

a dangerous impasse

Student Council has requested that Dr. Colin B. MacKay appear at an open meeting to explain, as best he can, his actions in recent weeks.

Some of the things that went on at Sunday's Council meeting would have shocked SRC members last year. But the circumstances have changed. The issue is not one raised by a small group condemning American military action 4,000 miles away.

The issue is here, today. The issue is that eminent scholars are saying that UNB "should not be dignified by having academics attend a function" here.

For forty-eight days students held one small office against the wishes of the administration. Never were the occupants asked to meet administration officials publicly. They were not informed of any action to be taken against them.

Then, early Sunday morning, eight police officers drilled their way into Liberation 130 and dragged the occupants off to jail.

When people have sought answers, those arrested were always willing to explain their actions.

Now Dr. MacKay must do the same.

Why is this necessary? Students want to know why, in any instance of unpleasantness, Dr. MacKay is 'out of town'. When the ID cards became an issue, MacKay boldly stated that he never saw them until registration.

When Mobilization members played "bookie-book" at the library, students were told by Dean Argue that MacKay was speaking to a Brunswickan reporter in his office on the campus.

After the Brunswickan spoke to Dr. MacKay, formerly cooperative people refused to comment, at any time, on any issue.

MacKay has denied responsibility for the initial injunction to remove Dr. Norman Strax from the UNB campus.

Dr. MacKay denied knowledge of the police action taken during the Remembrance Day weekend. Yet, his registrar, Prof. Blue, told the president of the Student Council that MacKay had telephoned him to inform him of the action. That call enabled Blue to be present at the time of the arrest.

But Blue did not call the university lawyers, who were present when the occupants of 130 arrived at the city jail.

Throughout the entire affair, blatant public intoxication had gone unnoticed when the fury of the drunkards was directed towards Liberation 130, smashing windows and attacking with clubs and picks. Security police stood idly by to witness these events. Now the seven who were arrested are charged with public mischief.

Dr. MacKay has reached a disastrous impasse in his efforts to quell dissent. If he refuses to attend the public meeting, students will feel that he has confirmed the worst that has been said of him. But what can he say to the students if he does attend?

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

Admin action insults our intelligence

Editor:

The following is part of an inevitable reaction to the increasing restrictions placed upon student freedom by university authorities; quite evident in the arrest of those of Liberation 130 early, very early, Sunday morning.

The role of any authority, in a just society, is to consider solely what is best for those upon whom its authority is exercised. —In such a role, it does not seek to provide for its own benefit, so says Plato.

Certainly this holds true in the case of the university. However, let us not be deceived into thinking that the "unwarranted" arrest of those at

Liberation 130 was an attempt to remove a truly disrupting factor from the sterile atmosphere of our campus.

If this was the course sought, then why was nothing done to the inebriated body of ignorance which was responsible for the disturbance at 130 in the past few weeks. Namely those engineers and business students who, for mere kicks, violently attacked 130—a cause that they did not, and perhaps never shall understand.

By the action taken Sunday morning, Mr. Authority and friends have done nothing short of insulting our intelligence. Are we to be expected to lament in apathy while the chains of interdiction are sil-

ently bound about us? No indeed! This time the molding chisel of authoritarianism has penetrated our crust of naivety, (or has it).

Revolution is heated in the furnace of repression, dear sirs. Hence I suggest that you air out your "18 Furnace Room 29" and in future refrain from using the coals of our liberty as fuel for your own warmth and comfort. Perhaps then you will persevere the convenient apathy of the majority of our student body which has served you so well in the past.

Jim Brennan
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The curtain is drawn on Liberation 130

Editor:

Finally, the curtain has been drawn on the act that took place in Room 130. The people who occupied 130 must be children who did not get a chance to attend Boy Scouts as youngsters, and so turned to this room as a gathering place to attain group approval and attention they so badly desire.

These people fool nobody by their bluff. Their real thoughts are, "protests and sit-ins are fun so let's find something, yes, anything to rebel against." To justify their actions, they use words such as "rights" and "freedom" without thinking.

Nobody is denying them freedom to have and express their feelings, so long as they do not impede others, who have the right to be protected from such idealistic clap-trap.

They are going too far when they play games such as "bookie-book" which results in unnecessary work for the

library staff, and distraction to the students whom with their terminology they describe as apathetic. Just pathetic (without the prefix "a") is enough to describe their action.

The most alarming fact of the sit-in was that most of the students involved were not even enrolled at UNB. I mean, why pay rent on a room when one can stay in a professor's office

free of charge?

Then to top it all off, a few sympathizers marred a Remembrance Day ceremony for the people who had the decency to take time to remember those who won the

freedom we now enjoy.

Respectively submitted,
 Patrick Lynch, bus. 3

Where would you have been?

Editor:

Where would you have been in 1836, my friends? In San Antonio, Texas, a little church was turned into a fort—and the fort was held for ten days until overwhelming numbers scaled the ladders and killed the defenders.

Where would you have been my friends? Would you have died with Colonel Travis, James Bowie and David Crockett or would you have been frightened like other Texans and avoid-

ed the conflict?

Perhaps you might have been in General Santa Anna's army?

In the end, the Texans remembered the Alamo, and beat the Mexicans at San Jacinto six weeks later. I'm just curious, my friends. Where would you have been on March 6, 1836? Remember the Alamo!

James Belding
 arts 3

Credit where credit is due, please

Editor:

Having heard all the gossip that the Brunswickan was thoroughly infiltrated with SDS sympathizers, it was a pleasant surprise to read, in the Nov. 12 issue, an apparently impartial and unemotional account of the clearing of Room 130 and the incarceration of its inhabitants. The use of the City Police in this action seems to have been arranged to avoid getting the University's security police further involved in a fracas which has already made them look ineffective. In any case the occupation of 130 was becoming a farce and an inconvenience to those using the building for academic purposes.

One thing that bothers me is the continued use of the word "students" to describe the group arrested, not only by your paper but by other newspapers and by radio personnel. According to your report only three (two from UNB) of the seven were such.

The other four were apparently hangers-on, comprised of former students (graduates or dropouts?) and two boys? from Toronto (refugees from Yorkville?) who have nothing to do with UNB other than a propensity for smelling unrest in the air and scurrying to its

aid.

The vast majority of people at UNB are here for an education and/or a degree and want no part of this mess. The inclusion of the whole in the description of a few is un-

justified. Credit where "Credit" is due, please.

Robert C. Wilson
 Mech. Eng. 4

SIA president points out errors

Editor:

If I may, I would like to point out some errors in the interpretation of the interview I had with one of your reporters in "SIA head attacks prejudices", last week.

Firstly, I made it very clear to your reporter that there are no great prejudices on this campus toward overseas students, but merely a certain lack of knowledge, disinterest or apathy towards them.

Being disinterested on one hand, or having prejudiced views on the other, are two completely different states of mind.

The article further suggests a negative attitude of the SIA towards the existing Canadian-overseas student relations. It seems to reflect a mere analysis of that situation, whereas the SIA very definitely recommends and encourages positive attitudes to both groups and individuals who wish to rem-

edy it. The value of individual undertaking was stressed at the interview, but largely omitted in the article.

Also the article makes no mention of the kind of activities the society regularly holds to improve these conditions.

Summarizing, I have to admit that most statements at the interview for the article were taken out of context and that the whole article displayed viewpoints as if the solution to this problem lies within one particular group (whereas the two groups should make an effort) and put too much emphasis on negative points rather than the positive alternatives.

It would seem advisable that such reporting in the future would stick to fact rather than trying to catch the reader's eye by some makeup.

Willie van den Hoonard
 Student International
 Association president

Regrets

Editor:

An item paper with reputation of the press.

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