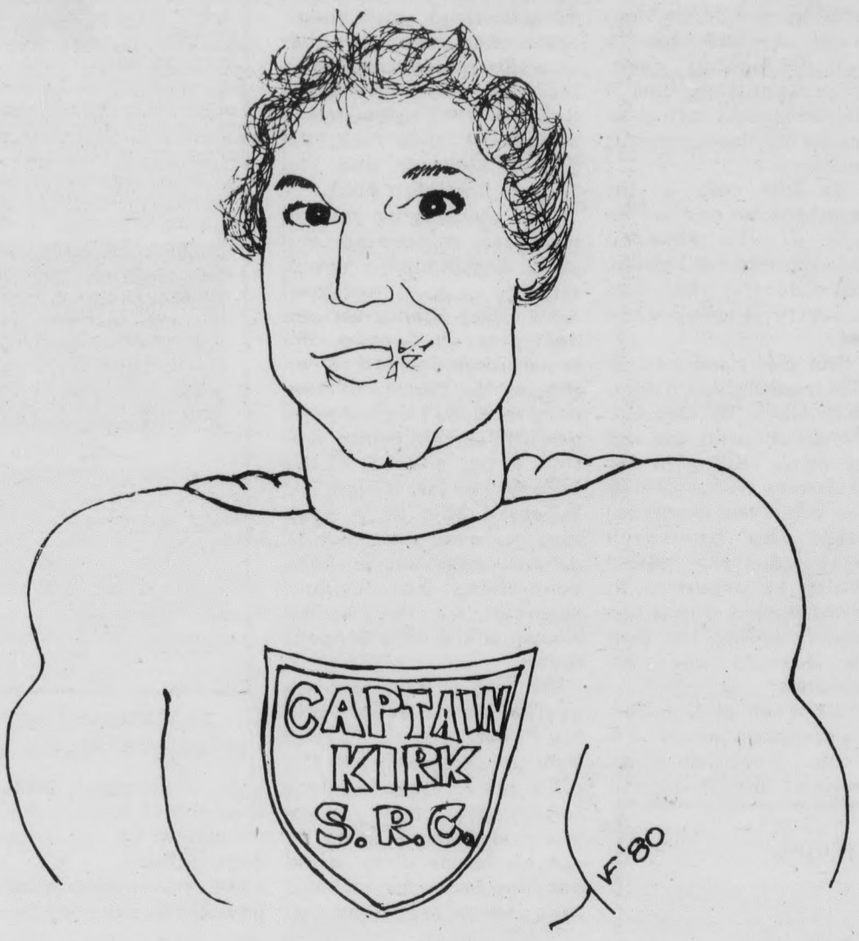
The Thorbourne Presidency

- A Good Beginning



Last November UNB students gave Perry Thorbourne his chance to be President of the Student Union. During the election campaign he portrayed himself as the person with the leadership qualities and the experience to do the job. He was a given a strong mandate to ensure that student concerns were heard, and that student affairs would be administed properly.

Two months into his term as President UNB students should not be disappointed with his leadership. During his brief term of office he has shown himself to be clearly the person in charge of the UNB student union. He has shown real leadership within the executive of the union and has not been shy in expressing disappointment on several occasions.

Several times he has blasted the members of the student representative council for their inaction. He has not been scared to tell it like it really is! For too long council has been lifeless a good deal of the time. Thorbourne has tried to get action out of council and for this he is to be commended.

Several times over the last couple of months he has had encounters with members of the press. As a group we feel he has always been approachable and willing to listen to our concerns. We can ask for nothing more.

Thorbourne has and continues to, work hard for students and always seems to be aware of what is really happening on campus. Three or four minutes conversation with the man will give one the immediate impression that he is aware, alert and has done his homework. Thorbourne has been a member of the Presidential search committee for the last several months. We hope he has chosen wisely and that as students we can support his choice.

If the beginning of the Thorbourne presidency has been impressive much remains to be accomplished. Several problems inthe operation of the student union need immediate attention.

Over the last couple of months administrative problems have been in evidence. Our student radio station has lost several credit references because bills have not been paid on time.

Organizations wishing to conduct business through the SRC are often left in despair due to closed office hours during normal business hours of the day.

Why is the student union business office closed during March break? Why do student union employees receive higher wage increases each year than the university community? Why are office employees paid nearly seven weeks paid vacation per year? Why have SRC Business hours been shortened? Why are administrative responsibilities lessened yet the same burearcracy continues to perpetuate itself? These questions remain unanswered. But we would suggest a solution. We feel strongly that an immediate study of the situation is warranted. Mr. President we ask that the strong leadership you have shown in your first few months of office be in evidence again. You need to take action quickly.

Mr. Thorbourne, we ask that you take a stand on the controversial proposed take over of the student union building. We as students want to know where you stand. Do you support the financial takeover of the student union building by the University of New Brunswick? Do you support the Goldberg report on the coordination of student activities? In fact do you support a student fee increase to achieve the aim of increased student activities coordination on this campus?

As students of UNB we want to know where you stand!

Mr. President we want to know where you stand on tuition and residence fee increases. Rumors continue to circulate that residence fees will rise some $200 next year for both single and double residence rooms. Several sources indicate that tuition fees may rise a minimum of $50 next year. What has the student to say about this? The problem of student aid is also important. We, as UNB students want you to express our concerns as quickly as possible.

Mr. Thorbourne has made an impressive beginning. All we can ask is that he take a look at some of the problems, study the alternatives and exercise real leadership by offering solutions to some of the most pressing problems faced by students and the student unionin the months ahead.