

# Psych Chairman disputes "childish attitude" of staff

By Jean Murch

The Head of the Psychology Department does not agree with an article in the last Brunswickan in which a psychology student attacked the department's faculty. The student, who refused to have his name used, accused the faculty of having a "childish attitude" and of staff in-fighting over the development of a faculty-student lounge.

Professor Allan Feider, Chairman of the Department, said, "I don't think that's an accurate representation of the situation. He said the delays involved in renovating the existing lounge cannot be attributed to staff attitudes.

His first reaction to the Bruns article was to "forget about the whole thing."

Stuart Neilson, the third year undergrad representative on the student-faculty committee said, "even if I don't personally agree with the article, I don't think there should be a rebuttal for the simple reason that we are representing the students, and the general consensus of the students is that this article has hit a nerve and the students are very happy about it."

Professor Vickie Gray, a faculty member who has been involved in the renovations of the lounge, said she is not the lounge co-ordinator as the Bruns article stated. In a telephone interview Tuesday she said, "I'm not responsible for the lounge," but she has done some work on it.

Stuart Neilson, however, stated: "I was under the impression that Dr. Gray was the co-ordinator and that we couldn't do anything without her approval." The general impression from other faculty and students interviewed was that Gray was, in fact, co-ordinating the lounge project.

"Dr. Gray claims that she doesn't have the time for the lounge, but in my position as 3rd year representative I have to ask why she volunteered for a position she doesn't have the time for," said student representative Neilson.

"I think the main thing to be cleared up is that there isn't a problem," Gray said. She denies that the students have been trying to establish a student-faculty lounge for some time, as the student in the article stated. She said that "up until the last three weeks there has been no student involvement" in the lounge project. Gray said that there has been a psychology lounge for several years, and that "we're just enlarging the one that already exists."

"Dr. Gray claims that students haven't been involved, but I think that's because students weren't informed. Otherwise, I think there would have been much greater involvement by the students," said Neilson.

Enlargement of the lounge was a "faculty idea" she said, planned by the department in the fall of 1971. The request for funds for the reconstruction was finally approved in January, 1973. Gray said her work on the lounge had been purely voluntary. This spring she saw furniture that was on sale, and she went ahead and purchased it for the lounge.

She said renovation went on in the summertime. A partition was removed to enlarge the existing lounge. "Again, it was faculty that was doing this," she said, adding "I did supervise that work in the summer."

Students were not involved at that time. As Neilson pointed out most students are away working in the summertime.

The plans for the room in Keirstead Hall were that it would serve as both a lounge and a seminar room, with a folding door to divide them. To this end, a wall was removed between the existing coffee-room and a larger classroom. The folding door had not yet been installed.

Rugs for the lounge were ordered in August but there were "numerous problems" in receiving them, Gray said. The rail strike was one of the difficulties encountered.

It has been hoped that the lounge would have been ready by September. "In the fall we made the decision not to assemble the furniture until after the carpet was installed," Gray said.

The carpet arrived last Tuesday, and was installed by the end of the week. On Saturday, a student group assembled the furniture destined for the seminar room and moved it in. Furniture has not been moved into the lounge as of yet. Gray said that the students have decided that they want to get it ready themselves.

"It was my understanding that the students would assemble the furniture, and in agreement with Dr. Feider the service department would polyurethane it," said Neilson.

He had no idea when the lounge would be completed, stating, "I was not given an estimate." Gray said nothing about the polyurethane procedure to the Brunswickan.

When asked when the lounge is expected to be finished, Feider replied: "I'd have to estimate

probably another month."

Response to the Bruns article in the Psychology Department faculty has been decidedly cool. Of the statements in the article Gray said, "I think it would have been wise to check the sources first."

"It said the students had been trying to get a lounge but this simply is not true." She also said that the comment that undergrads were not allowed in the seminar room is "not true...they have classes in there."

"Whoever the student source was," she added, "they were mis-informed and did not understand." Gray said also that if the faculty members are fighting over the lounge issue, she is not aware of it.

It was rumoured in the Bruns office that Professor David Likely, a Psychology faculty member, thought the Brunswickan should be sued for printing the article. When contacted about this Likely said,

"I'm not prepared to comment about that at the moment."

However, he did say that he felt the article was "unfair by omission." To clarify matters he first referred to the student-faculty meeting in which (the Bruns reported) "faculty member Ann Cameron told the undergraduates that if they should not waste time at the meeting questioning the construction of the lounge."

Likely said that at the time of that meeting, the students knew as much as the faculty did about the status of the lounge construction. The faculty didn't know where the rug was or when it was going to arrive. Ann Cameron did not cut off the student "as is implied" he said.

"The reason the furniture was there was that Professor Gray had physically gone out to the plant and brought it here." Likely said that was the only reason the furniture

was at the university as early as it was.

He said that Gray went ahead on her own initiative to get the furniture. The other items, like the rug, were ordered through the regular ordering process at the university, and therefore took a long time to arrive. He said the furniture was actually "early" simply because of Gray's actions.

Likely also attacked the statement in the article that the students were not to be allowed to use the seminar room. He said, "it would be absolutely pointless in having it, if it wasn't going to be used by students."

He said that people get frustrated because it takes a long time to get things done, but he doesn't think there are problems between the faculty and the students. "I'm not aware of an issue at all. I think it's as question of lack of information."

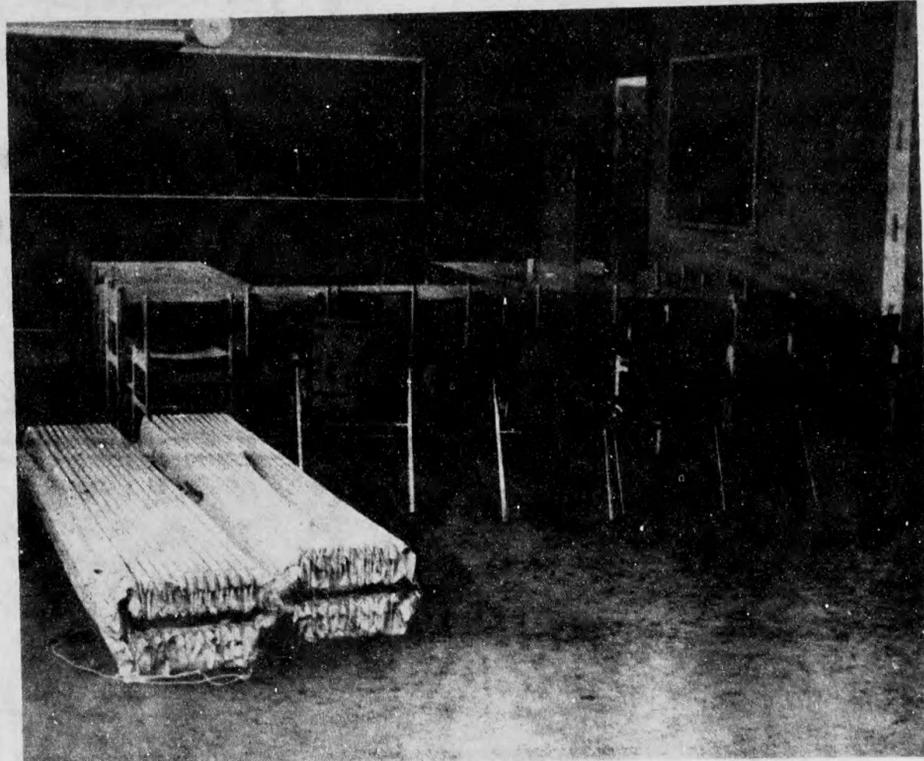


Photo by Ron Ward

The folding doors you see on the floor will divide the seminar room from the proposed Psyc students-faculty lounge, which has yet to be furnished. Psyc students are uptight, and you'll be hearing more from them in the future.

## Rep-at-large and B of G elections on Tuesday

By KEN CORBETT

The SRC election for Representative-at-large will be held on Tuesday, November 12. Four candidates are vying for the position.

Gary Tower, Business 4, Derwin Gowan, Arts 1, Kathleen Westman, Arts 2, and Howard Pryde, Business 4, are contesting the seat. An earlier candidate, Susan Manzer, has withdrawn from the competition. In order to assume his seat, the winner of the election must poll at least 10 per cent of the student electorate, that is, 540 votes.

Gary Tower had this comment to make: "Being president of the Business Society and having recently worked with the fall festival committee, I have been in close contact with the SRC. I know

what the SRC has been doing in the past, and through attendance at several meetings, I will have a good idea of what the SRC will be trying to do in the future.

"I would like to see student parking on a first come first serve basis, and an improved Winter Carnival and course evaluation. These are just a few problems where I feel I can be of help."

Kathleen Westman stated that: "I am running because I felt that there were a lot of students on campus who were not getting their share of representation in all aspects of university life. I've been working on the Bruns for a year and a half and I feel I know the people and things that are happening in the SRC. I'm willing to devote my time to represent all those students who need representation."

Howard Pryde said: "I had time to do the job and represent the students on an overall basis rather than on a faculty basis. I find I'm becoming more and more interested in student government."

"I'm involved with a large number of students through intramural athletic programs, the Administrative Board of the SRC, and Campus Police. I'm keen."

Derwin Gowan: "I believe the SRC should have freshmen on or at least running for the SRC. There is a definite lack of student opinion, also known as apathy, which I hope I can help reduce. The SRC, from my view, seems to be dominated by some form of a clique — like most such bodies. I hope I can be different from this."

Susan Manzer withdrew her candidature early this week. She explained the reasons for her

decision with these remarks:

"There are a number of reasons for pulling my name from the rep-at-large race. After I submitted my nomination, I was unexpectedly given the chance to run for the position of editor-in-chief of The Brunswickan. Since I wish to make journalism my career, and realizing I could not maintain the two positions at once if I won, I held off on the SRC campaign."

Although I did not win the Bruns position, time was short before the Council's elections. With so many other students running I felt my campaign would only make it more difficult for one of us to obtain the required 10 per cent. My main concern now is to have that position filled."

