



# mugwump journal

By SUSAN REED

Ah, the SRC. What bounty you provide -- funds for student organizations, food for thought, fodder for copy and a never ending opportunity to observe the motives and machinations of ambitious students.

This is not to say I'm cynical about student politics. Rather as a third-year student (and third-year Brunnie) I've become wary. So I'm not ecstatic about the election results. Change a few names in the lyrics and the music becomes very familiar.

It's been over two weeks since the October 21 election but since I haven't had a chance to comment yet in print, I'll take this opportunity to do so.

The most interesting thing about the recent election was the well-marked delineation between the two major voting groups. (I'll give you a hint: one has the whitest teeth and the other wears pointed shoes and is fond of yellow spray paint). Or perhaps more importantly, what was perceived by the student body as two groups. Richard Riley is not included as he received little support and was backed by no particular group. You see it all goes back to that bane of politics -- the clique.

Gerard Finnan is clearly the SRC type -- a former councillor, committee member and of course, Orientation chairman. Those who favoured Finnan are the type of students who are active. They take part in the university and more importantly, they vote. Finnan and associates Susan Lynch and Andy Young all ran together as a ticket. And guess what? They all won. Enough said.

Steve Kitching, on the other hand, while claiming to be different from the usual presidential candidate, merely received his support from a different group -- commonly known as the "NO" side or CAUSE. More on that group later. Kitching garnered the "NO" vote and that of those who perhaps want change in the SRC but don't quite know how to go about it.

Those students who wanted to vote but didn't know who to vote for either went for the traditional candidate, Finnan, or the unknown, Riley, with the possible exception of Rubick's Cube enthusiasts.

The only near thing in the election was the contest between comptroller-elect Andy Young and David LeBlanc. Had Young not been running with Finnan, his victory would have been doubtful.

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And now the promised word about CAUSE. What a neat name: Committee Against Unnecessary Student Expenditure. Really catchy. Mind you, I think it's great that some students are concerned about student government. It's about time. The thing I'm curious about, however, is why the sudden flurry of activity. The Causites are not first year students. The SUB referendum is not a new issue. Anyone who was here last year can attest to that. As to criticizing the SRC and accusing various student officials of corruption, the *Brunswickan* has been doing it for years.

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A note to Mr. Kitching: in your letter to the *Brunswickan* of October 30, you claimed that what you wrote for the election issue was censored because of your "anarchistic views." Your text was edited because it contained libellous accusations against a member of the SUB board as well as casting aspersions on the characters of your opponents.

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Censoring continued. Yes, that is what the Bruns is accused of this year. Last year it was political bias. Great horny toads, as Yosemite Sam would say. I can't keep up with it all. May I call your attention to the Merriam-Webster dictionary: *edit vb. 1. to revise and prepare for publication 2. to direct the publication and policies of (as a newspaper).*

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A final note on elections which may describe the quandary our voting students faced a little while back.

The campaigning John Wilkes was being bothered by a heckler in the crowd. Finally the heckler shouted, "I'd sooner vote for the devil!" To which Wilkes replied, "And if your friend is not standing?"

# soundoff Woodfield responds

Editor's Note: The following is published at the request of Dr. Woodfield.

Mr. Kevin Ratcliff  
President  
Student Representative Council  
University of New Brunswick

Dear Mr. Ratcliff:

I feel compelled to respond to accusations contained in letters to the *Brunswickan* by John Bosnitch (23 October) and Steve Mac Alinden (30 October).

The letters accuse me of changing the wording of the SUB referendum. As both students are perfectly well aware, I did not change the wording, which has been submitted by Vice-President O'Sullivan to the University Solicitor at the request of the SUB Board: the wording was changed on his advice. The changed wording was passed on to me by Mr. Kay on behalf of the SUB Board, and the ballots printed accordingly. (My office arranges printing of all SRC ballots, and covers the cost.) I explained all this to Messrs. Bosnitch and MacAlinden -- and to Mr. Osborne, who accompanied

them -- when they spent nearly an hour in my office on the day of the referendum (October 21st).

At this meeting, they asked me to use my authority (as the University official responsible to the Board of Governors for the conduct of Student elections) to declare the referendum void. I did not feel this to be justified, and issued the following statement:

"The wording of the referendum was referred to the University Solicitor, Mr. Gordon Petrie, for review. He deemed the wording to be inappropriate because it referred to specific "presently proposed alterations and renovations" that did not exist. What does exist are conceptual plans of what might be done by way of renovations and improvements. This was made quite clear in Mr. Darcy Flynn's letter in the *Brunswickan*, 16 October 1981.

There is, therefore, no justification for annulling the referendum before the vote is counted. Should any party wish to protest the outcome of the referendum, they should make representations to the SRC. If the SRC decides that its referendum should be declared void it may say so. No

action can be taken until the SRC has made a formal application to the Board of Governors, and the Board's approval given."

The second letter complains that "we were thrown out of the Secretary's Office." I do not recall Mr. MacAlinden having been present, but Mr. Bosnitch was ordered out for meddling with the ballot-counting process, first from the room where counting was taken place, and second from my office when he again interfered and had the impertinence to question my integrity.

If apologies are in order, they are due from Mr. Bosnitch for his behaviour, and from him and from MacAlinden for their deliberate misrepresentations.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation and thanks to Mr. Tozer, the Returning Officer, who worked extremely hard on an election that was plagued by more than the usual number of difficulties.

Please bring all of the above to the attention of the members of the S.R.C.

Yours sincerely,  
James Woodfield  
University Secretary

# Intelligent have problems

Dear Sir:

I would like to thank Mr. Willings for providing the facts and figures to back up a contention I tried to make in my letter of Oct. 3'. Intelligent people do have problems, too.

As anyone who knows anything about our school system realizes, it gives very little special attention to the gifted. It is geared to the slightly sub-normal. This makes it mildly boring for the average and deadly for the above-average. For whatever reason (ignorance, fear, principle, jealousy, overwork, despair), many teachers detest working with the gifted. Other students mistrust and dislike them unless they can manage to mask their ability by being "one of the gang." Those of the gifted who are not abnormally strong psychologically bear scars; some deeper than others, of the treatment they receive in school.

No, Mensa has not cured this unfortunate state of affairs. On the other hand, it has made some efforts. Channel Islands Mensa, which for some unfathomable reason has the

highest percentage of members per population in the world, has an elaborate programme of supplements and enrichment available to gifted children living there. Several similar groups exist in the U.S. In our own country there is a Special Interest Group for gifted children, headed by Dianne Luciani of Oak Ridge, Ont. Various individual members have also done work in this area; perhaps the most successful being Pr. Claude Vigneau, until recently of the College des Jesuites in Quebec City.

Naturally this isn't enough. We all know that. However, it

is a start, and more than most others are doing. In addition, as I've already stated, Mensa acts as a support group for young and old M's alike.

I wonder what would happen if Messrs. Rhineland and Willings and I got together. I bet that after we stopped sparring we would enjoy ourselves immensely. If either of you gentleman is interested in meeting over a coffee, or whatever, my number is 457-0252.

Sincerely,  
Faith J. Cormier  
Maritime Rep.  
Mensa Society Canada

# 'Thorbourne Scholarships'?

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to hear about the establishment of the new "Perry Thorbourne Scholarships" by the SRC!

Is it true that to receive \$2300 of interest-free student money, we don't have to do anything at all? Is it also true that we will never have to pay

the loan back? If so, please tell me where I can apply for my share. However, if this giveaway applies only to Perry Thorbourne I certainly hope that there is at least one SRC councillor who is brave enough to fight it!

Sincerely,  
S. Neill