Survey complaint improperly laid before senate

Maybe the University of New Brunswick would be a far better place at which to work if it weren't for all these damned students.

This week our senate coverage includes a story on the handling of a complaint made by physics professor Charles Young about last year's course opinion survey.

The Brunswickan condemns not the criticism, by any means, but the method by which it was made. Chemistry professor Israel Unger read Young's letter to Senate rather than taking the normal route of presenting it to the survey committee.

No copy of the letter, furthermore, was sent to the student who heads the committee Mike Mepham.

Mepham was thus put in a position where he had to defend and reply to the letter in senate. This was embarassing to students and appeared to reflect a lack of respect by some faculty for students and the attempts they make to guide future students to successful, stimulating studies in higher education.

Dean of students Barry Thompson angrily voiced in senate his opposition to "laying it (the complaint) open to senate in this fashion."

This incident in the senate reflects in the eyes of many the stubborn opposition which some faculty demonstrated against the project before it had been given a chance to prove itself. It would appear that the only way for students to communicate to each other their opinions of all the courses offered by UNB to more than 10 persons would be through an independent, Students Representative Council - sponsored survey. The Brunswickan has concluded council should consider the value of such an effort and, if it is considered necessary, implement such a survey.

Are firearms necessary?

A meeting of the Canadian Association of Security Directors held here this summer discussed the possibility of giving UNB security guards peace officer status.

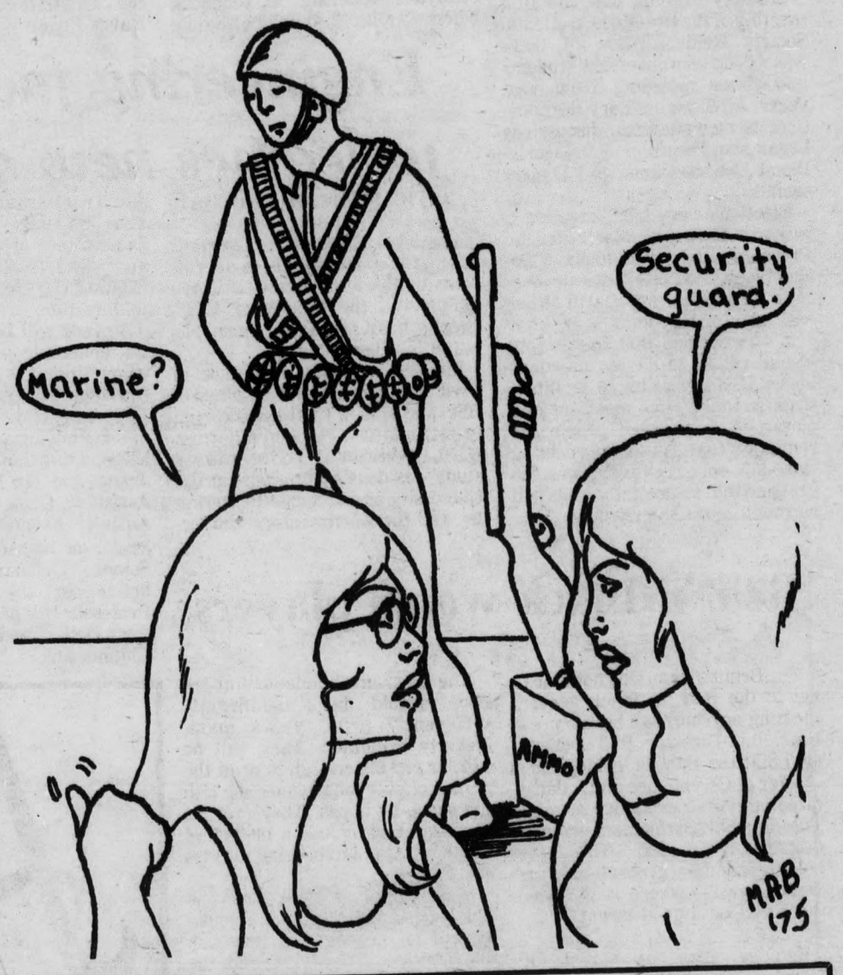
Peace officer status includes the powers of arrest and, more importantly, the right to carry firearms.

THE BRUNSWICKAN feels that any move giving security guards the right to carry firearms is totally unnecessary on this campus.

Issuing firearms to security officers whose main duties are enforcing parking regulations is a needless expense and an unnecessary danger.

In theory, persons who carry weapons during the course of their duties are, and must be, prepared to use such weapons. We know of no cases where the use of firearms would have been needed on this campus.

Obviously, giving the officers peace officer status will not mean each will be immediately armed. However, we feel that even giving the force the right to carry weapons, even if such a perogative was never exercised, would set a dangerous precedent.



Election call

University of New Brunswick Student Representative Council president Warren McKenzie yesterday names Oct. 15 as the date of UNB fall student referendum election.

Since there was insufficient attendance at an emergency SRC meeting to form a quorum, the president made an executive decision in the absence of comptroller Wenceslaus Batanyita.

The Brunswickan urges all students to consider carefully the candidates and issues in this election and exercise their franchise.

THE BRUNSWICKAN

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