

let's cut the mickey mouse approach

The University of New Brunswick has now officially joined the ranks of other enlightened universities by providing for student participation on the academic Senate. The student politicians and their Senate counterparts are to be commended for finally managing to accomplish what other universities have done with much less pain.

This latest development has vastly increased the importance of a functional, responsible Student Representative Council. The SRC must not allow itself to become a leaderless and non-representative body in the future, as it has tended to be in the bleak past. The reasons for this now are unimportant. The future is too valuable to be spent reflecting on past mistakes.

The chief reasoning for student participation on the Senate has been the need for youthful views. These views as accomplished by open constituencies must come from the student body as a whole. Student senators will be the vehicle for the advancement of these views. The logical connecting link between the whole student body and the Senate must be a strong representative council.

Student Senators will be elected in general elections, but to work effectively for the common good of the student, they must work hand in hand with the SRC. That is, in fact, the main purpose of the SRC, we hope.

Realizing that student government is not too popular at the best of times, we must insist that only the students of highest calibre run for the SRC and the Senate. Student government must cease to be a joke. Future SRC's must eliminate their Mickey Mouse approach to important issues, if any achievements are to be forthcoming.

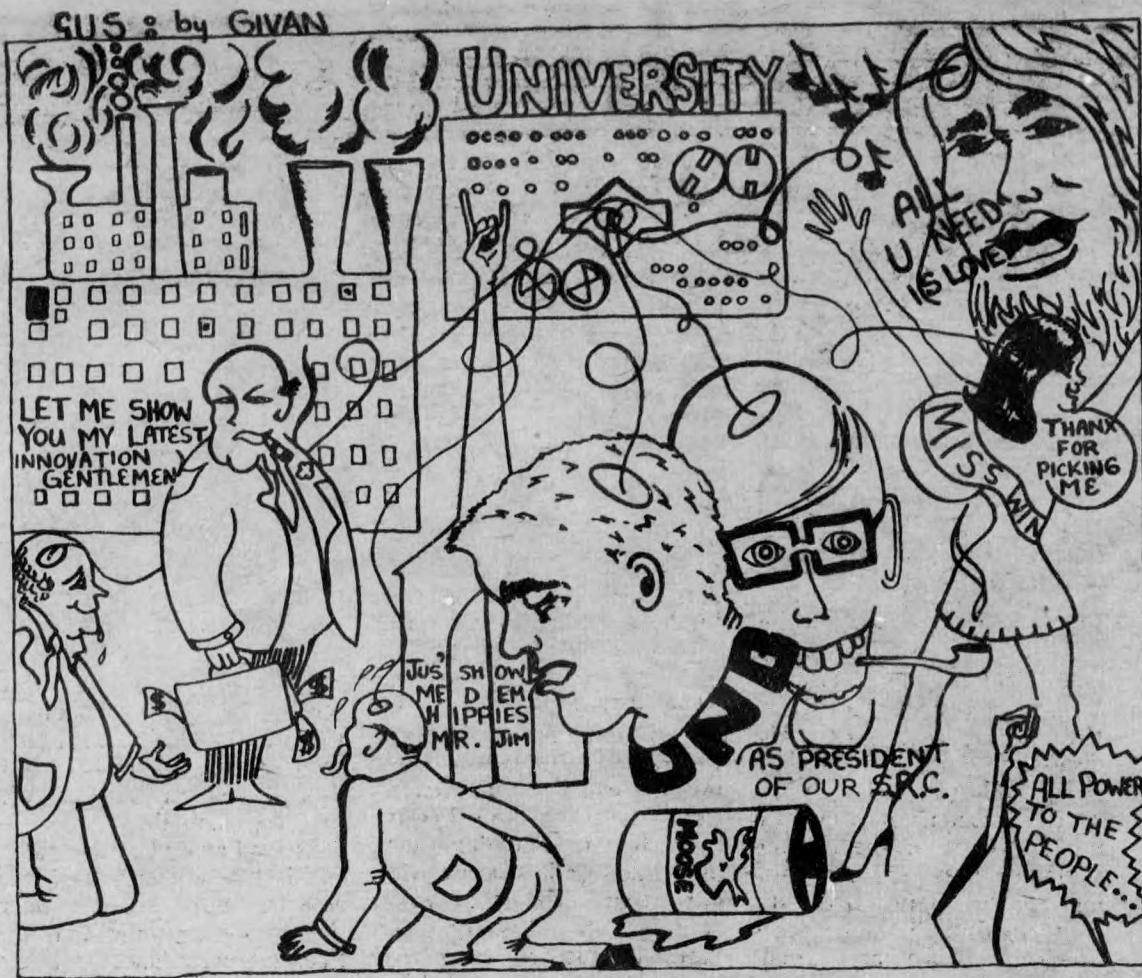
Some idealists, such as Dr. Semeluk, Chairman of the Second Senate Committee on Student Representation view the SRC and Senate as someday merging into one ruling body. If such an ideal situation is ever to occur, then the apathy of the students has to be cracked. The possibilities are astounding if such ideals can someday be implemented.

The prospect of true Senate representation has amazing possibilities and the new responsibilities are staggering. The SRC has a chance to lead, to formulate policy of a very serious nature concerning the whole university. If failure arises from these high ideals, it will not be the fault of "those other guys" who failed us; it will be the students who have failed themselves.

BRUNSWICKAN

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feedback

THE CO-OP ANSWERS

I would like to reply to the two letters that have been printed in the last two issues of the Bruns concerning the internal financing of the Montgomery Street Co-op. This letter has not been approved by the Board of Directors of the Association; however, I feel that this letter presents an accurate summary of the Association's views on the subject.

The fees for residence in the project were set by the Association's Board of Directors, the majority of which are students. They were set at the advertised rates in order to cause the project to operate on a break-even basis.

The Co-op has an annual mortgage of \$195,794 to pay along with legal reserves, light, power, heat and water bills amounting to another \$80,000 per year. If we were to charge \$50 or \$80 per year and similar fees for the single students as Mr. Bhatnagar suggests, the Co-op would run a yearly deficit of over \$120,000. Since we receive no subsidy from the University or the Government, it is not possible to budget for an operating deficit.

It is all very well to criticize the Co-op for charging fairly high rents, but one must realize that these rents are being charged only to cover the operating and capital expenses of the project. The Co-op is a non-profit organization under its Supplementary By-Laws. The shareholders or members of the Board receive no financial remuneration or dividend of any sort. The Co-op employs one full-time and two part-time employees to conduct and manage its affairs and the total salaries paid amount to less than 3 per cent of the anticipated cash flow for this fiscal year. This percentage is very small and it reflects the amount of

volunteer work that is put in by the shareholders themselves in order to economize as much as possible.

The writer, Mr. Bhatnagar, feels that the single students at Montgomery Street are getting a "better deal", but many single students feel that the converse is true and they have therefore applied to live in the Married Student Building. The rate charged to the single students at Montgomery Street is probably less competitive than the rate charged to married students. Furthermore the Single Student Building revenue in terms of revenue per unit of floor space. The project would have been economically unfeasible if it were not for this single subsidization.

The Co-op, although primarily run for and by students is also under its Letters of Incorporation, for the Faculty and Staff of the three campus institutions. The argument that Faculty should be charged more (and in effect taxed) because of their increased revenue, could also be extended to charging rich students more than poor students. This, I feel, is a rather unrealistic argument, as the Co-op is not in the position to completely change the nature of our capitalistic society.

Lastly, I would ascertain that the Co-op is trying very hard not to act like a regular real estate dealer. The Co-op is run primarily for students and its governing body, the Board of Directors, is democratically elected by the Co-op's shareholders at an Annual General Meeting which will be on October 20 this year. We have given students extended credit during the past years to such an extent that several students now owe us hundreds of dollars. All meetings of the Board of Directors are open to all shareholders and they are entitled to participate in the discussion. All the Association's books, including its financial records are open to

all shareholders for inspection. Our yearly financial records are audited by an outside firm and copies are now available to any shareholder at the Co-op office. In case you still believe that the Co-op is making vast profits, I might mention that the Association ran a deficit during the last fiscal year, due mainly to the expenses incurred from the Montgomery Street project.

Yours truly,
Dave Lambert

THIS READER IS IN DOUBT

I would ask that you print this so that Professor Cameron may read it.

Yourself being a professor of English, I was quite surprised at your display of lack of knowledge concerning the mention of Minto in your article in last week's Brunswickan. I would like to ask if you have been there. It doesn't sound like it, or perhaps you have driven down one road.

The slag heaps you see are "overburden" - the land which is taken off the surface to get at the coal. They are now being "reclaimed" - plowed down, and trees are being planted on top.

The most offending sentence in your article is in reference to the homes of the people of Minto. There are a few which are poor, the worst of which are not as bad as the slums I've seen in big cities. Although they may seem shabby or decrepit on the outside, they are quite clean and comfortable on the inside. And these are only a few. There are just as many houses in Minto which would meet your standards (or anyone else's) as there are in any big city.

I realize yours is not an article on Minto, but I find your comments a poor reference.

Vicki Oland, Arts 2