

# The Bosnitch years

## A few highlights

Despite his notoriety and infamy, John Bosnitch, President of UNB's Student Union for two years, remains one of the most talked about student at UNB during the 1980s. The impact of his term of office on the structure and operation of the Student Government at this university is still being felt today. Below is a brief and uncomprehensive look at his lengthy e. The information found here is based on the Brunswickan's at times heavily biased coverage of the period.

1981 - 1986

by Aime Phillips

The fall of 1981 saw the beginning of the Bosnitch Era. John Bosnitch's involvement with student life made him a much publicized man on campus.

People first began to notice Bosnitch as a member of the UNB's Debating Society. The Society held debates on the Blue Room against the Student Representative Council (Student Union) over the actions of the council.

Bosnitch formed a group called CAUSE which stood for Committee Against Unnecessary Student Expenditures, to show students their choice about voting on a referendum on SUB renovations. The renovations as proposed by the SRC would have meant a student fee increase of fifteen dollars.

The referendum was eventually declared void, but Bosnitch had left his mark and the following SRC elections saw Bosnitch, an Engineering Representative introducing platform politics - the Student Party - to the SRC elections.

The elections of 1982-83 had 36% of the students voting. Most candidates associated with the Student Party, including Bosnitch for President, are elected.

Problems for Bosnitch began soon after his election when past president Finnann confronts Bosnitch at council asking about a missing \$1,000 donation from the Phys-ed Education Department to the SRC. He also questions some of Bosnitch telephone calls which Bosnitch was making in the SRC office as a representative of the Student Party.

Bosnitch was re-elected again in April 1983.

The next fall the Shaw Report is received after being commissioned by some worried students who felt that Bosnitch was involved with so many organizations a conflict of interest was being created.

At the time of the report, Bosnitch held seats in over a hundred committees, including president of the SRC, chair of the SUB board, chair of SUB holdings, president of Campus Services and he held seats on the Senate and the BOG.

That September Dr. Downey,

president of UNB, cancels SUB Holding Inc. contract, the organization involved with all dis-

versy from the year before, had been responsible for the re-

keeping of the affair was taking time. To speed the process, Downey threatens Bosnitch with expulsion.

The University Administration takes over the SUB, and subsequently appoints a SUB director.

Bosnitch loses a third try at presidency in the spring elections.

In February 1985, the Fredericton Police Fraud Section seize SRC files to aid in their investigation of the SRC funds.

In the fall elections of 1985, Bosnitch is elected President for the third time.

On April 17, 1986, the Student Union is locked out by the University Administration after an audit of the Student Union books reveals a \$174,000 deficit. Auditors claimed that certain council members "appear to have benefited personally during office."

As a result of the audit report, in January 1987 all signing au-

thority changes from the student Union to the Foundation for Students. From now on the distribution of all the Student Union funds will go through the Foundation

Bosnitch, having graduated in December, is attending McGill University, where he claims to be the rightful president of the UNB Student Union. He also threatens to sue the university, which results in President Downey serving notice of a Trespass Act against Bosnitch, prohibiting him from entering campus.

While in office, the motion to impeach John Bosnitch was brought up four times. Each time council defeated the motion. This amongst other things, is evidence of Bosnitch's tremendous popularity amongst students at UNB. Were they deceived or were they, in fact, being led by an able, though controversial, student politician?

1968



John Bosnitch

tribution of alcohol on campus, and refuses to allocate the SU budget of more than \$250,000 until \$50,000 is returned by Bosnitch. Bosnitch, in a contro-

funding of students' funds who did not wish to voluntarily donate ten dollars of their student fees to Third Century Fund.

Bosnitch claimed the book-



Award winner David Attis and Bonnie Sherman in the UNB Drama Society production A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE. The modern tragedy by Arthur Miller won the Dominion Drama Festival award for best production at the New Brunswick Regional Drama Festival held last week in Bathurst.

March 22, 1991

# The ste

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I noticed you Telegraph-Journal you might like came into possession, known to the Canadian University the forerun Brunswickan. became the first History at UNB had become public how this provided under Confederation discovering the had shaped the New Brunswick series of graduate subject which publish in the information. Un was nothing to province was Canada with archives. I there opening a collection basis for a graduate studies at came head libr the collection the Archives conference of Foundation in address on the Brunswick wh support research the first grant ever received social sciences I was very old New Brun as one important, and press with the Clark, who Street, responsible house, and papers from have something est you", and first college present of it

The Brunswick demonstration a Red Raiser is Mt Allison

## Ra

by Steve T Labonte shot with Saturday a UNB Red Raiser over the Mt.A's New definitely basketball game thus far. From the half to the and tuck be neither tea point lead In the first story, how Mt.A run