



"Dennis the Menace"

illustration: John Mowat

The SUB according to the Brunswickan

The Board of Trustees of the Student Union Building, appointed by President Downey on September 28, reports it is making "good progress." The Board has met five times since its appointment, and Chairman John Webster states, "We are making headway in stabilizing the daily business of the SUB." Thus bureaucracy marches on. However, it marches unimpeded by public access to its meetings and the minutes of its meetings, or by student representatives with a mandate from voters.

The Board has been meeting behind closed doors for one month now. Students, whether from the campus media or not, have been barred from the meeting room, SUB 103. The only way to observe meetings is from behind windows that look into the corridor. Minutes from the meetings are not released. Students have no way of knowing what is going on. Currently, information on the Board's dealings are available through press releases from the UNB Department of Public Relations.

Why is there such secrecy? The *Brunswickan's* News Editor, Calum Johnston, attempted to enter the first meeting and was turned away at the door. He was told by a Board member that they were simply discussing "odds and ends" and thus there was no need to open the meeting to the public. While Johnston was at the door, the remaining Board members were talking. He heard one member respond to a question, "I'd rather not discuss anything while the reporter is still here." The *Brunswickan* deplores a situation of such mystery. We want students to know what is happening in their building.

Perhaps the chairman is afraid of meetings becoming bogged down with shouting matches and disruptive comments from the audience if meetings were open. May we remind Mr. Webster, as chairman, he can impose speaking orders and speaking time limits?

As well as minutes, the policy of the Board of Trustees is not available to students. Our press release states the Board's objectives, but we would like to see an official policy.

What is also alarming is the lack of communication that appears to have occurred somewhere down the line. Several people were hired for SUB staff this summer. Then-Director Mark Slipp thought he had authority to hire staff. The new Director, Kim Norris is under the impression that anyone hired by Slipp and the old SUB Board were not properly hired, so many of them did not retain their jobs last week when the staff was finalized. What really is the policy; who really has (or had) hiring power? For more on this story, see our news article this issue. The *Brunswickan* is discouraged by what appears to be rash releasing and firings in SUB staff.

The SUB itself, that great, grand bone of contention, should be back in the hands of students. We denounce the administration-appointed board that meets in secret, and call for the building to be put under the control of a student-elected Board with no administration appointees on that board. Let us have the return to democratic principles. Let students elected the managers of the only student-owned building on campus. Let us end patronage appointments, whether they are hand-picked by President Bosnitch or President Downey, and give the students of UNB and STU the right to decide.



mugwump journal

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Managing Editor

I am disgusted by the current rash of sexism and counter-sexism at UNB. Shame on the engineering students who produced a handbook containing filthy quips and anecdotes; the kind of nonsense this book contains degrades all students—the women because they are made to appear as sex objects; and the men because the level of intelligence required to produce this foulness is of a sub-ape level.

Other examples of sexism are found in cartoons and letters to the editor in the *Brunswickan*. There was a flare-up of letters last year following John Geary's sexist column about Monday Night football. It appeared for a while that the issue of sexism in the paper had died out, but then along comes Kaptain Ka-ching.

In my opinion Ka-Ching contained only a mild form of sexism which was not distasteful—as long as it did not become a recurrent theme. The issue blew up though when counter-sexists wrote complaint letters; the one last week contained anti-male sexism, and that stimulated even worse anti-female sexism this week. The problem with Kaptain Ka-ching is that the cartoonist has found an easy way to create laughs; the cartoon has lost the depth and appeal it had several years ago.

The time has come to stop printing sexist material at UNB. The occasional humour about differentiable groups within our society is not bad as long as it is balanced, witty and intelligent and does not have that sort of humour as its sole theme.

~~~~~

Tomorrow, 11:30 at King's Square in Saint John will be a provincial demonstration in favour of disarmament. This gathering, organized by the Voice of Women and the Labour Council is designed to replace many smaller demonstrations that have taken place in the past around the province, with one large march that will hopefully attract attention on a wider scale.

I would urge all students who can spare the time from their studies to go to Saint John for this event. If we ever hope to convince world leaders that the general population wants a peace unthreatened by the nuclear shadow, more and more people must actively state their views.

On the same subject, congratulations to the local group WORD (World Disarmament) on the signatures they obtained for a national petition on disarmament. Such notables as President James Downey and Mayor Elbridge Wilkins signed it.

~~~~~

I tried to obtain nomination forms this week for some of the positions being contested in the Student Union elections coming up shortly. I am not suggesting that I am running for anything, but I wanted just to see if I could get the appropriate forms. I could not.

I was first told that all the forms, including the originals had been taken by aspiring candidates. Others at the Student Union told me that forms for Senate, Board of Governors and Graduating Class had never been prepared. Regardless of who one believes, the fact remains that for days the forms were not available—they were still not available at press time.

At press time it was still not decided even when the election would be held or what seats would be contested. The originally declared deadline for nominations was today; those seeking a seat must be totally confused—I only hope some good candidates do not become so disillusioned that they decide not to run.

It is still too early to declare that this election is being badly run, but early signs do not bode well. As always, the problem boils down to an over-centralization of power in the Student Union.