

SRC Council needs a leader

Dear Editor:

The necessity of strong leadership for the Student's Representative Council has become very obvious to me this year. To have a council that is fair, constructive, critical and firm, requires a person with guts, with brains a feel for people and dedication.

We have always had dedicated people, 10 fold more in the short run than in the long, but few even fit any one of the other qualities.

The executive last year had continuous internal squabbles. The ex vice-president external, Claire Fripp, resigned her post about two months before the end of the summer, under the premise she was not returning in the fall. She later confided she couldn't handle the rest of the summer working with Dave Bartlett and Scott Cronshaw because they were on such "power trips."

Dave Bartlett negated to state that she quit prematurely (before summer end) because she was dissatisfied but rather laid on some lame excuse that she felt inadequate (she wasn't present).

Council always gets especially upset at truths they don't want to believe. During the CHSR issue last year, I managed with fight to have the by law passed that an SRC representative must sit in on CHSR meetings. There are many good reasons for this but as soon as I stated it was a safeguard to ensure that the council receives complete and concrete facts with respect to CHSR - FM rather than possible watered down or alternate versions from CHSR itself, I was stomped on.

This summer, council refused to grant extra funds for one week so that it could consider the stations request. The CHSR members in

charge, being "upset" consequently held up the completion of the FM license application and missed a deadline which put back a possible CRTC approval date by two months. No council member had or has been since appointed to CHSR general meetings.

Last years fighting was especially obvious when Blair Moffit, the ex v.p. internal would put on shows for us by unsuccessfully taking on the rest of the executive during meetings.

Claire and Blair were always at each other's throat. They could never solve whose duties were whose and never failed in botching anything they put their hands to.

Blair's brief to the Board of Governors last year in opposition to tuition hikes, said nothing more than that the students don't want them, it was totally unsubstantiated as to why we shouldn't pay them. Similarly Claire wrote a news release on behalf of the N.B. Coalition of Students stating that the organization was opposed "to any and all tuition increases that will effect the quality of higher education."

Once again, she didn't state why the hell students shouldn't have to pay for the cost of increases the university suffers, and she had no clues whatsoever as to how the quality of higher education is measured.

There are very valid arguments but our former v.p.'s missed most of them.

As far as differential fees, we presented a factual report last year to the Board of Governors. It was highly commended by the B.O.G. (to no avail) praised at the senate and since ignored by all, myself included.

Everyone in fact seems to ignore

or just doesn't know what has been done by their peers or predecessors. The turnover and lack of interest is too great to run this outfit properly. When issues outside of the SRC's constitutional jurisdiction are taken up, we make fools of ourselves.

So far I haven't said anything about last years President. He never did anything to speak of.

Scott Cronshaw's downfall is that he'll never tell council more than he has to. For instance, the CHSR feasibility report last year had no breakdown at all as to how the SRC was to pay for an FM-expansion. Scott told the council "I feel it can be done". CHSR gave us very good cost figures and I commend Doug Varty and associates for doing an excellent job on this and for using their allocated monies wisely.

The fact remains though that until the proposal was passed, absolutely no idea of how the students of UNB could pay for this \$30,000 (plus) adventure was known.

I examined the SRC books myself last year and finally wrote my own report in this respect. The council was hesitant to read it and didn't understand exactly what the trends might indicate, but were overjoyed at the final analysis that we could afford CHSR-FM with the present SRC for fee revenues.

Too bad we didn't have any idea before the students voted on it. To finish up with Scott, I feel very strongly that he and the Administrative Board reasonably and firmly considered all budgets this year and that in this case the B.S. was form outside council.

Another issue now at hand that most ticks me is the lack of any requirement in the By-Laws that would force nominees for commit-

tee positions, candidates for SRC awards, and those requesting budgetary revisions to present themselves to council.

Dave Bartlett excitedly shouted "parading" into every sentence he could at the last council meeting.

Dammit it is not parading! We as the student representatives have been given the authority to appoint people to committees and hand out awards and dollars in the name of the UNB students.

All through my term, names have been handed to me to vote on. I've never known one, and especially during this fall I have voted against every one of them demanding that I see these persons first. If it isn't our

responsibility to assess these individuals then why the hell do we vote on it, and I want much more than a Mickey Mouse description on a piece of paper as Dave feels is quite appropriate. If they haven't got the time to present themselves, then I haven't got the information I need to vote for them.

When I look for a job, I have no apprehensions about interviews. These are the rules in the BIG world kids; SMARTEN UP.

We have just appointed a bunch of law students to the Student Disciplinary Committee. These individuals are going to pass judgements on other students and we had nothing more than names to go on. At least councillor Dave Farnham questioned one candidate but council still passed all of them because we were pressed for time. We are always pressed for time because nothing is ever planned.

So now we have 5 very unscrutinized law society students playing court for the rest of us. It is the same situation for the

Administrative Board, Michael Cochrane Award, and Student Activity Awards to name a few.

If it is our responsibility to appoint or award these people, lets face it. The new council, by a 19-2 vote don't want to.

Another issue that burns me, in reference to CHSR-FM again, is the ridiculous manner by which the feasibility study was prepared, presented and disregarded.

A fellow councillor and I tried to legislate proper proceedings to the effect that a feasibility study or report of any nature, must be passed by council before that report is presented outside council or acted upon by council itself.

This seemed reasonable and right, but according to everyone else, who squashed it, that was an absurd idea.

As for the recently proposed ad hoc committee on honorarium, I contend that biases and antagonisms that old executive members and council representatives have will override any 'good' value their experience and insight into honorarium will have.

I feel this committee should be formed of all new members who should find the facts out themselves rather than be handed the 'right' ones by an old member.

The idea that old dogs around the SUB aren't biased in regard to honorarium was rejected. Further, the idea that persons who are receiving honorarium should be kept of the committee was found to be ridiculous.

Am I so far off base thinking that this committee is forming up to be a crock?

A leader is needed if the council is to function with respect and with strength on campus and off.

I have no idea what Perry Thorbourne will be like, but he will undoubtedly have his hands full if he is to achieve any amount of success this year.

Peter Archibald
Rep-at-Large

The swampwaters of mainstream - new wave?

Dear Brunswickan:

My congratulations to Mr. Meyer for a good job of writing a criticism of Joe Jackson's latest release. I do, however have one point of contention, regarding his usage or should I say misusage (?) of the term "new wave". In the purest sense of the work, Joe

Jackson has precious little to do with it; the Knack even less. As for Graham Parker he is a R & B singer (if you don't believe me, look at the title of his first album), taking the music listener for a ride on his new wave bandwagon in hopes of getting into a few more bucks. That is not to criticize Parkers music, it


might in fact be worth listening to, but it plainly lacks the one element of all true new wave - VITALITY. New Wave must be just that: new. New Wave musicians must evoke a gut reaction from the youth (Damn it all, I'm 18 and I feel I'm going over the hill). As Townshend once sang, while he still meant it "I hope I die before I get old). New Wave musicians must get onto a stage with minimal technical prowess and

state in no uncertain terms: "We're gonna play music that is vital from the heart, stripped of all its phoney iconoclasm and production. We wanna be in the forefront of a new revolution" and god knows, the Sex Pistols and The Clash almost pulled it off. Isn't that really what music is all about? Quintessentially, punk group should last for only one or two albums and then break up, (like the Sex Pistols-the greatest enig-

ma or Western society to date) for if they don't they fall into the trap already occupied by Elvis Costello, The Jam, The Stranglers and The Boomtown Rats and the other bands who have lost their ideals.

Punk rock is not longer in the vogue but it will return. (Remember New York Dolls c 1970? MC5 c 1967? Shadows fo Knight c early 60's?) In England there is a mod revival underway and god help me if I'm not right in there encouraging it and watching it grow (and peak and die, but by then I'll have moved on to the next new wave). Mod outfits like the Undertones, and Secret Affair are every bit as worthy as Johnny Rotten was, for they are at the helm of their revolution. This sounds silly to most people, but it was Johnny Rotten who changed the face of music in the late 70's with the formation of the Sex Pistols in 75. In this respect, Johnny Rotten is deserving of a place alongside Elvis Presley, Little Richard and The Rolling Stones in the hall of the true greats. To be blunt, Johnny Rottens music was poor but does that matter? NO! I can't emphasize that NO! enough. In music, the stance is everything.

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