail to defend himself in public, not only does he condone this method of resolving a situation he brought on himself, not only does he cover his ass and let his underlings take the blame but, very simply, that when he feels his own personal ego is threatened. He reacted, in concert with Mr. Brown, in such an immature and petulant way. Perhaps absolute power does corrupt absolutely, maybe Hughie and Johnny never grew up, probably its a milksop-pish combination of the two. I just can't help but express my immense disappointment with our SRC leader and his side kicks.

It has come to the point where the only way our president in his third term of office can express himself is through anonymous, erroneous, highly insulting posters then God help us. I hate to admit I voted for Mr. Bosnitch. I really did not expect that under his administration SRC executive representation and services would degrade to the pathetic invisible point they are at now. Should he succeed at lengthening his term to March of 87 I only expect what I jokingly refer to as his leadership to rot further.

I would like to say, in closing, that I am nobodies Monkey or lackey. I work weekends to pay the rent. In the past I devoted half my time to numerous organizations such as the SRC and was awarded a gold ring at graduation 1984 for that time and effort spent. Now I'm working on an engineers' steel ring and can really do without my SRC calling me a sell-out.

Congratulations for your patience if you managed to read all this, I hope you enjoyed it.

Mike Pringle



Ch-Ch-Changes

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in the belief that the student body on this campus needs to be awakened on a number of issues. Most of the students at UNB are not aware of the issues which are facing the Student Union and which are directly affecting them.

Many on campus believe that the Student Union Council does not really represent the student body. There is disunity between many of the clubs and organizations and the Student Union Representatives. There are a number of ways in which both the clubs and the Student Union can become far more effective and begin to represent all of the students in an even better way. In light of this, I would like to propose a number of changes to the Student Union, societies, and clubs:

1. That all Student Union Councillors have status as non-voting members of the executive of their respective faculty societies.
2. That there be blanket funding of organizations from this year forward. That is, that a certain per student budget allocation be given to the faculty societies to give out as they see fit to clubs which operate within the faculty. For example, a sum of \$10 per student in the Business Administration faculty be allocated to the Business Society, who would in turn fund a Marketing Club or any other club which is composed of people within that faculty.
3. At the start of each and every term, there is to be a general meeting of representatives of all clubs, at which any issues can be discussed and voted upon.
4. There is to be a new council created (an Organizations Council) which would act much like the Canadian Senate. On this Organization Council would be representatives of all Student Union recognized clubs, societies, or organizations. This council would be given the power to force the Student Union to reconsider any motion which the Student Union Council has passed. As well as the Organizations Council, the executive members of the Student Union would form another council (the Executive Council). This Council would have the authority to pass motions which would then be proposed in the regular Student Union Council meetings. The executive members would not have voting privileges on the regular Student Union Council, but would be able to propose or speak on motions.
5. As well, any member of the Student Union would have access to Student Union computers, typewriters, and any other equipment owned by the Student Union.

Any Club or Society is to be allowed regular programming time on CHSR-FM, as well as regular space allocations in the Brunswickians.

Student Union events are to be better co-ordinated in order to avoid a conflict with an event planned by any of the clubs on campus. Never again should there be a situation in which events run by clubs and societies are forced to compete for people with Student Union run events.

Budgets for all societies are to be given out in March or April, so that clubs would have the entire summer to plan events, knowing their budget allocations and already having the money.

I call upon the Student Union to consider these proposals and to consult with the clubs and organizations to receive their opinions and revisions to these proposals.

I also call upon the Student Union to ensure that no closed meetings of any SU funded organizations ever take place again. Any group which receives its funding from the money provided by the student body should be required to allow students to observe the meetings to see how OUR student fees are being spent.

I would ask you, as students, to familiarize yourselves with the issues being discussed in Student Union council sessions. Realize that most student groups on campus are badly underfunded. The SU fees have remained the same since the mid-seventies, and rising costs of essential items such as equipment repair at CHSR and photo developing chemicals at the Brunswickian or the Yearbook have created a situation in which other clubs will be budgeted for less and less each year. Support a student fee increase to cover the cost of inflation and to create an effective Student Union backed by effective clubs.

Students should become involved and not be afraid to take stands on issues which they feel strongly about.

Sincerely,
Tony Tracy

More Monkey Business

Dear Editor,

Re: Downey's Monkeys Poster

On Monday March 17, 1986 I attended my last UNB Student Union meeting as a member of the Executive. My resignation had to do with but one item: the improper actions of our President Mr. Bosnitch. On the evening of March 15, 1986 he produced an exquisite piece of literary libel. This he readily took credit for on the following day. The piece to which I refer is a poster that names fellow students at UNB: as lackeys, as accepting cash and favours from the university administration for selling out their fellow students.

I am shocked that the President of an organization would turn on his members with such hostility and condemnation. These actions not only serve to drive students farther away from the Student Union "unity" Mr. Bosnitch claims to be striving for; they violate a regulation of the University. The regulation states that a student shall conduct him/herself in a manner that is responsible and congenial to other students. Mr. Bosnitch has obviously not done the above. Further to this the position of President arrives the added responsibility of personal actions being interpreted as those of the Student Union executive and Council. There is all the more weight added to this when one considers that Mr. Bosnitch used Student Union facilities to produce his attack.

In a rather feeble attempt to explain away his irresponsible actions, Mr. Bosnitch presented Council with a long winded explanation of Saturday night's events. In this letter he states that, yes some of the executive had gotten together to produce some "humorous" posters. He gave his consent and the posters went up. Mr. Bosnitch's version should probably be taken with a shovel full of salt rather than just a grain. We must keep in mind that 3.30 am. there are not a whole lot of people in the SUB. By his own admission to myself, he takes full responsibility for the posters. Mr. Bosnitch you have no choice but to "stand up and be counted" as you say, and resign from your post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

I did not submit my resignation lightly. The vacancy created by my resignation has further loaded the Council with work as my duties are distributed. For this, I also apologize to Council. Financially, my resignation has cost me the half-tuition paid for by the Student Union and my salary of \$50/week for the duration of the term. The Executive can rest assured that the half-tuition will be repaid as I intend to disassociate myself as fully as possible from a body that condones Mr. Bosnitch's attacks.

Sincerely,
Allan Macdonald

Bennett's Survey

Dear Editor,

I have received a copy of a letter from Sandra Gereau of the History Dept. Student Liaison Committee.

On March 7, the History Dept. agreed to participate as a department in the Student Union's Course and Teacher Survey. The Dept. decided to ask the departmental Student Liaison Committee to administer the SU survey at the same time as they administer the Senate survey.

However, Ms. Gereau and her student committee refuses to distribute the Student Union Survey. It's a sad day when students won't cooperate with other students while eagerly assisting the administration.

Ms. Gereau declares that I am "irresponsible" and "confrontational". Upon what evidence did she draw her conclusions? I have never met Ms. Gereau. I was never invited to attend her committee meeting. In short, I was judged and condemned without being able to offer a defense.

The Senate's nine question survey is trite and not comprehensive. The Student Union is running its own survey with 10 questions evaluating the instructor, 10 questions evaluating the course, and 5 optional laboratory questions.

I can assure you that the Student Union will administer our survey in a professional and responsible manner. In the future, if Ms. Gereau wants to score Brownie points with administrators (I noticed she eagerly sent a copy of the condemnation to President Downey), she had better not do it at my expense.

Sincerely,
Michael Bennett
Vice-President (Academic)
UNB Student Union

Smokers Unite

Dear Editor,

I am writing in reference to an incident that took place on Friday, March 14 at Marshall D'Avray Hall Cafeteria. I walked into the cafeteria and overheard a 'conversation' between a professor and a student. This professor told the student to extinguish his cigarette and walked back to his own table while his professor friend was laughing. I paid no attention as I thought it was a joke between the two. I went to my table and lit up a cigarette.

The professor then approached me and asked, "Are you able to read?" in a loud voice and proceeded to tell me to put out the cigarette. By this time, he had everyone's attention. What was he trying to do? Embarrass me? Set an example? Stand up for his rights as a non-smoker? I doubt that he proved any of these. He proved to me that he can be a very ignorant man! Might he need tutoring on the art of argument and persuasion?

On a respectable note, non-smokers have their rights to keep themselves healthy. But do smokers have rights? We all know that answer. At present, the workplace in many companies is weening the puffers out of their buildings and into their own little private corners to 'do their habit'. The crunch is on and we smokers are feeling it. For those who really enjoy the habit, they are faced with the possibilities of becoming closet smokers!

I have been on both sides of the battle, a non-smoker and a smoker of which at present, I am in the latter category. I've had people try to degrade me, like the other day's incident. This is unnecessary and indignant. We are all human. Do we have to be told to act that way?

This professor is now trying to get the students' cafeteria at D'Avray Hall to be completely smoke-free. I might mention that this man is free to go to one of two staff lounges in this building, one of which is 'smoke-free'. I urge him to consider being more pleasant with future confrontations as it would be unfortunate for other smokers to receive a surprise attack. We have the right to know where we are allowed to smoke!

To the non-smokers at D'Avray, I urge you to enforce the presence of a smoke-free area in a portion of this cafeteria. Get a petition signed by non-smokers who want this! I was caught between a sign and people who were ready to point fingers but not ready to enforce. To the student who began this idea one year ago, why don't you do something about it?

Sincerely,
Audrey Burpee

P.S. This whole incident would not have bothered me so much if the professor had politely asked me to put out my cigarette. I would have gladly moved to another table and this letter would be non-existent.

Prof Speaks Out

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter barely an hour before your deadline and am not quite sure whether it would receive your attention. After The Brunswickian discontinued the publication of my Open Letter to the Jewish people in November 1984, I have not been able to get a response from anyone as to where I had erred.

Last December I wrote to one Ms. Brenda Paul who wrote an editorial in the Brunswickian about the protection of human rights, but she too never answered and my letter was not published. I would like to know if there is anyone whom I can approach in this respect.

The main reason for writing this letter is to make a few comments about the referendum on March 26, 1986. I think that the change in the electoral and fiscal years or granting of autonomy to the Graduate Students Association may be very reasonable items for an SRC meeting agenda, and should be within the jurisdiction of SRC to decide without a referendum. Most of the other issues concern an increase in fees for the students and the denunciation of the apartheid in South Africa.

If the present Student Union fee is \$30 and is to be increased to \$50, and \$10 are to be added for the membership in Canadian Federation of Students and another \$10 for the re-introduction of football games, then the total would come to \$70, which will be an increase of around 133%. For those student leaders who complain bitterly about every fee-hike proposed by the University administration, this is rather unbecoming.

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