

# Blood and Thunder

## Election a sham

Dear Sir:

Last week's article entitled "Controversy Surrounds Election" did not tell half the story. I acted as agent for three Senate candidates, Morag Duncan, Ramsay Anderson and Joe Everett. I don't know if my association with these people had any influence in the actions of the CRO, the student governing council executive and, the University Secretary or not. I make no accusations with respect to that here but state simply the following facts:

1. At 4:00 on November 4, I telephoned the University Secretary's office to inquire whether or not the nomination deadlines had been extended. I was informed that they had *not* been extended. On November 5, the three candidate's for whom I acted as agent submitted their nominations for Senate. On November 6, I again telephoned the University Secretary's office and was told that the nomination deadline had been extended in direct violation of a Senate regulation that states there must be 14 days between the close of nominations and the date of election. I could only wonder if perhaps an "unsuitable" candidate would have been acclaimed had the nomination deadline not been extended.

2. On November 10, Morag Duncan was informed that candidates were permitted to begin posting campaign posters. She was informed of no restrictions with respect to posting. On Wednesday, November 11, Ramsay Anderson, Morag Duncan and I posted more than 600 posters in Tilley Hall. Before 8:30 the following morning those posters were removed. UNB Security informed me that Jane Arnold had been asked by Prof. Garland (VP Administration) to advise all candidates that campaign posters must be restricted to bulletin boards. Ms. Duncan called Larry Long (Chief Returning Officer) who stated that Ms. Arnold had been negligent in informing him of this new regulation. The 600 or more posters could not be recovered.

3. Throughout the campaign, posters supporting both Petra Thanisch and Susan Chalmers were placed directly over posters supporting their opponent Joe Everett. I assume that

neither of these ladies were aware of the fact that they were violating election regulations and I can only attribute this to the lack of a candidates' meeting.

4. As a result of the barriers met elsewhere on campus, the candidates that I represented canvassed heavily in the residence system. On the morning of the election, I was informed that polling stations would not be set up (as they have always been in the past) in the residence cafeterias. This was contrary both to a motion passed by the student governing council and to an announcement made in the *Brunswickan*. Mr. Long informed me that he had the permission of the executive to rescind the motion. Half of the executive was in Ottawa attending the CFS conference. The remaining executive (from whom Mr. Long was granted permission to rescind the motion) were both candidates in the election! I spoke to Dr. Woodfield about the matter and he advised Mr. Long to set up polling stations in the cafeterias. Mr. Long indicated that he had a problem with pollworkers and I had to find poll workers for the cafeteria polls. Mr. Long took more than half an hour to send off the poll workers. Perhaps the most contemptible thing that occurred was when Mr. Long "accidentally" forgot to give poll workers ballots for Senate and Board. Eric Drummie (a candidate for Board), Morag Duncan and I had to take these ballots to the poll workers ourselves.

5. On election day, acting as scrutineer for Ms. Duncan, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Everett, I sat in the room where the ballot boxes from the polls that closed at 4:30 were kept until the other polls closed at 7:00. Given the events that had occurred up to this point, I think it is easy to understand why we were nervous about leaving the ballot boxes unattended. At this time, Armand Vaillancourt, student governing council Treasurer told Mr. Long to make me leave. Mr. Long refused to do this. Upon my return from delivering the "accidentally forgotten" ballots I made a comment to the effect that at least John Bosnitch (Vaillancourt took part in secret meeting in 1986 to depose Mr. Bosnitch's government) never had to cheat to win an election. Vaillancourt promptly informed me that I would not be permitted to talk anymore. He did not, however, ask me to put my gum on my nose.

In addition to all of this I am informed that had I wished to run for my own Board seat (I did not as this is presently being contested) I would not have been allowed. This is as a result of a motion passed by the Board of Governors stating that no one removed from the Board may run for office for one year (cooling off period?) after the removal. This is particularly offensive to me as it means I could not return to the students who elected me after having been removed by administrators who did not elect me! Though I am flattered by the Board's opinion that I would be re-elected after all the slanderous (and false) statements made about me in a well publicized University press release, I fail to see how they could possibly apply this rule to me as this would be retroactive. They did apply the rule to Barry White who was permitted to run in March but not in November. This logic is completely baffling to me.

In spite of the enormous odds waged against them as a result of the petty tactics used by various parties involved with the election, both Mr. Anderson and Ms. Duncan won their Senate seats and Mr. Everett lost by only a marginal number of votes. I have never held the student governing council in high esteem but even I was shocked and sickened by the shamelessly unethical procedures that were followed by them and others in this election. It was, indeed, the biggest sham I ever hope to witness.

Sincerely,

Susan Forestell  
Student Senator

## Door opening common courtesy

Dear Ms. You-Know-Who-You-Are:

I understand that you accused a male who held open a door for you at the SUB as being "sexist." Your words were, I believe "Women can open their OWN doors" - a brilliant observation. It may come to you as a surprise that this was not a gesture meant to infer that you (or should I say WOMEN) are unable to open doors, but rather an act of common courtesy. I am not the male in question, but a

female friend who felt she should write, lest one got the impression that women can't write their OWN letters (sarcasm intended).

Hoping you don't find THIS sexist,

Kelley A. Harvey

P.S. Guys - feel free to hold the door for me, I'm not a pseudo-feminist, so rest assured that I won't bite.

## Government and media Downey clones

Dear Editor:

President Downey must be congratulated for his successes. His approved student government and student media are sounding more and more like him every day. The locked out lawful Student Union is denied coverage in the press and Downey's current student governing council president parrots his line that the "mess" in student affairs "is behind the SRC now". Downey's effectiveness is nowhere more evident than among the silent faculty. The same professors who privately express indignation at the suspension of student democracy are publicly found giving their feeble consent at Senate and on the Board of Governors, resigning themselves to the lives of mice, scurrying about in terror.

Power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Who can deny that President Downey exercises absolute power at UNB? His attacks on student rights are always made unilaterally, only to be approved retroactively by his Board of Governors. The lockout of the student government, the diversion of \$150,000 to shore up his student governing council, the suspension for political reasons of the top academic student in the university, the seizure of the Student Union Building... all these acts were personally ordered by one man.

The students who oppose Downey's excesses are denied the right to run for elected office, barred from entering the Student Union Building, removed from the Board of Governors, and worst of all, ostracized by many fellow students.

As President of the UNB Student Union Incorporated, I take heart in the case of Jackie Vautor. We too, hope that our tenacity and courage in defending our rights will ultimately

lead to the recognition of not only the justice of our claim but the sacrifices of our supporters.

Sincerely,  
Lana Grimes

## Help a love- struck Romeo

Dear Editor:

I am seeking your assistance in finding the whereabouts of the first and only woman I have ever loved. Her name is Paula Griffin and I knew her a few years back in Waltham, Massachusetts. I moved to California and we kept in touch by writing to each other and eventually the letter writing trickled down to a letter every couple of months. I thought nothing about it, for we were both very busy with school and our work. What then occurred is a little unclear but with some help from a few friends in Waltham I was able to piece together that we had both moved at approximately the same time - I, to Ranch Cucamonga, and she back to Canada to attend College. Well, I sent a letter to her former residence, in the hopes that the letter would be forwarded. I received the returned letter shortly afterwards with a "No Forwarding Address" stamp on it. I thought "Ok, maybe she doesn't want to correspond anymore" and so I left it alone for several months, but I came to realize that I can't live without her. I need to find her. As I am not familiar with the New Brunswick Province, I would be thankful for any information on other Universities in that area and their addresses. As you know, it is very important to me that I find out where she is and if she is ok. I'm extremely worried about her.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Leo Tudela  
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USA

