

Evaluation: do students have the right?

...les, or rambles along in a
...what's the point of going to
...what's being said?
...absent-minded professor
...paredness.

...ar to have lecture material
...he wants to say. Uncertain
...in the previous lecture, he
...r skips large bodies of
...in Walt Disney movies, but

...at the level indicated in the
...ery Made Easy 130 requires
...and Indonesian History, but
...requisites have no difficulties

...Physics Made Easy 450
...ebra, but by the end of the
...r Physics Made Easy 350
...suitable prerequisite

...too hard or too easy; or is
...al sections of the same
...it provides an appearance
...or substitute for adequate
...rk.

...incompetent in the subject
...is been known to happen. He
...s talking about.

...reflect the concerns of the
...dity which the student is
...wants to get the most for his
...ly a reasonable request,
...the extremely high cost of
...year's tuition is now about as
...od used car. While it seems
...will be hauled up before the
...many students consider
...way to make sure that
...s pitch.

...role of course unions in
...education is based on the
...evaluations usually take the
...anded out to students at the
...se, asking for answers to
...course was organized and
...asked on course evaluation
...u knew last September what
...course now, would you have
...ould you rate this lecturer's
...his material?"; "Were the
...is course too easy or too
...are then compiled and
...will have some idea of what
...course.

...course evaluation is reported
...reflecting the breakdown of
...answer to the question "How
...as an aid to understanding the
...course?"; 26.2 percent of the
...se said "very helpful", 13.2
...lpful", no one said "useless",
...onfusing".
...doubt that what one student
...useless" to another student
...with widely differing aims,
...so that the appearance of
...ed by statistical course
...ing one. Most course unions
...culty, and use the statistics as
...ubjective and interpretive
...ar course by one student.
...epancies among students'
...rs occur when a professor's
...s is taken into account. The
...fessor speaks loudly enough
...er; but by contrast, what one
...nce on the part of a professor
...ulating intellectual style by
...answers to questions on
...essor's willingness to answer
...alternate points of view on a
...e student's own conception of
...A student who feels students
...ren will react differently than
...are to be treated as adults.
...es are difficult to pin down
...s. Few are as forthright about
...aching as the senior professor
...eting of an upper-year seminar
...dents why they shouldn't take
...ous student reported, "He was

...very alienating. He said he hadn't done any reading in
...the subject area for the past three years. I've done lots
...of reading he hadn't done. He made it very clear he
...was much more interested in departmental
...bureaucracy."

...One professor who got very poor ratings on course
...evaluations, year after year rinned them to his door
...underlining the most damning comments with a kind of
...perverse pride.

..."Most specialists in the subject have to take courses
...from him whether they want to or not, and he knows
...it," a student involved in the course union said.

...But more common than outright contempt for
...undergraduates is indifference to teaching. One
...student complained that, although she was in a small

...decisions which have, in effect, already been made.

...If this view is accepted, students interested in
...improving the quality of teaching are best advised to
...learn techniques of corridor manipulation themselves;
...to refrain from "alienating" professors by making
..."unreasonable" demands; and to forget about student
...representation on "boring" committees which don't
...have any real power anyway.

...Such a position, is in effect an admission that
...students will not achieve significant influence on the
...decision-making process. But influence based on
...lobbying is no influence at all. Any success such an
...approach may have is only on the professors'
...sufferance; there is no guarantee that the student
...position will be taken into account.

...One such decision-making body is the tenure
...committee, the body which decides who is to get
...permanent appointments and who is not. If students
...gain representation on these committees, their
...concerns about teaching quality cannot be ignored as
...they can be under the present system, and they can be
...under even the most sophisticated lobbying system.

...Finally, it must be realized that the phrase "quality
...of teaching" has a broader application than the
...consumer's rights objections indicate. That is,
...students are concerned not only with how well certain
...specified objectives are carried out in the classroom,
...but also with what objectives are to be pursued.
...Students have a stake in the content of their education,
...as well as in its style

...Only students can define for themselves what they
...hope to get out of a university education. But they
...should be encouraged to make a positive decision and
...not passively accept decisions made for them by
...others.

...Students have no interests more immediate than
...those relating to the quality of their education. Student
...representation on tenure committees will ensure that
...these interests are adequately defended.

SRC sends protest to senate

...Course evaluation is an issue now under
...consideration at the University of New Brunswick.

...The UNB senate formed a committee in the late
...spring of 1974 which began work in the fall. It is
...comprised of three faculty--Peter Kepros, D.G.
...MacNeil and Marian Weinstein--and three students
...including Heather Connors, John Malcolm and
...chairman Mike Mepham.

...Its work was termed a student course opinion survey
...since it was not considered an evaluation by experts.

...The senate Jan. 11 declared if professors refused to
...have opinions expressed about their courses, this
...should not be recorded in the publication of the results
...since it would represent coercion.

...The former president of the UNB Students'
...Representative Council, Peter Galoska, Feb. 12 sent a

...letter to the senate--through university secretary D.C.
...Blue--protesting that no warning had been given
...students that such a motion would be considered.

...Despite the fact that the UNB students' union was
...financing half the cost of the survey's publication, the
...SRC had received no warning and the issue, the letter
...said, had been buried in the senate agenda under the
...nebulous section titled "other" in "Business Arising
...from the Minutes."

...SRC president Warren McKenzie Monday described
...the letter as "one of the most strongly worded letters"
...sent by the council to senate.

...Former SRC comptroller Chris Gilliss Monday
...recommended in his outgoing report the union should
...be prepared to underwrite its own survey if there was
...any "interference" from senate or any other group.

...seminar course, it was not until halfway through the
...year that the teacher became aware of the students'
...names.

...Traditionally, professors have seen themselves as
..."scholars" rather than "teachers". The main thrust of
...the present student campaign for parity representation
...on tenure committees is to ensure that this imbalance
...is corrected. Paradoxically, sometimes the professors
...who have succeeded in mechanizing their courses to
...the greatest extent are evaluated most highly. This
...occurs when it is the aim of both student and teacher to
...have the course proceed above all as painlessly as
...possible.

...Thus the evaluation of a professor's attitude depends
...on the student's reasons for being at university. For the
...student who is solely interested in getting good marks
...on tests, a course may seem well-organized; while a
...student who has broader interests will find it dull.

...Attitudes are not so easily modified as marking
...schemes. A particular manifestation of an attitude
...may be eliminated, but the attitude remains, to be
...expressed in different ways. Yet some student
...organizations feel lobbying tactics will be most
...successful in increasing professors' concern with
...teaching quality at the university.

...This approach is based on a frankly cynical view of
...the possibilities for democratic decision-making within
...the university (and ultimately, in any institution). Real
...decisions are made, according to one course union
...executive, through "the door-to-door network";
...corridor manipulation is the rule, and the university's
...formal governing structures serve merely to legitimize

...On the contrary, if the university is a legally
...constituted institution, which it is, certain of its
...decision-making bodies have specific powers which
...only they can exercise

