

Flashback - unrest on campus

BY CAMPBELL MORRISON
Brunswickan Staff

Once again let us return through history, this time to December of 1968; there to find what was on the minds of UNB students before they began their Christmas exams. They were discussing two problems, one issue, and a concept. All, of course, deserved eye-brow-gnashing contemplation.

Firstly, there was the controversy that Fredericton Police were used to end the occupation of "Liberation 130" and not Campus Police. The Police entered the office of evicted Professor Strax and arrested six students. The SRC was outraged. They thought that the students should have been busted by Campus Police. When they demanded to know why the university administration used Fredericton Police they received two answers: one

was that CP's weren't trained to handle such matters, and the other was that the

use of CP's had to be approved by the SRC and they would have taken too long

in debating the issue. The first reason was weak; the busting of Liberation 130 and arresting six students wasn't in the same league

as the Democratic Party convention in Chicago of 1968; I don't think the

Fredericton Police gave the operation a code name. The second, however, was

perfectly legitimate. The SRC would have taken too long to debate the issue. In

fact, they were lucky they weren't asked because that would have placed them in

a no-win situation: either shirk their responsibilities or bust some students.

Another problem which was on everybody's minds concerned their new Student Union Building. They wanted a new name for it.

Well, I guess the SRC does take too long to debate issues.

The real issue of the day was that Norman Strax was going to spend Christmas in the York County Jail. Strax

was in Jail because of an extended series of events leading to his 30 day sentence for trespassing on UNB. All he was really guilty of was speaking his mind over the introduction of I.D. cards. For this crime the paranoid university ad-

ministration suspended him, and then made him spend Christmas in jail. I would be willing to wager

money, however, that Dr. Norman Strax spent the most relaxing Christmas

vacation of his life during that December of 1968.

There was a column called "Up Against the Wall" in that final issue of the

Brunswickan of the first term in which the author discussed the concept of the decade: that being the freedom to say, think, and

do what one pleased. To back his argument he compared 1968 with the fifties which he portrayed using a

Jack Newfield quote, "A time capsule representative of the generation reaching adulthood during the 1950's would have consisted of a

subpoena, a blacklist, a television tube, a gray flannel suit, a copy of Time magazine with a picture of Herman Wouk on the cover,

a Lawrence Welk album, and 'I like Ike' button, and a blank sheet of paper." The author went on to say that the movements at the

universities were on the road to ending conformity and political oppression epitomized by McCarthyism. For the seventies and eighties Jack Newfield's quote is amazingly accurate. But what happened to the ideas in "Up Against the Wall"? If all it took to snuff them out was the end of the Vietnam war, four deaths in Ohio, and the facing of an unpleasant economic reality, then those ideas were cosmetic. Real political action needs a solid ideologic base and courage to apply those ideas: one or both of which were missing. The sixties was a failed generation.

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