



Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest is an ambiguous thing...sometimes.

As editor of the Brunswickan I could not constitutionally nor ethically hold a seat on Council and still hold my position at the paper.

In a situation where one would have to serve the best interests of their constituents and thus be forced to take a stand on the issues arising in said Council, the same person could not then be expected to report back through the medium one yielded in an unbiased manner.

At CHSR-FM there arises that exact conflict. The director-elect, Andre Faust, who assumes authority on May 1 of this year, presently holds a position on Council.

In the last two years alone we have witnessed similar problems at the campus radio, and I was hoping that from those painful lessons, something might have been learned.

Obviously not.

Those depending on unbiased reporting and/or editorials that lean from the perspective of the medium rather than the Council, should not have to be left to decide whether or not politics has intervened in said reports.

This is not an open attack on Mr. Faust. I am sure that he will perform his duties as CHSR Director admirably. As well, if he chooses to go the route of Student Union politics, he will most likely do a fine job there too. I do believe that no matter who the person, the two positions can not be shared.

I suggest that Mr. Faust decides who he wishes to serve, his constituents or his listeners.

Continuing on the topic of conflict of interest. The problem of a chairman on Council has come much to the chagrin of certain groups of student representatives. If a chairman is obviously oversympathetic to the needs of one faction of council, then he/she could not effectively perform his duties, and thus should be asked to abandon the position.

Such a process took place and the council saw the reinstatement of Mr. Michael Bennett as Chairman. Confidence in his impartiality however has been shaken in the last two council meetings.

Regardless of these reports, Mr. Bennett, from his position as chairman, chose to malign the Brunswickan on Wednesday night. Even if the charges were founded, Michael broke about every rule in the chairmen's ethic book. I am not calling for his resignation for he has proved over the years, to the council and the media, his competency to do the job.

I'd like this to serve as a gentle reminder to Mr. Bennett, and as a strong suggestion to Mr. Faust. Both of whom, if they put aside their conflict of interests, can contribute greatly to the needs of the students of UNB.



Mugwump
Journal

by CINDY DAVIS

The last issue of the Brunswickan. This will leave some people cold, some people heaving a sigh of relief and some with nothing to do at 8:30 on Friday morning. But those students associated with the paper are busy planning the big end of the year party and trying to figure out who will win the most awards.

It's been a turbulent year with many editorial changes but in looking over past issues, I don't think this has really hurt the paper. Some good people, like Hutch, Brenda Paul, Cal Johnston and Mike MacKinnon have moved on but some others, like Laura Lee MacLean, Karen Mair, Robin Geneau and Melynda Jarrat have come to take their places. With all of the new talent, next year should be a very good one at the Bruns.

As a staffer and reader of the Brunswickan, I'd like to thank John Bosnitch and the Student Union for providing so much good university-oriented copy. At this point it looks like the Bosnitch era *may* be coming to an end but Student Union controversy never does, so I guess we'll have some news to print next year.

Seriously, there is some debate among Bruns staff over whether the expulsion of John Bosnitch is the proper way to solve SU problems. On one hand, President Downey may be taking the easy way out. In taking this approach, he may avoid splitting the students, many of whom would not wish the Administration to usurp the Student Union's functions. On the other hand, the President is not addressing any of the issues which have brought the Union to its present chaotic state. Well, at the end of the term most students have much more pressing problems than those involving the Student Union — exams, papers, all that important academic stuff that we pay for, so the Bosnitch controversy may come to an end without any significant student input.

In other areas, students have been active, however. On March 21, there was a very successful march against apartheid and the lectures sponsored by the SU Academic Commission have been well-attended. Michael Bennett did a commendable job this year. Students have also been involved in dramatic productions, concerts, cabarets, performances, working at the Bruns and CHSR, proving that UNB and Fredericton need not be a cultural backwater. There is a lot of energy that is increasingly being spent in productive ways that better our whole community.

In the past year democracy has been rearing its head in Asia, Africa, The East Bloc and Central America. Students all over the world have been integral parts of political and cultural movements that offer liberation to poor and oppressed people. Students in Europe and North America have been supporting these movements, another way in which we can use our energy productively. To those who are leaving the university community for the larger one: don't forget what you've learned here and keep on trying.

It is important that we be involved in activities other than academic ones so, at this point, I'll make the pitch for becoming involved in the campus media, especially the Brunswickan. The chance to write or take photographs or do offset or edit (or... the list goes on and on) is something that won't come again. The Bruns, as a student publication, has an editorial freedom that any other kind of newspaper can only envy. Notice, I called it freedom, not license. The responsibility of reporting on all kinds of things that we think will interest students is difficult to handle some weeks. But every week is a challenge and most weeks we've met it. We'll be around this summer attempting to put out some special issues, so drop in. If you can't, look for us in September at the Aitken Centre or come to Room 35 of the SUB. With enough students contributing we can become a good reflection of university life.

The last comments — ex-Brunsnies, watch out for all details on the Reunion.

GOOD LUCK ON EXAMS