OPINION...

The CHSR question: A call for cooler heads.

The negotiations between the UNB and STU Student Unions concerning the funding arrangements for CHSR-FM have recently degenerated to the point where threats and name-calling have become the order of the day. The executive of the Graduate Students Association, Inc. of UNB (the GSA) would like to take the opportunity to express its opinion on the status of the negotiations and of the increasingly hostile relationship between the parties involved. It is still our belief that friendly negotiations can resolve what now appears to be an impasse.

The GSA reaffirms its support for both CHSR-FM and the Brunswickan. Both media make significant contributions to both campuses and to the community in general. The future well-being of these media, therefore, if of concern to the GSA. The GSA has every intention of continuing its support of these organizations.

UNBSU President Wayne Carson has recently made a number of statements, reported in both the Brunswickan and the Aquinian, which we would like to clarify.

For the past three years, the GSA and the UNBSU have negotiated payments by the GSA to the Student Union in return for those services offered by the Student Union which benefit graduate students. Foremost among these services are the media.

On April 6, 1989, the first meeting between newly-elected SU President Wayne Carson, and then GSA President Josephine Tan took place. At the meeting, the payment of $7.50 per full time graduate student to the UNBSU, which had been accepted during prior negotiations with outgoing SU President Dean Frost, was now rejected. It was claimed that this negotiated settlement had not been brought before the SU council. The UNBSU was now asking for $8.50 per full-time graduate student. Both parties quickly agreed to this settlement.

At that same meeting, Mr. Carson announced the Student Union's intention to propose to the Board of Governors that a media fee of about $16 be collected per full time student. This fee would be collected by the University in the same manner that SU and GSA fees are now collected. Graduate Student representation on the Board of Directors of CHSR-FM and the future BOD of the Brunswickan were guaranteed at that time. (Graduate student representation on the CHSR-FM BOD has since been achieved.)

The GSA is an autonomous body representing the interests of graduate students of UNB. The GSA collects $30 per full time graduate student per year for services. A further $20 is collected and deposited to a trust fund for the purpose of establishing a "Grad House", which is in accord with a mandate that resulted from a 1986 referendum on the issue.

The $30 services fee at the disposal of the GSA, provides monies for operating expenses, publication of the GSA Handbook, social events, graduate student societies, and travel grants (for presentations of thesis work). While Mr. Carson may argue that funding inequalities on a per capita basis do exist, the fact is the current settlement of $8.50 per full time graduate student represents 28% of the GSA's operating budget. This is the largest single expenditure from our operating budget and is comparable to the approximately 25% that the UNBSU devotes to these media.

Mr. Carson's suggestion that the GSA achieve per capita parity with the Student Union with respect to financial support for CHSR-FM would amount to 50% of our operating budget being devoted to the media. This would place an unreasonable burden on our budget. Due to its sheer size and greater financial resources, the UNBSU has in the past shown it is the organization best able to absorb more of the costs of running these media and of accommodating fluctuations in the budgets of these media. This is not to absolve us from our responsibilities to these media, but to stress that commitments to these media have the potential to eat up a very large portion of our budget.

Mr. Carson's recent threats to cut funding to CHSR-FM were "prompted not by fiscal concerns, but simply by a need to carry out a principle" (quote attributed to Mr. Carson, The Brunswickan, Feb. 9, 1990; p.1). The principle Mr. Carson was trying to uphold was equitable payment for services. One way to bring about this equality is through the implementation of a media fee. In recent issues of the Brunswickan, Mr. Carson makes a number of comments that imply both the GSA and the STU SRC had rejected the media fee. In fact, the above statements concerning our budget notwithstanding, the GSA had approved, in principle, the implementation of the media fee proposal. This was stated in a letter dated May 15, 1989, and sent to Prof. J. Woodfield, University Secretary. To accommodate this extra fee to be levied against graduate students, the GSA was willing to reduce the fee it charged its members.

The failure of the ratification of the Media Fee proposal was a Board of Governor action based on the unacceptability of some of the terms of the proposal. It was not the result of "foot-dragging" by the GSA. The GSA is still willing to negotiate a media fee proposal.

Mr. Carson's recent tactics, however, have made our organization wary of future negotiations with a seemingly volatile party. Further, comments attributed to Mr. Carson (The Aquinian, Feb. 14, 1990) that he'd say "to hell with them [STU] and I'll say the same for the GSA", if we didn't "make a commitment to the radio station" are unwarranted and inflammatory. We regret these comments were made but recognize that they were probably the result of frustration at the necessary slowness of the negotiations.

In the meantime, the GSA feels it is in the best interests of all three parties that a properly conducted, independent survey of CHSR-FM be conducted. The survey conducted by UNB last December and the report of its findings (The Brunswickan, Feb. 2, 1990; p.13) was poorly conducted, according to the statements made in the article by both Mr. Carson, and CHSR station manager Jeff Whipple.

A properly conducted survey may go a long way in calming fears of the GSA (and possibly of the STU SRC) that it is making financial commitments that it may not be able to meet in the future. The reduction of future financial uncertainties is necessary for the continued effective operation of this important community radio station.

Continuing to work towards a fair settlement, we are:

The GSA Executive

MUGWUMP JOURNAL

by Tim Lynch

The **Red Devils** are hot. The 3-1 win over UPEI in the team's first playoff game in five years Wednesday night was monumental. Too bad more students weren't there to appreciate it. Some were understandably occupied with midterms, but others decided to watch the movie for some ridiculous reason. The healthy Devils may be in for a long post season. Why head coach **Mike Johnson** was not named AUAA coach-of-the-year is beyond belief.

The Grad Class of 1990 and Gate Project are both topical these days. As a potential graduate, I have mixed feeling regarding the gates. They will add another finishing touch to the university. Many believe, however, that a scholarship fund should be set up instead. It's great for people to suggest these alternatives, but if **you** have an idea, **you** get it going. At least the Grad Class is doing something. In exchange for $25, your name will appear on one of the wall's bricks. Napoleon once said that humans are plan to purchase a nameless brick. I support the idea but not the method. After all, the **GATE** was designed by a **Gifted And Talented Engineer.**

When the library was named after dear old Harriet, K.C. did not respond financially. Perhaps he would like a building of his own. How about the **K.C. Irving Annex B?**

Doors on this campus are fascinating. While I was sprinting to my 3:30 last Monday, I abruptly realized that those bipolar...er two-way doors in Head Hall no longer push. Ouch! Recently, I saw some weightlifters opening and closing those glass doors at the Harriet Irving Library. They said it was a darn strenuous workout. There are also those Beaver doors which slam shut at 6:30 each evening just as you are going back for a second glass of milk. (Hey Bob, I've devised a 2-glass-per-trip milk scam that is now in Ottawa being patented.)

Last week some imbecile entered our offices and made off with some valuable staff possessions. Why? Probably adopted the same school of thought of the mental giant who plucked the VCR from the Lady Beaverbrook Residence early in 1st term.

S.U. types Wayne Carson and Gary Clarke are presently Houston bound for a conference. Great timing guys. We're glad you are spending our money wisely.

Finally, I certainly tip my hat to the **Beavers** and **Black Bears** for their outstanding efforts of late. Much good luck is extended to the **Bloomers, Devils, Reds,** and **Rebels** in their quests for an AUAA title.

Have a safe break wherever you may be.