



the  
brunswickan

CANADA'S OLDEST OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION

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# OPINION...

## THE ROMANCE IS OVER

Recent events concerning the UNB Student Union and the UNB Foundation for Students have prompted me to express an opinion which I have heretofore kept to myself an opinion which may surprise some, considering the *Brunswickan's* conservative attitude towards student politics. But when taken into the larger perspective of things, actions which have taken place recently signal a drastic swing to the right in student politics which will spell the end for liberal views in the University setting and which hail back to the days before student activism became in vogue. Maybe, after all, Abbie Hoffman was right, "There is no student activism today" he said last year, "Lets go bowling!"

For example, take the laughable attempts in the past four months to do ANYTHING which would keep Tony Tracy out of the UNB Student Council. I for one, would be embarrassed if I was Larry Hansen. His pitiful explanation as to why Tracy was kept out of student council meetings are something which represent the ultimate in irony. He, and they (Student Council) kept him from his rightfully elected position by saying that he was mentioned in the year end audit in a matter concerning unauthorized moneys, while we all knew and Tracy painfully tried to make clear that the moneys amounted to approximately 98 dollars for work in the photocopy centre. I somehow cannot believe that Hansen et al did not know the real reason why Tracy had received those moneys. They were simply trying their damndest to keep him out of student politics until they got their Foundation running, which it is now. Then, they ever so nicely let him take his seat as comptroller for the Student Union- a job which you should know no longer exists because the Foundation now takes care of financial matters relating to the Student Union. Oh, and by the way, the UNB SU has moved to remove Tracy- the only reason that make sense is because they stripped him of power when they created the Foundation behind his back while "investigating" him.

What they have done is not new, nor is it very original. Essentially what has happened is that the Student Council has through legal means and as the elected representatives of the student population given away the basis of our student's rights -our financial responsibility - and subsequently handed it over to the University administration via the Foundation. I am not saying that this is bad. It is only bad when the objectives of the administration and that of the various organizations on campus are different. The media for example.

What if this newspaper decided to run a rampage of antiadministration rhetoric? What if we represent opposition to administration policies or to that of the student union? As in the example of Tracey who represents DISSENT with a capital D, they simply get rid of him, or us. That's scary.

I don't give a damn about Tony Tracy and that is not why I am writing about him. The problem as I see it is that the present Student Union headed by Larry Hansen is presenting itself as a clean-cut, preppie style student government concerned with the "real issues" facing students while at the same time undercutting nearly every one of the rights which we fought for and which many UNB Alumni fought for over the past twenty years since the rowdy days of the 60's. Hansen, while seemingly honest and forth-right, has become a tyrant while proclaiming that he is cleaning out our closets of the tyrants of yesteryear.

In closing, I reflect on a letter written to the *Brunswickan* two weeks ago by former editor of the *Aquinian*, Neil Toner, who pointed out that by choosing not to report the power struggle between the Administration and the Student Union, we were helping Hansen to drive nails in the coffin of student rights. Yes he was right, there is (or was) a power struggle, and by letting Hansen and his crew make important decisions on key issues we have helped to make that coffin.

But not anymore.

The romance is over Larry.

BY MELYNDA JARRATT

*Opinion is a forum for Brunswickan staff members to present their own viewpoints on various topics. Their opinions are not necessarily those of the Brunswickan's editorial board, its staff, or its publishers.*