

sound off continued

Kissick speaks out on dismissal

THE BRUNSWICKAN-11

Dear Sir:

Since I was summarily dismissed from my position as International Student Advisor by the President of the University and, following upon a series of recent statements in the student Brunswickan, I have decided that I should bring my situation to the attention of the University Board of Governors. My dismissal, the procedures for which I believe were unfair, if not arbitrary, has left me without a job and an income, has damaged my reputation and credibility in the community, and has severely affected my personal health and well being.

As you may be aware, in the spring of 1982, certain representations were made to the Dean of Students by a group of International students. The issue was brought to my attention as a matter of immigration procedures. However, I was subsequently informed that a full assessment of the role and function of the Office of International Student Advisor was to be conducted. I personally supported such an assessment and was agreeable to have Dean D. MacIver conduct the assessment; however, some students were allowed to approve the addition of Professor R. Ploude to what was to eventually become a committee. I was neither consulted with respect to Professor Ploude, nor asked to suggest any additional members to the commit-

tee. The report was presented to me on one occasion only, and that for a matter of

minutes in the President's office. I was given, at no time, any opportunity to respond to the report, nor to have an independent study made of same.

As you may know, following upon and I presume as a result of that report, certain statements have appeared in the student and local media which have never been contradicted by myself, by the persons making them, or by the appropriate University officials. These statements, standing alone, contain what I consider to be false and misleading information, yet I can only assume from the course of events that they precipitated my dismissal.

Immediately subsequent to this time period, I was absent from the campus, September 17 - October 2, 1982 attending an International Conference in Seoul, Korea. On my return, I was called to the President's office and handed a letter which informed me of immediate dismissal. I was informed there was to be no opportunity for appeal or discussion. When I pointed out a few administrative problems in the office, the President agreed verbally that my dismissal would be effective November 1, 1982, and indeed, I worked until that date. (I have now been informed that I was

dismissed as at October 5, 1982, although as stated, I continued on the request of the President to fulfill my job responsibilities.) Despite the fact that my discussion with the President on October 5, 1982 was considered confidential, it appears the Brunswickan had access to some or all of the information of that meeting as the editorial of October 8, 1982 mentions the November 1st date. Similarly, Mr. John Bosnitch made some references to documents and facts in a later issue of the Brunswickan. None of this information came from me.

As many of you may not be fully aware of my job responsibilities over my six year tenure, I wish to point out the following. Over my term at this position, I became aware of the need for other professional advice and requested an advisory committee for the office. For the past few years, Dean Barry Thompson, Father Monty Peters, Dr. Robert Tingley, Mr. Peter Ringrose, Mr. R. Craft, and Professor Paul Morrissey as well as the SRC President or Representative have served on this committee. In addition, I have referred students to Counselling Services, Student Health Centre, Legal Information Services, Accommodations Officer, Dean of Men's and Women's Residences and for academic matters, to the Dean of Students or Faculty Advisors. As the International

Student Advisor is responsible to the Dean of Students, the Dean was kept informed of all developments in the office. At no time during the six years that I held tenure in this position was I made aware that my performance was inadequate, that I had lost the support of any significant number of students, or that I had acted in conflict with any University policy or regulation. Indeed, at no time prior to my dismissal was I reprimanded in any manner with respect to my job responsibilities.

The above is not to suggest that I have never at any time incurred problems with students or with the Contract Agreements and other matters and procedures relevant thereto. There are many students attending the University of New Brunswick on scholarships from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the auspices of the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) or home countries. All Scholarships are contract agreements, and students are aware of the terms and conditions before leaving home. The International Student Advisor is the co-ordinator between the scholarship agency in Canada and the student. Understandably, students want to change conditions and agreements. However, some contracts leave no room for compromise or change and others have established guideline for a co-ordinator's decision making, all of which are subject to the approval of the awarding agency. As you can well understand, the administration of this sort of contract can lead to negative reactions on the part of some students.

There have also been problems with Canadian Government Immigration regulations. All International students need student visas to study in Canada and they are aware of the terms and conditions for the extensions of same, before leaving the home country. Procedures for carrying out Immigration policy for UNB were determined by the manager of the Fredericton Immigration Office and the Registrar of UNB. The International Student

Advisor was designated the person responsible for carrying out the procedures. All of these arrangements are documented. Immigration regulations have been the source of a number of student complaints both at UNB and on other Canadian University campuses.

What has not been made public at any time is harassment, intimidation and, indeed, the assault of myself and other University personnel by a small but vocal number of students at the University. As well, during the summer of 1982, a set of office keys were taken from my secretary's desk. The Dean of Students and security personnel are fully aware of these problems; however, I have never made public issue of these problems because I have always undertaken to conduct myself with the principal interest of the University in mind. As a result of my termination at this time, however, I now feel compelled to make these issues public.

I believe it is very clear that the President did not take these considerations into mind in reaching a decision which terminated my appointment. I would request that the Board of Governors undertake a full and open inquiry of this matter, that indeed, it has that responsibility to myself and to others in the University community.

Since the University to this juncture has made no attempt to correct misleading information, nor given me the opportunity for an open hearing of the issues, nor even advised me of my purported failings, I have engaged legal counsel and may have no alternative but to release the contents of this letter to the media. As well, I have instructed my Counsel to commence legal action for a wrongful dismissal against the University. Unless and until the Board exercises its jurisdiction to properly investigate this matter, I feel that these are the only avenues for redress open to me. I sincerely hope that the Board will prove me wrong.

Yours Sincerely,
Doreen Kissick

Responses are diverting

Against the common advice that it is best not to answer one's critics in print (re Mr. Barry Parkinson and Mr. Bruce Dickson, in letters of the October 29 Brunswickan Sound-Off section) I shall proceed to do just that. With regard to Mr. Dickson (UNB Christian Fellowship President, he reveals) little remains to be said. The sincerely deluded are fair game, but there is no profit in re-stating our utterly divergent views - his kind of belief lives among fears and shadows and thereupon the lance of reason is blunt.

Mr. Parkinson (a welcome persistent voice of opposition objects to the manner in which I express myself: he does not delineate specifically where this aversion is directed, hence can only be to note that his own expository style has all the charm, wit and Mr. Parkinson's responses to be diverting, though insubstantial, at best. He

misinterprets the idea of "Man-alive" and thus is unable to understand those qualities of which such a being is composed. That I stress the necessity of elitism is not a call for a class society, but indicative of an attitude toward personal excellence, a search for the arete within one's self.

Further, Mr. Parkinson writes "I do not understand... why religion is so bad" - well, pay attention. In simple terms, religions are beliefs created out of a fear of individual responsibility. It is not the having of beliefs in general that I question rather it is the pragmatic quality of individual values that need examination: in other phrasing, a continuous asking of "what does this particular belief free me to do?" Religions limit, distort, enslave and deny - they are not agents of liberty, and therein is their (for example) clear away the dross of useless values, allowing nurturance of the "I" to

proceed with clarity and positive direction. Mr. Parkinson indulgently defines me as "a fundamentalist" and earlier in his letter implies that I assume "the role of universal judge" however, I later accuses me of considering all beliefs "useless" - where is the consistency here? Am I rigorous fundamentalist or an anarchist? Neither, as my above brief comments on values should attest.

Concerning the alleged discrepancy between an agnostic (me) and the voicing of opinion concerning an "absolute death", I admit to being as bewildered as Mr. Parkinson since the addition of "absolute" was a typographical error and inconsistent with the nature of my thought.

Last and certainly least, I was admonished by Mr. Parkinson to "keep in mind that the Tao is the 'spirit of the Tao' on Tao, but I wish to dispel."

Gregory Betts

Personal attacks

Dear Editor,
I am very disgusted by the contents of the November 26th, 1982 issue of the Brunswickan. The Brunswickan is being turned into an all out vent of the SRC who I, along with many others, voted into

office. Start covering the real news and keep personal attacks out of the Student newspaper.

S.J. Kilburn

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