

Honours bestowed a dime a dozen

A glance at a campus map will reveal that most of the prominent buildings have been named to honour men and women who have contributed in a significant way to the growth and development of this university.

Some of the buildings are named after people who had the will and foresight to establish this institution. Examples of these are Carleton Hall, named after Governor Thomas Carleton, who helped to initiate the order-in-council to establish King's College, the Neville Homestead, presently the office of Public Relations and Development reminds us that part of the campus stands on former Neville family land.

More recently, buildings have been named after genuine benefactors of this university both through service and donation. The chemistry building, F.J. Toole Hall, honours a man who established traditions of academic excellence and fostered the development of the graduate program. Former Chancellor, Lord Beaverbrook has generously donated to many structures on campus, and it is fitting that his name, and that of his wife, should be honoured.

Most recently, the Aitken University Centre stands due to the generosity of Sir Max Aitken, the present Chancellor. McLeod House serves to honour many years of service by Dr. Edith McLeod.

With a history of proud tradition and thought in the granting of honours, the University of New Brunswick should apply the highest possible standards when it sees fit to bestow and honour. In each and every case, all members of the university community, faculty, students, and staff should feel proud of each and every honour granted. Such is the worth of a University of New Brunswick accolade.

For some reason, the present management of UNB thinks that it can go around granting honorary degrees and constructing monuments to anyone. In the past several years, University of New



Brunswick doctorates have been granted to such lackluster individuals as the Hon. Joe Clark and popular singer Anne Murray. Regardless of the individual merits of such people, the placing of such nouveaux on the UNB honour roll is nothing less than unseemly. Are these, and others of their ilk on some list in the president's office, to be compared with Lord Beaverbrook, Edith McLeod, John F. Kennedy and others of similar stature?

There seems to be no limit to the gall of this administration. Returning students have been

confronted by an ill-conceived and, frankly, ugly pile of bricks below the SUB. This Edifice has already earned the names 'Barbeque Pit' and 'Pitt Stop' for obvious reasons.

Regardless of the merit of honouring a former UNB president, indeed perhaps a great UNB president, such an honour should have been bestowed in a considered manner at an appropriate time in the future. Regardless of who sanctioned this monument, and regardless of who actually paid for it, the Colin Mackay pile of bricks is

embarrassing and even demeaning. The expense of this tedious pile would have been better spared or used in a more productive manner.

On the larger issue, it is time to remind someone that such honours are to be awarded to people who have truly served UNB or humanity. Not to people who might be able to bestow political favours or possibly give money. Although very trendy, it is not cool, Dr. John. Further, when an honour is deserving let us at least be tasteful.