

sound off continued

No democracy in student gov't?

Dear Mr. Kilfoil:

I am not in the habit of writing letters to the Editor, but I cannot simply sit back and watch what is happening to the students of this campus. Last Monday night I attended a council meeting that spells out exactly what the students mean to this University -- absolutely nothing! If there is such a thing as democracy it does not exist at the University of New Brunswick.

What I am specifically talking about is the decision made by council to "forgive" the loan Perry Thorbourne said he would pay back. It is not so much that this decision was made in total ignorance of the episode surrounding former president, Perry Thorbourne. That is understandable for a council with little experience or little essential background in the incident. But it is not

their inexperience that bothers me. What bothers me the most is the students per se are not involved or never have been involved and council decided a matter that I considered closed.

The decision made on Monday night is not only the fault of council, however, but it is also the fault of the students of UNB, and now students will pay the price. As students of UNB, you are directly responsible for every member on council and the first Spring election being cancelled. It is unfortunate students at this University have little concept about elections or the general purpose they serve in a democracy. If students had such a concept then the event of Monday night might not have happened.

What are the implications of the "no-election" and seats left vacant? If you are a clever stu-

dent in serious trouble with the Student Union, then you can arrange to put whoever you want on council, to bail you out. It may cost you (as all good things in life costs you money) but it is worth it if you profit. But I speak only about some of the councillors. The executive is another matter.

You would think elected members of the Executive would have a mind of their own. I am not sure after the vote taken on Monday night. At the point when six councillors voted for the motion and six against, it became obvious that the decision rested in the hands of the Executive. So

what did the Executive do? Naturally they all abstained. Nothing like voting your conscience. All I have to say is that motion voted on by council and the decision made by the Executive sets "a very dangerous precedent." So I ask, "where are the students?"

A concerned student

UNB's problems a result of bad management

Dear Editor:

I wish to comment on the financial problems apparently facing UNB.

Dr. Downey says our problems are caused by 10 years of government underfunding. While I believe that more government resources should be placed in the hands of universities, I do not agree with him. In my opinion, UNB's problems have been caused by 10 years of very bad management.

I was struck by the recent comments of Dr. John Graham, professor of government-university relations at Dalhousie. Graham stated that "Universities are in danger of becoming regarded as another Chrysler Corp., asking to be saved from collapse to protect the jobs of their employees."

Since I became a UNB student, five more deans have been appointed. The cost of academic management are now staggering. The univer-

sity I went to in England had very few deans, with the department chairmen fulfilling many of the duties we give to deans. Another problem has been the failure of the university to protect the salaries of faculty at reasonable (and I do not mean Alberta) levels over the years. Instead of consistently protecting the correct share of the resources for academic salaries all along, management provoked a

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Letter to council

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Why, it's like getting a reimbursement of your \$45 student fees -- along with a slight interest of course!

One of the more important aspects of politics is that it should not deal with personalities (that's why most politicians are so ruthless!) I sincerely believe that most of you, when making your decision, thought of our former President and what a nice guy he is, and how he didn't do that bad a job after all...so let's forget the \$2,300...I mean he suffered enough with that nonsense business about impeachment. I applaud your sympathetic and humane natures: unfortunately it does not (and cannot) apply here.

Perhaps it is too late, and there is no conceivable way to reverse your decision; perhaps you feel that your decision does not merit a reversal. My only comment to that would be that, if you feel you are correct, and realistic in your decision to close your eyes to the injustice created here, the entire Council should review its position and prepare to present proof of its credibility upon request of the student body.

Alas, my efforts to awaken you to the seriousness of your decision and the stupidity with which you handled this situation are probably in vain. No doubt the only element which I probably succeeded in awakening is your tempers!! But that's O.K. -- it is good to have an irate, rebellious

Council...work gets done far more efficiently and effectively when people are screaming and demanding action!

In closing I would like to commend the six Council members who voted in favor of the motion, demanding that the loan be paid back; this is reflective of your concern for the students you represent. To the six reps. (and I use the term loosely) who voted against the motion, the main contents of this letter is addressed to you; and to the four reps who abstained from voting altogether...well, that's always the easiest way out!

I realize that this is the end of the term and most of us will be departing soon for the summer break, leaving behind all the thoughts of classes, essays, labs, and student government. My advice is to enjoy yourselves...but be prepared in September to represent your faculties with far more credibility and logic than which you have shown us so far. The most effective way to learn anything is by asking questions; if you have any doubts regarding any issue, ask the Council Administrator, or former Council reps, or any member of the student media, you will be surprised at the amount of information, facts, and "dirt" which can be revealed to you...if you ask!

Good luck...and just think of me as a "Concerned Student."

Lynn Fraser
Former Arts Rep

More on African coups

In response to many complaints that newspaper sales have dropped drastically since his exit from the political scene, Amin recently emerged at a Jeddah swimming pool in Saudi Arabia and granted a private telephone interview to an American journalist. Coming in a bit late, I could not immediately tell whether Amin had been given a platform by the United Nations or the U.S. State Department. For a moment I thought the conversation was between him and the secretary of state or the president himself.

His appeal for arms from the United States seemed reasonable. In view of America's support for the government in El Salvador and Savimbi's futile attempts to overthrow Angola's socialist governments. Amin saw no reason why the Reagan administration could not also help him regain power in Uganda, despite the fact that no Ugandan wants him there.

The most surprising things about the interview, however, was Amin's ability to interpret the U.S. "Anti-Communist" policy to his advantage; for being a capitalist he automatically becomes an ally of the United States and therefore qualified for the U.S. support just like Botha, Napoleon, Duark and Savimbi do.

I could not help laughing when he tried to argue logically his claim to Uganda's leadership; because he is president-for-life and because he was not killed in the war, he must therefore be still the president. I was still laughing at the joke when my housemate walked in excitedly showing me an article in the Brunswickan on "Coups in Africa."

Without sparing a moment to tell my friend that this time Idi Amin nearly blasted the television screen, cursing Russian imperialism instead of American imperialism, I delved into the article. To my disappointment the article was not only shallow but incoherent. Rumour has it that the author, whose name I have unfortunately forgotten and have no time to remember, might be a political science student. If he is I am shocked. After re-reading the article and making sure that strong memories of Amin had not influenced my first reading of the article, I telephoned my friend to confirm that no sinister person had used his name with the intention of slandering him. "Did you like my article?" he greeted me excitedly. The telephone dropped out of my hand.

My political science friend, boasting an experience of a

seven years absence from the African continent, has now appointed himself the expert on African politics and African coups in particular. I cannot afford to reread his article but in one of them he mentions that Africa's history changes very rapidly; probably a correct observation but his long absence has apparently made it impossible for him not only to keep pace with the events in Africa but also to comprehend that the historical changes have an effect on the human conditions. His claim that Africa has an illiteracy rate of 89 per cent, if not myopic, it clearly shows that he has not, if he can, read any statistical reports in the last twenty years. Is the author of "Coups in Africa" therefore qualified to say anything sensible on Africa? I wish I could remember his name for to call him author might flatter him.

What concerns me most is not my friend's failure to analyse political systems in Africa. It would be unfair to expect anything better from him, when he confesses that he has been away for seven years and in that period has travelled from East to West and only learned one lesson - to respect his colonial masters. (In any case, how do we know he was not asleep most of the time.)

Claud Dusaidn