

The Brunswickan

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We are an autonomous student newspaper owned and operated by Brunswick Publishing Inc., a non-profit, independent body.

We are a founding member of the Canadian University Press, and love it so. We are also members of U-Wire, a media exchange of university media throughout North America.

We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 10,000.

Letters

Must be submitted by e-mail including your name, letters with pseudonyms will not be printed. Letters must be 200 words maximum. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.

Editorial Policy

While we endeavour to provide an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered by the editorial board to be racist, sexist, libellous, or in any way discriminatory.

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No matter the outcome, STU dispute should have been avoided



MUGWUMP

by
Tony von Richter

It seems like the academic world has been filled with nothing but turmoil this year with the faculty strike at Acadia delaying classes for a few weeks, the Post-Secondary Report throwing everyone into a panic about the future of the province's universities, and now the current labour situation at St. Thomas delaying the start of classes and threatening whether or not the term will even begin at all.

Now this column isn't about which side is right, or even about the issues that are at the heart of the problem at STU. No, this is about the simple fact that this whole work stoppage has been completely unnecessary and both sides, the administration and the faculty, are to blame.

Obviously a new labour agreement is a complex document that would take a fair amount of time to work out, but it's not like the two sides are developing a plan for world peace so there's really no reason for this situation to still be ongoing.

Also, since the two sides have been locked in this situation for nearly a year why did they both decide that they couldn't work under the old agreement any longer? Why couldn't this work stoppage have waited until the summer when less students would have been affected?

If both sides had postponed this work stoppage until the end of the winter term it not only would have given the sides more time to work out a deal and hopefully avoid any interruption in

classes, but it still would have allowed for a firm deadline to be set (like the beginning of the Fall term) to provide both sides with a sense of urgency to get a deal done.

Of course, were this a normal bargaining situation it would be ridiculous to suggest that the two sides wait and utilize their big guns of a strike or lockout when they would be less effective than if they were used now, but this isn't a normal situation.

No, this isn't a normal situation, as although a normal labour dispute would affect the people directly involved and the economy at large, few disputes would result in more than 2,000 people not affiliated with either party having to put their lives on hold because of the dispute.

Unfortunately that's what is happening to the more than 2,000 students currently enrolled at STU as they are caught in the crossfire of a battle that should have never affected them.

That's what is so ridiculous about this work stoppage in that because the two sides waited until recently to participate in a series of frequent meaningful talks, something that shouldn't have had anything to do with students ends up making them the group most affected by the situation.

Hopefully, this whole thing is resolved as soon as possible, and as of press time the latest word is that the faculty has asked for a recess to hold a meeting of its members, after which negotiations will resume.

Still, even if this situation is resolved by the time the paper hits the streets on Wednesday morning the whole thing could have been avoided, or the impact at least minimized, if either side had acted in the best interests of their students.

But that didn't happen, and somehow in a fight between the administration and its faculty, it's somehow the students who come out on the losing end of it, no matter which side claims victory.

CHS-who? A letter.

Dear Editor,

Every student at UNB pays \$7.50 a year for the upkeep of CHSR, the student radio station available at 97.9 FM. I know this sounds like it's going to turn into a scathing article about why that's a waste, but that's actually not where I was going. What I was thinking is maybe there is some stuff we can do to make sure this money is a better investment.

The problem is that there is a vicious cycle in play. CHSR doesn't have enough contributors to fill up all its slots. This means, one, it has to repeat content to fill a day and, two, pretty much anyone can get a show if they want one. So why don't more people want shows? Cause nobody's listening. Why is no one listening? Cause just anyone can

get a show and even those shows have to be repeated. Now how do we end this cycle? Here are some ideas:

Place some speakers in some of the public lobbies around campus and get them to play CHSR. SUB stairwells, residence lobbies, and Head Hall lobby would all work nicely. This way, people will be exposed to the content without having to be convinced to actively tune in. It increases your listener base automatically, which in turn will increase the number/quality of people how want shows.

Another suggestion would be to make it more useful. Though some existing shows might deal with campus news, it's not like you can tune into to CHSR and expect a news update. Maybe you should be able to. Pull a

CBC and stick quick campus news updates on ever hour between shows. That way it will be useful to tune in for the news and you may even stay for the show that follows.

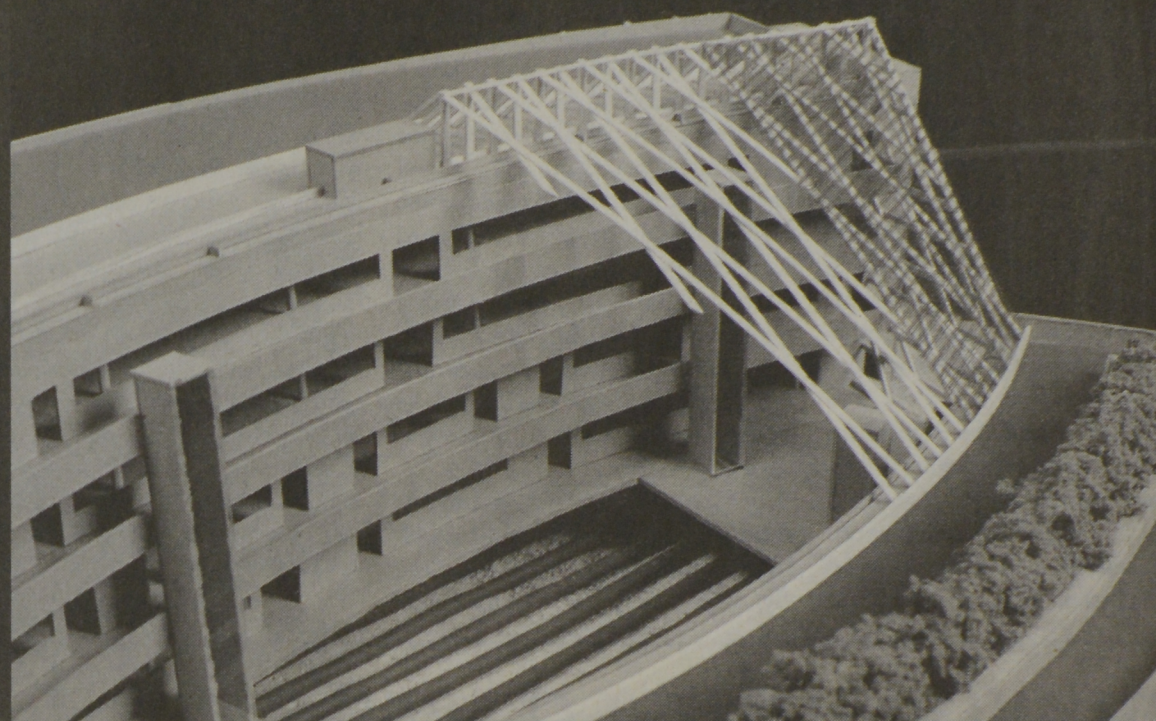
CHSR is a great and wonderful thing in theory and in potential. It might even be a wonderful thing in practice, but no one would know because no one is listening. Let's fix that and see if we can create electromagnetic waves of glory.

Sincerely,

CM. Campbell

GRANT WANZEL, Architect
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