

Saturday night Wrestling at the SUB

Enough is definitely enough. The fur is flying here on campus, and the accusations and counter-accusations have been flying as well, so that the Student Union Building looks like the York Arena after a night of Atlantic Grand Prix Wrestling.

"And in this corner, weighing a trim one hundred and forty pounds, the meanest, leanest fighting machine ever to split an infinitive, the Slavic slayer, the marauding Machiavelli, John Bosnitch!" John leaves his corner, and comes out fighting. Can there be any other way?

His opponent paces in his corner. He grabs the ropes, glares at the band of Mods clustered around, heckling.

"And in this corner, weighing in at one hundred and fifty pounds, the fighting fisherman, the nefarious Newfie, the silver statesman, Dr. James Downey!"

The battle lines are drawn. The stakes? The future of the Student Union. The weapons? Dr. Downey's are a letter to Bosnitch and one to Clayton Burns, threatening suspension if they commit any more "impropriety acts." On John's side, what weapon is more formidable than the man himself? John is a stunningly good orator and the slipperiest politician since Richard Nixon, the man who commits a crime as President and not only gets a full pardon, but lives to make a fortune off telling about it.

The fight will be fascinating. Dr. Downey, a worthy orator himself, will meet John on common ground. The battle of words will be precisely waged.

Dr. Downey will not release the student fees until John Bosnitch returns the balance of the Third Century Fund money entrusted to him since April. Bosnitch promises the accounting is complete and the money is forthcoming. But why was the money first promised in July? Those multi-coloured leaves outside mean it must be an awfully cold day in July. Contrary to last week's Bruns story, the Student Union can survive for quite a while. The schedule of payment is normally this way: \$50,000 comes in October, another \$100,000 in November and the balance during the second term. So it is not as if we should have received all \$250,000 by this time. The Student Union manages its money to last into the next school year. Rest assured, the Student Union and the student clubs will continue to function as normal for a long while. However, Bosnitch and Downey must resolve this disagreement or else the money crunch will come after Christmas.

On the matter of money: most SRC-funded groups are having their budgets cut by 40%. This is due to the fact that Student Union fees haven't been raised for years. Bosnitch claims income-producing ventures like the CSL Exchange will finance operations, rather than asking more from the students at registration. A balance sheet would convince me otherwise.

This current money battle must be resolved. Right now, there is a lot of ill will between presidents, and there is going to be a long wrestle before someone throws in the towel.



mugwump journal

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
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Twice in one week, McConnell hall is being shut down for a special dinner—to the inconvenience of residence students. For the Queen's visit this was understandable, but for McCain's? I know McCain's is very important to the New Brunswick economy, and I know that they are giving extra money to the university so resident students will be fed quality food at their displaced locations, and I even know that the company has given generously to the Third Century fund; but I think a dangerous precedent is being set. How can another request to rent a dining hall now be denied—especially from a wealthy benefactor?

I have another beef about food arrangements on campus, and this is aimed at Beaver Foods: in the description of the new "cash value option," for missed meals on the back of meal cards it states nowhere that the cash value may only be claimed after 6 p.m. Many misinformed students have missed lunch, shown up in mid afternoon and been told that they could not use this new option. In several cases, the student might have dropped other business and taken the meal at the scheduled time if he or she had known how the option would be implemented. In short, Beaver's service to students is unsatisfactory and I hope a policy change will be forthcoming to allow mid-morning and mid-afternoon use of the cash value option.

Another question to Beaver: why are you worried about the CSL exchange? Reliable sources confirm that a complaint about the store was given to the university administration which subsequently demanded the store's closure. Of all the services provided by the Student Union and CSL, the store is the most widely appreciated by students. I have not seen one student who would prefer it be closed. Demonstrations and protests of unprecedented magnitude would result if the administration closed the store—regardless of who was in charge of the Student Union. Should this happen, Beaver Foods would most certainly be caught in the fray. Luckily, cool heads, for now, seem to be prevailing.

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Politics and political maneuvering seem to dominate everything that is done around the Student Union these days. To recount all the tales would require a dozen pages, but the following is my brief assessment of what is going on:

John Bosnitch, Student Union president, and James Downey, UNB President, are squared off against each other in a battle each knows he cannot win. Both men have very good intentions and neither has personal gain, as a motivator, except that each hopes to maintain or increase his prestige. Both men are good-natured and are willing to talk with students. Both men have a very large base of support (relative to the size of the organization each governs). To expand on the latter point, Bosnitch is continually making connections in the business and political world—Premier Hatfield invited him personally to the Queen's luncheon and Bosnitch's father is Mila (wife of Brian) Mulroney's Godfather. Downey's advantage in years, wide experience and position form his support-base. Both Bosnitch and Downey are supreme politicians.

The comparison ends there. Downey regards the academic achievement of all at UNB as his prime objective; students should go on to take their position as influential members of society after they graduate — so seems to be the philosophy of Downey. Bosnitch feels students, as a sector in society, should have vastly increased influence NOW. The fact that he has let his own education fall into a shambles proves that academic excellence is no longer a priority of his.

When one regards the actions of each man as a whole though, two striking differences over-ride all questions of philosophy: Downey is efficient and mature while Bosnitch is inefficient and immature.