an alternative for council?

Probably the most criticized minority group on the UNB campus at any given time is the SRC. The trouble is this oppressed minority deserves what it gets so well. SRC achievement record these last few years has been anything but creditable and the present council seems to be trying very hard to match previous non records. This council has before it one of the greatest chances to accomplish something for the general good of all students of any previous student council. The issue is Student Senate representation and the bungle is the SRC.

To be fair some are trying but barely a quorum are showing for the emergency meetings which leaves a lot to be desired. The regular Sunday meeting was stopped by the loss of quorum and the emergency meeting at times bordered on the hilarious, if it wasn't such a big issue demanding united competence. When motions are brought up there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians to keep the amount of hassle down to a serious minimum.

It took several hours to pass a motion to set up a committee to set the guidelines for another committee. The length of the meeting several times threatened the much needed quorum and pointed out the irresponsibility of the absent members who deemed the meeting not important enough to attend.

We would like to remind Council that members who miss two meetings in a row are liable to be kicked off council, at the discretion of council by the terms of the constitution. If the disinterested don't show then council should kiss them good bye.

Needless to say the meeting wasn't exactly run in a competent style as it went through three chairmen and at times provoked many comments about Mickey Mouse meetings, with no one taking anything too seriously.

A political rule of thumb maintains that people receive the type of government they deserve, but no one deserves the kind of government this most important issue is receiving. Council had better take themselves more seriously than they are at present, or the drive to replace council with an alternative will soon become an accepted fact.

it was nice . . .

Eight short months ago the new SUB opened with all its modern facilities designed to give the student a place to relax in plush surroundings. Immediately a slow decay set in as students stole and destroyed the plush chairs and carpets. At that time it seemed to be a hopeless case save for the fact that it couldn't possible get any worse.

Well it's worse right now and there doesn't seem to be any end in sight, save the gradual tightening of rules which everyone including the SUB management does not want to see happen. No one likes restrictive rules but then it seems adult college students seem to need to be protected from themselves.

It was nice . . . . . .

BRUNSWICKAN

One hundred and third year of publication, Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication. A member of Canadian University Press, The Brunswicken is published weekly at the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick. Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Student Representative Council or the administration of the university. The Brunswickan office is located in the Student Union Building, College Hill, Fredericton, N.B. Printed at Bugle Publishing Company Ltd., Woodstock, N.B. Subscription, $3. a year.

Editor in Chief ..... Ian Ferguson
Associate Editor ..... Dave Jonah
News Editor ..... Bruce Lantz
Sports Editor ..... Bob Hess
Photo Editor ..... Dave McNeil
Features Editor ..... John Blaikie
Business Manager ..... Stephen MacFarlane
Advertising Manager ..... Gary Buchanan
News: Don Bailey, Janet Poth, Elaine Patton, Marcia Campbell, Dianne Boyce, Alan Annand, Mike MacMillan, Audrey Hutchison, John Traina, Bob Brawley, Liz Smith, Rick McDaniel, Bonnie Pineo, Monica Morrison, Dave Park.
Sports: Mike MacMillan, Bob Hess
Features: Brian Magnesson, Larry Lamont, Brian Steeves, Joy Peterson, John Traina, Roger Fountain, Don Bailey.
Photos: Elaine Patton, Roger Fountain, J.P. Murphy, Robert Leblanc.
Layouts: Janet Poth, Barney
Typing: John Traina, Elaine Patton
Advertising: Gary Buchanan, Terrance Terris.



feedback

HIS WHITE BRIEFS AREN'T STANFIELDS.

I read with interest your editorial on the first issue of the University Gazette.

As you noted, Acting President Dineen, and, I might add, the Board of Governors, are to be credited in their concurrence of opinion that a serious need exists to improve the channel of communication among all members of the University community – students, alumni, faculty and administrative officers.

The publication of the Gazette, albeit on a monthly basis only at present, is an attempt to inform the community of decisions made by the several academic and non-academic governing bodies of the University.

To say that the Gazette "... by its very existence (is) an official mouthpiece for administration policies" implies that the administration intends, within the Gazette, to promote a particular point of view, and, conversely, to "play down" anything with which it disagrees. This is not true. The Gazette will not express an editorial opinion of any kind. It will simply report with accuracy and speed decisions which would not be known for some time, and then, possibly, be reported inaccurately.

In short, the administration believes the academic community wants to know as soon as possible of those decisions affecting its welfare.

You also noted in your editorial that the Gazette "... is hardly and original idea, since many colleges have been printing such a publication for some time." The information office receives sundry publications, newsletters and campus bulletins from some 60 universities and colleges in Canada. Of them no university in the Atlantic Provinces publishes such a Gazette. Memorial University in Newfoundland publishes a bulletin of news which it chooses to call a Gazette. Queen's University does publish a Gazette as well as a news bulletin, as does UNB. Larger Canadian Universities, such as McGill and Toronto do publish the type of official policy news that one normally associates with the term "Gazette".

I might also add that any publication prepared by the Information Office is not designed to compete with student publications. It is designed to complement them – to narrow, if you will, that communication gap which we hear about so often.

Alan Pacey
Information Officer and
Editor of the Gazette

SEEMS IMPROPER

TO LAYMAN; AND

TO EVERYONE ELSE.

I have just returned after sitting in on the Tuesday night session of the UNB SRC. I cannot help but feel that some of the impressions that I received from this meeting may be of some value to those who were not there. (This must be a considerable number, as there were only a couple of dozen people in attendance – 2/3 of whom were spectators.

The predominant note of this meeting and all other SRC meetings that I have attended was one of disorganized confusion; not meaning to place the blame on any one person but on the general situation, to which all contributed. There was an attempt made to follow the proper rules of debate, but these were immediately discarded at crucial moments. Thus the confusion. Not only were spectators unable to comprehend what was happening, but no one on the Council evidenced any great deal of understanding of what they were supposed to be doing either. This, to a layman, seems improper for a body invested with total responsibility for student affairs and student funds.

The debate, not because of its inherent nature but because of the Council's incompetence, continually got separated from the topic at hand. Eventually one of the more observant participants would notice this and the discussion would cease its circular path and begin again from the beginning. This, at best, could only be called incompetent disorganization.

Being fully aware that the SRC has received the brunt of much criticism in past years (both warranted and unwarranted) I hesitate before delivering more, but if enough people were to criticize then something might possibly be done to rectify the situation. During the past year the SRC has done little for the student body, except to keep the machine running (which a cheap computer would do better, faster and less expensively). Granted their intentions have always been good (at least I presume this to be the case) but such intentions do not always produce good results – as has been evidenced by the failures and insufficiencies of the Council.

No logical, intelligent being will knowingly continue action which is fruitless and/or harmful. Assuming that the SRC (as a collective body) has managed to retain these attributes, then the proper action for them to take would be that of dissolving the Student Representative Council of UNB and implementing an alternative that would be more efficient and effective.

Humbly yours,
Bruce M. Lantz