

News

Resignation prompts questions

By Janice McConnell
Brunswickan News

Lara Rooke officially resigned as VP External of the Student Union on January 25.

Rooke submitted a letter of resignation to SU President, Paul Estabrooks on January 21. The letter stated that the resignation was "not an easy decision" but that a number of reasons had prompted her to leave the council. The letter did not elaborate upon those reasons.

"I feel that it is important to let each of you know that my decision to resign was not one I ever wanted to make but rather a decision that I felt, and still feel was in many respects made for me", wrote Rooke in a subsequent letter to council members.

Estabrooks moved to accept the resignation. Seven councilors voted to accept, while none were opposed. There were eleven abstentions.

"I was surprised by the number of abstentions," said Luc Pinet, VP Finance.

"People were not strong enough to say yes or no," he suggested.

The resignation was discussed in Council "in camera," meaning the media were not permitted to attend.

Several councilors remarked afterwards that the media was excluded so that the Council's "mudslinging" would not become public.

Pat FitzPatrick, VP University Affairs, commented that more details were given concerning the reasons for asking for Rooke's resignation during the in camera session.

"What it boils down to is problems all summer, all fall, and after Christmas, and it didn't show any signs of getting better and things were becoming unlivable at the executive level," said FitzPatrick.

"It was getting into the number of times that things happened at the executive where I covered for lies, getting into the number of times where things were promised and never arrived, or arrived months late," FitzPatrick said.

He added that the decision to ask Rooke for her resignation was a unanimous decision of the Council Executive.

Councilor Kelly McLaughlin asked Estabrooks if Rooke would have been impeached if she had not resigned.

Estabrooks said yes. According to McLaughlin, Estabrooks cited Rooke's failure to follow her portfolio as the reason for the resignation request.

Estabrooks' reasons "seemed like personal instead of professional issues," said McLaughlin.

Kelly Lamrock, chair of the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA), stated that Rooke has also resigned as treasurer of that organization.

The duties of VP External will probably be taken care of by Estabrooks until the scheduled Student Union elections later this term, predicted Rooke.

It is also possible that Estabrooks and the Executive Council will appoint someone to the position protem in a non-voting capacity.

Math professor injured in weekend accident

By Wanda Baxter
Brunswickan News

UNB math Professor Bill Chernoff was injured in a car accident last week. He was admitted to hospital in critical condition but has since improved to a stable condition at the Doctor Everett Chalmers Hospital.

Chernoff travelled to Edmunston last Friday night to watch his son Alex play hockey for the FHS Black Kats.

On the return trip to Fredericton, three miles south of Perth Andover, Chernoff's van was involved in a three-vehicle accident.

Norma Landry-Flemming, a passenger in the van, was fatally injured. Her son, Mike, is a defenceman for the team. Chernoff suffered extensive facial injuries. Other passengers sustained manageable injuries.

The bus carrying the hockey team passed the accident and drove safely through to Fredericton. It was the unfortunate duty of David MacMillan, Vice Principal of FHS, to meet the team upon arrival and break the news of the tragedy.

According to Jon Thompson, chairperson of the mathematics department, Chernoff is not expected to resume teaching within the next few weeks. In the interim, Barry Miller, a recent PhD graduate, and Xiubin Xu, a PhD student, have been temporarily hired to instruct Professor Chernoff's courses.

Although details of the accident are uncertain, it is known that the van Dr. Chernoff was driving collided with the rear-end of a transport vehicle. The three vehicles involved in the crash were travelling in the same direction on Highway 2.

FHS student striker suspended

By Wanda Baxter
Brunswickan News

Steven Johnson, a grade 12 student at FHS and a member of the International Socialists, spent the three school days following the strike last week serving an in-school suspension. He was suspended for missing school when he attended the CFS-organized national strike.

Johnson stated that he was taken to the office that morning (in lieu of joining the university strikers) and told not to "miss the afternoon".

He commented that there are lots of kids who miss half a day and don't get

punished, and that he is not someone who misses a lot of school. The notice that Johnson was given to take home explains:

"Steven has been given a three day in-school suspension for deliberately ignoring specific instructions from the school principal not to participate in the walkout on January 25," the letter stated.

Jim Thorburn, principal of FHS, responded by saying that "we are not at liberty to discuss individual students with the press," but continued to say that he had no problem with the strike. He explained that he had been in touch with Ottawa and had been assured that

the strike would only involve noon hour, and that students were supposed to be back in the afternoon.

Thorburn stated strongly that he had was not against the strike and that he had encouraged students to react against the cuts, but not in this manner.

"I had no problem with the issue whatsoever, but no skipping classes. I will not condone missing classes."

The suspension Johnson received last week meant seven straight hours with no breaks (i.e. no lunch hour) one room with no contact with other students. He was under supervision in order that he work all day, but he did not attend classes.

Policy reforms subject of student conference

By Janice McConnell
Brunswickan News

A vision for a better educational system was the subject of a conference which brought student representatives from across the country to Calgary in January.

UNB SU President Paul Estabrooks, along with SU presidents from campuses across the country met with business leaders and federal and provincial government representatives in Calgary on January 19 and 20.

The conference was an initiative of Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources to bring academics, the government, students and the private sector together to make education more responsive to the workplace.

"The idea is to make post-secondary education more in tune with industry," said Estabrooks.

"We identified barriers to achieving the vision and in the final session developed solutions to get over those barriers," he said.

CASA formed: alternative to CFS

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Some universities, such as the University of Ottawa, which is a bilingual university, wanted to see the director and staff fluent in both official languages. The lengthy debate that followed was finally resolved in a motion that decreed that they should indeed be bilingual. The motion passed 17 to three.

If most of the schools expected to join CASA on Tuesday sign on as expected, it will represent about 450,000 post-secondary students. CFS is currently about the same size, but will lose

many of its members as they jump ship for CASA. Many CFS members, such as Dalhousie University, have recently held student referendums that will allow them to leave.

Acadia and McGill will hold referendums next week. Ryerson held their referendum on Thursday. Results were not available by press time.

FitzPatrick expects that the referendum will be held at UNB in March.

"It would be irresponsible to leave CFS without an alternative," he said.

Ice-covered sidewalks claim victim

By Alex Brennan
Brunswickan News

The silent majesty of a winter's morn; the gleaming whiteness of newly fallen snow; a student flailing wildly as he attempts to negotiate the hockey rink-like paths on campus - all of these are realities of our winters here at UNB.

Some, however, are more appreciated than others. Many of us have experienced these wonders and have been left with a few "less than impressed" feelings about winter. To those of you who have been subjected to these sudden ice-induced acrobatic manoeuvres and have been left a little red in the face, as well as where you landed, we have some surprising news: you're not the only one! Indeed, there have been many a spill on campus during the last month, some with more serious results than others.

On January 17, Anthropology Professor Vincent Erickson fell victim to this icy co-inhabitant of ours, and suffered a broken rib, the most serious reported injury to date. Approaching the top of the stairs from the parking lot directly above the Harriet Irving Library, Prof. Erickson slipped on the unsalted,

unsalted ice and as a result is a little softer in the ribcage area.

The frequent freezing and thawing play a large role in the over abundance of ice, according to Harold Barnes Building and Grounds Supervisor.

"The extreme temperatures make it difficult for any salt or sand to stick, and thereby be useful" said Barnes, maintaining that his department is doing its best. "The salter and sander are deployed at 6:00 a.m. during storms and continue until evening. In some cases the evening crew then takes over and works until late into the night."

"During that particular storm [the one in which Professor Erickson was injured], we were working until 12:00 at night trying to get the ice under control," said Barnes.

Professor Erickson recognised the fact that the morning on which he fell was just after a thaw-freeze cycle, and that glare ice was everywhere. He notes that the parking lot was still unattended to at 9:00 am that morning but there were other parts of the campus that had been looked after.

In response to the claim that the park-

ing lot was neglected, Mr. Barnes stated that "everyone wants to be first, but we have a priority schedule that we have to follow."

Main streets, buildings including residence and cafeteria, then faculties is the way the schedule reads, and the process gets repeated until we're satisfied with the conditions."

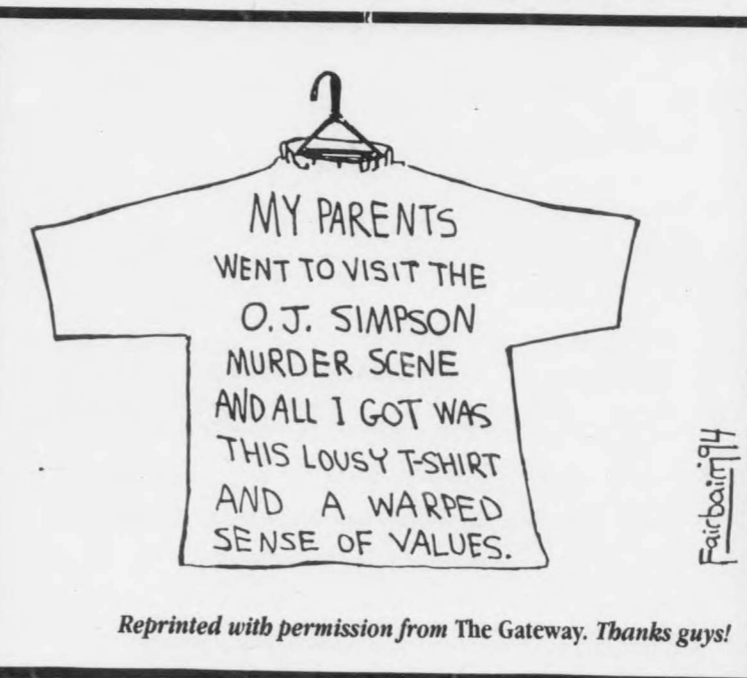
Students have mentioned that they too find the paths and walks slippery, but most lay blame on Jack Frost, not Harold Barnes.

One student is particularly aware of the snow removal crews' efforts.

"No, the walks aren't being neglected. In fact, I almost got hit by the sidewalk plow! But they are keeping the place in pretty good shape."

So while parallels have been drawn between slipping on the ice and trying out for the figure skating team, most students accept it as a right of passage into the winters of New Brunswick.

Professor Erickson has issued no complaint concerning his accident, and the only one received from students was that they couldn't seem to land that twisting half-gainer they'd been trying so often. Better luck next storm.



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