

Former student recalls...

THE STRAX FIASCO

A former student recalls. You probably are not familiar with one of the longest student occupations in the history of North American student protest movements.

Norman Strax, in 1968, a nuclear physicist, Harvard educated, who was finally barred by court-order from this campus for his role in a 2½ month occupation of his office with a handful of student revolutionaries.

A former Brunswickan reporter, who was 'on-the-scene' more than seven years ago says Professor Strax was the type of person "educated to be brilliant". He was brilliant. Son of a neurosurgeon, bred in New Jersey, educated Ivy League, he looked at one time that archetypical "black suit and tie,

purposeful, research scientist."

He found a social conscious according to our observer. As one member of the eastern-liberal intelligentsia he supported his social convictions by joining in peaceful civil rights marches. While marching at the historic anti-war Pentagon demonstration he was clubbed on the head by a peace officer. "This, probably more than anything", says our source, helped to radicalize his personal convictions. Later he engaged in "trashing", (then meaning dragging garbage cans into the streets and igniting them) which he later related to our observer of the day. This took place in Chicago during the 1968 democratic convention. He was

affiliated with the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Although an abstainer all his life he was arrested for "drunken and disorderly behaviour", and he went to jail with hundreds of other young radicals. He was then in his thirties. Nixon was elected that year.

He came back to UNB brimming with tales of tear gas in the park and the arrogance of Mayor Daly's finest. That Fall, 1968, he instigated the infamous "Fuck the ID cards!" leaflette as a political statement for his tiny SDS organization at UNB. The administration was outraged and overreacted by dismissing Norman and banning his presence on campus. Thus started the longest student occupation in the history of North American student politics.

A few students, members of SDS, free thinkers, and some

curious local youth occupied Norman's office for about two and a half months. During this time the office was attacked no less than three times by drunk and rowdy jocks who pelted the window with rotten eggs, stones, beer bottles,

and one three inch ball bearing. A ladder was set up to the window and a bleary-eyed lad began climbing up brandishing a geologists pick. He was most enraged when cold water was sprayed in his face causing him to fall off. The ladder was pulled up by the occupiers and used as an other part of the barricade at the door. At one point a high pressure water connection ruptured awaking the sleeping bodies on the floor of the office. Though the demonstrators worked valiantly through the early morning they were blamed (though not legally) for the loss of some research records from the water leaking through the floor and some

experimental fish, due to loss of water pressure.

One day Norman walked on campus for a cup of coffee, then left. He was arrested and charged for disobeying a court injunction banning him from campus. At his trial he insisted on representing himself in the futile attempt to make a political scenario of the trial. One might suppose that it took him a while to realize that his well-meant attempts to change the status quo were little appreciated by a conservative New Brunswick populace.

When last heard of through rumor, he had a close lady friend and was loosening up a little. Surely we all wish him luck in the maturation of his social and political ideals. Certainly he will be remembered by the few who befriended him and developed a modicum of political and social awareness from the contact.

Student elections:

Three run for pres

Two important issues are to be decided by referendum in the February 2 SRC spring election this term.

Students will be asked to decide whether to give the restructured Atlantic Federation of Students a one dollar per capita fee. The fee will be used to strengthen the organization. The SRC is also requesting a substantial increase in student union dues per student of \$10.00.

Nominations are still open for two positions until January 26. The positions are one education representative (full-term) and one half-term Arts representative.

The popularity of running for student office on this campus is to say the least, dubious. With even a cursory glance of the current statistics, eight positions have been filled via acclamation and only four are being contested by at least two candidates.

Eight positions have already been filled for the Feb. 2 vote through acclamation. Positions and candidates elected are:

Law Representative - Chris Hicks, Rep-at-Large ½ term - Karl M. Jensen, Rep-at-Large - Timothy M. Flewelling, Science Representative - Andrew R. Wawer, Arts Representative - Jan Triffts, Engineering Representative - Steve Morril, Education Representative - Lynn Roy, Business Representative - Jack Triffts.

Jim Murray, Kevin Garland, and Steve Whalen are running for the position of SRC president. Comptroller is being contested by Brian Pride and Doug Stewart. Physical Education rep hopefuls are Brian McKinley and Andy Adshade. Half-term reps for Computer Science are Andrew Jones and Drew Steeves.

The graduating executive has one position contested on the SRC ballot. Valedictorian of the



Students elected to serve on the SRC are expected to participate in democratic forums, such as the one pictured above. Please note that the above picture does not represent a typical council session but rather is a graphic illustration of the UNB administrations Senate in action.

graduating class, the most prestigious position by an perspective is being vied for by Gary Ladd, Barbara McKinnon and Brian Forbes. Three positions have been

filled by acclamation. Positions and officers are: President - Michael Bowes, Vice-President - Barry Newcombe, and Secretary/Treasurer - Gina Widawski.

Nomination forms for uncontested seats may be collected from Alex Muriithi, Chief Returning Officer in the main SRC office.

Bruns' Role: Defined but Indefinite

As the cover page proclaims every week, The Brunswickan is the oldest student newspaper in Canada. The one hundred and eleventh year of publication in fact.

Readers of The Brunswickan will not doubt remember numerous articles and editorial comments in the first part of the year referring to a chronic shortage of staff.

At this point in time, it is safe to say that the whole staff is questioning the reason for continuing a paper that is written, edited and produced in reality by ten students and 5 part-time students or non-students.

As it stands now, the paper is produced on Wednesday night,

(all night) by this group of people. It is important to note that about half of the aforementioned number are elected or appointed staff executive who receive nominal honoraria.

What is The Brunswickan? What role should it have on campus and what of its future? Putting this question to several staff members and to a couple of passers-by, the answers reveal a rather interesting trend, depending on whether or not the respondent works at the Brunswickan.

From the outside, the Brunswickan is perhaps a continual source of irritation. The president of this university at a time in the past, has gone so far as to get the Dean of Students to ask the editor not to print a particularly sensitive item which would have

made the university look foolish.

The student council has always existed in a certain amount of terror of The Brunswickan, because they are often foolish.

By J.D. MILLER

The best answer to the role of The Brunswickan question as far as the average student is concerned is as Jim Murray said (to The Brunswickan) "the Brunswickan keeps the students informed. It is an integral part of university life. The first thing you do on Friday morning is find a Brunswickan and read it through." Certainly The Brunswickan is an integral part of university life. But it is being produced by 0.4 percent of the student body.

Most of the senior staff feel that The Brunswickan is an information disseminating and opinion generating organisation. Tom Best (Sports Editor, Phys. Ed.

3, Bruns 3) felt that the function of The Brunswickan is to "bring to peoples' attention the issues facing them that they are not being told, to keep the administration honest and the SRC on their toes, to attempt to initiate changes in things that should be changed, and to provide some cultural enrichment through the publication of poetry and short stories."

Ed Werthmann (Editor-in-Chief, Ed. 2, Bruns 2) feels that The Brunswickan should serve "as an unbiased news organ which

should report events to the students because it is their paper."

Sheenagh Murphy (Features Editor, Arts 2, Bruns 1) feels that The Brunswickan should "inform people about events especially with respect to the administration and the SRC," and to "take stands on issues which affect students, even if they don't want to know about them."

The most unusual answer, but one which, in the final analysis may be the true role of The Brunswickan came from Judy Orr (Advertising Manager, part-time, Bruns 3) Judy feels that The Brunswickan is an "organisation for people to meet people and learn about the newspaper business."