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OPINION...

Voting Apathy... So What?

There are two issues in the *Brunswickan* editorial of October 22nd that I would like to raise. The first point is that the low-voter turnout at the election was caused by apathy, a lack of interest; and the second point is that apathy is a recent student characteristic.

I agree that there is a general sense of apathy among students concerning the politics of student government. But the student population certainly cannot be blamed. Everyone seems to be content on doing their own thing, whether it is being a member of a committee or pursuing their personal interests. The Student Union representative council appears to be a committee that is mainly involved in allocating money to the various campus organizations. There are, of course, other accomplishments. But what is the importance of electing students for such uncontroversial functions? Is it necessary for these students to be elected?

I believe the quiescence of voters demonstrates a problem with the Student Union, NOT the students. It would not have made any difference if 15% or 100% of voters elected representatives.

The reason why many students did not vote in this election, among others, is because they feel that results will not bring about significant changes. The proof is in the Student Union representative councils from recent years; they have not accomplished anything obviously positive, except for the guest lecturers of last year and a few other endeavours. Most of the time, Student Union representative council meetings are spent arguing about procedures, which are important, but not as important as the issues themselves. What can a faculty representative do that an individual student can not? It can also be considered that the election itself was not well organized and the presidential candidates did not express opposing differences in what they would do if elected. In fact, it didn't really matter who was elected.

Perhaps it is time we all consider what the Student Union is actually accomplishing for US, students. Maybe another administrative structure would be more efficient.

CHRISTIAN LEVESQUE

