

Although Cariboo College Principal, Jack Harrison, has maintained a low profile over the past few years, it hasn't kept him out of trouble. Faculty disenchantment with Administrators tends to be common in many community colleges and educational facilities, but the overwhelming vote of non-confidence expressed this week in Harrison, simply can't be dismissed as an annual academic eccentricity.

When Cariboo College was in the process of becoming fact, Harrison was charged with the responsibility of putting it all together. It began in 1969 in an office on Victoria Street with night classes established in various parts of the community. By the time the fine facility on McGill Road was finally operational in 1970, Harrison was already Principal, appointed by the first College Council in 1969. During the formative years, people believed Harrison was the man capable to put it all together. He had, after all, graduated from the position of Director of Adult Education in School District 24; as a builder, he did a commendable job. The College, however, has since grown rapidly. The argument the Faculty uses is that the College's growth has outstripped Harrison, sort of the "Peter principle" in its fullest sense. The symptoms which are easiest to document are these: Money earmarked for educational purposes, used instead to offset the costs of administrative functions. In past years, the College calendars, designed to allow students a chance to study the curriculum and choose their courses in advance, have been published only a few days before the opening of semesters. The Faculty, in past years, has been demanding a Vice-Principal in charge of education. The College accepted that premise and granted the position to an instructor already employed at Cariboo. The choice was not an acceptable one to the Faculty in general.

From an outsider's point of view, the public relations of Cariboo College is abominable. The local media remains an untapped resource for dissemination of information from the College. Aside from the political element, participation at the media level by the College is restricted to a few press releases, or at times, an enthusiastic instructor not yet discouraged. The Faculty has, according to one instructor, time and again made recommendations to improve the educational offering of the College, only to have their initiative rejected and ultimately blunted.

Harrison knew of the non-confidence vote before he left for his U.S. vacation and perhaps it's an indication of how serious he takes it that he went anyway. The mutinous attitude of the Faculty may be justified. The shame of it all is, however, that administrative indifference, coupled with poor morale, will ultimately have its effect on the quality of education.

Harrison is paid \$48,000 a year out of the public's purse to be responsible for it all - Certainly the community has a right to expect a top level of education and a tolerable level of harmony with staff.