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Student Union elections upcoming

by Jonathan Stone

Planning to vote in this year's Student Union elections?

For the 20% of students who will vote on March 23 and 24, the list of candidates (see platforms in this issue) is diverse.

In addition to individual candidates with previous Council experience, a student coalition who call themselves 'Candidates for Change' has decided to offer.

In a press release, the CFC member running for President, Nick Oliver, said he is "tired" of seeing the Student Union "run as a business-for-profit rather than a government."

However, the coalition has no one running for finance.

But Liz Lautard, the candidate running for VP Internal does not see this as a problem, saying that the group is willing to work with

any one of the potential Finance candidates.

At Wednesday's candidates' debate a shouting match arose as members of the coalition and the existing council expressed differing opinions.

Current VP Finance Jamie van Raalte, running against Oliver for President, said that this year's debate was one of the most memorable ever.

"I think we have a lot of common issues. I don't think the Candidates have enough experience to realize that they're only in office for a year, and what can and cannot be accomplished in a year," he said, "It takes four months to learn the job."

Lautard reminded that none of the current Council had experience before they were elected.

The campus daycare is high on

the list of projects that the CFC want to pursue, claiming that the current council has been neglective.

"We haven't been sitting on our asses all year," retorted the current VP University Affairs, Anna MacDonald.

"We've been accused of sitting on our dumps for two years on some issues, but it's not because we don't want to deal with them, it's because roadblocks are thrown up, said van Raalte.

"We've been looking at it (daycare) for three months. For some people it's not been fast enough, but that's the system," he insisted.

van Raalte feels that daycare is a problem for mature students, who are not in the Student Union's constituency.

"We don't represent grads. We don't represent part-time students. I feel for them, but they're not my responsibility," he said, "That's for Campus and the GSA to deal with."

The coalition disagrees. They indicated that a daycare would be a great opportunity for students in Education to practice teaching and a great resource on campus for both the Education and Nursing Faculties.

"UNB is in the Dark Ages in terms of not having a daycare. It is something UNB can no longer

afford to go without," said Lautard.

Another item debated was the health plan, and whether or not it should include birth control pills.

"We had a referendum on that. It failed," said van Raalte.

Lautard said it passed, albeit by a slim margin. She said that most students cannot afford to spend the money it costs per month to buy pills.

Oliver accuses the Council of allocating funds to friends and boyfriends.

"Well I don't have any boyfriends," van Raalte responded, "We allotted space for three new projects that were going on this year; Things that we felt were really important and had to get done and those people needed space to work in."

van Raalte foresees other problems which the coalition might face.

"How credible are they going to be when they go and talk to the administration and say 'we want this now.' That's not the way it works on this campus," he said, "Unfortunately, we get accused of playing the game. Well, sometimes you've got to tango."

Despite the mutual criticisms coming out of this campaign, all involved feel it has increased the awareness of the issues relevant to students of UNB.

Candidates for Change to lodge complaint

by Karen Burgess

The Candidates for Change believe that the current Student Union is "playing politics with a \$15 to \$30,000 surplus."

In a recent press release Candidates for Change presidential candidate Nick Oliver is quoted as saying he finds it "disgusting" that "at a time of year when a large number of students, especially students with children, have run out of food, our student government is sitting around trying to dream up ways to spend a \$15000 to \$30,000 surplus of STUDENT money."

The release quotes Vice Presidential Candidate for Change Liz Lautard as saying the "extra money could have been earmarked for the daycare that is being planned for the fall of 1993."

The SU is considering a plan by which \$2 dollars of students' Student Union fees for this year would be refunded (see page three for information). James van Raalte, current VP Finance, and presidential candidate in the upcoming election, explains that the rebate plan is not an expenditure of student funds, but "giving money back for students to chose how they are going to spend it."

"We could have just donated it all to a bursary fund, but I think for that amount of money (approximately \$14 000), students should make the conscious decision of whether they need it for their next meal, or whether the students we've seen in financial need are more important," said van Raalte.

Candidates for Change Eugene Tan (VP External Affairs) and Tanya McGinnity (VP Activities) have an alternative plan to that of

the student Union, which would put donated funds into a bursary program for needy students. The Candidates for Change candidates say they will be asking students to donate their rebates to a grocery voucher program. Tan comments, "as a member of the Christmas Match Program at Christmas, I personally saw how effective students can be when they can work together."

van Raalte acknowledges that there are students with children on campus that need food and money, and says "that's who we're doing this for, we're doing this for all the students who need food and money."

van Raalte says that the campaign is also to heighten awareness of needy students among the student body, the government, and the University administration. He says that response from students with whom he has discussed the program has been positive.

The Candidates for Change say they intend to lodge an official complaint with the Chief returning Officer about the legality of making such announcements in the midst of an election.

Tammy Yates, VP external and the councilor in charge of the rebate program says that the rebate

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St. Thomas' 1993 spring election
Unofficial results
President- Doug Trevors
V.P. Administration- Melanie White
V.P. External- Roxane McCarthy
V.P. Finance- Jamie Price
V.P. Activities- Shane Donovan
Valedictorian- Stephanie Pollock
Transit referendum: **No 451**
(Yes 127)

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Weekend Weather

Winter Weather Watch! Storm of the CENTURY! Stay indoors! Stock up on groceries! Be prepared for flooding! power outages! snow up to your ears! water past your ankles! Hurricane winds! Take cover!
Oops, sorry, that was last weekend!

Brunsbites

The 1993-94 Brunswickan Editorial Board:

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Current SU President Eric Burchill addresses the crowd at Wednesday's candidate's forum for the upcoming Student Union Elections. The elections will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday. Kevin G. Porter photo.