

Cleetus Porter, sage of Marysville:

What's the problem

at the SUB?

"Looks like trouble brewin' up on campus," said Cleetus Porter, the local sage at Harlan Coobie's general store in Marysville. Cleetus stopped to ruminate awhile, chewing on his pipe. "Seems they're havin a heck of time runnin' their Student Union Building."

The big-time college reporter picked up pen and paper. "Tell me, Cleetus, what is your analysis of the problem?"

"Well, son, the way I see it, ol' Mr. John Bosnitch has been puttin' his whole load of hay in one wagon, and there ain't no horse made can carry that load." Cleetus looked reflective. "You see John wants the Student Union to run as many services as possible, and that ain't bad, but there're only so many students who can find the time outside their classes to be a manager of the CSL Exchange, or bar manager of the SUB, or whatever the heck else he's got in mind."

The reporter said, "Okay, let's look at what's happening. The Student Union has a branch called Campus Services Limited, which is responsible for booking entertainment on campus, like the upcoming Extravaganza. Campus Services (or CSL) also runs a variety store in the SUB which offers such products as pop, chips, chocolate bars, ice cream, stationery, cigarettes and grooming aids. They also operate an exchange for used textbooks and a photocopying service. All these products are offered at the lowest prices on campus, if not the lowest in all of Fredericton."

"Ayuh, and there's no denyin' that students need to pinch every penny. Why, I remember when I was a boy..."

"Later, Cleetus. The real problem is the confused leadership of the store. Who do the staff take their orders from? Who's in charge? The staff are expected to listen to John Bosnitch or his henchman Clayton Burns, who has no real authority except that he's on the SUB Board of Directors."

"Bein' on the SUB Board don't mean he can act as a manager of the store. He's on that board to oversee, and help make policy. He's oversteppin' himself if he walks into the store and tells the workers to sweep the floor."

"Or like Tuesday, when he ran into the store and took all the subs from the cooler and threw them out, because he had heard someone had gotten sick after eating one on Monday. Where's his authority to just destroy products?"

"It's been said that he's the official assistant to the SRC President, appointed by John himself," ventured Cleetus. "But he's denied it of course. He says it's nothin' official, but you can't deny he's got a lot of influence with John and because of John."

"Right. He tried to shape policy in the SUB staff, too."

"Ain't that's the thing run by Mark Slipp and Andre Faust?"

"That's the one. They're supposed to have 40 people to serve drinks when the Queen comes to McConnell Hall for a luncheon on September 25. Unfortunately for them, this summer John and Clayton decided to have a 'purge' --John's word-- of the SUB staff. They brought in a bunch of new rules that the staff found unacceptable and just sat back and waited for them to break those rules, thereby giving John and Clayton grounds for firing." All but maybe three or four of last year's staff were dismissed or quit. Now John's running scared. He's asked for students to apply as servers for the Queen's luncheon but due to the low response, he's put out an ad in the city paper for anybody to apply, even if they aren't students. Whatever happened to the CSL motto, 'Students Serving Students'?"

Cleetus turned his wizened face to the reporter, and smiling, said, "I guess John tried to spread around the manure, and instead 'a' fertilizin' the students' field, he just ended up smellin' real bad."



By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE Managing Editor

A mugwump is a fence-sitter so I am not supposed to take sides on any issue in this column. When one is deeply involved in student affairs, as I have been for several years, it is next to impossible to be completely impartial though. When I write this column every second week (Editor-in-chief Dave Mazerolle takes the other weeks), I will; however, attempt to be accurate and fair in any criticisms I may level.

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To start out on an affirmative note, I would say to everybody: "Get involved in some extra-curricular activity." Not only will this provide a way to escape from the rat-race of assignments and midterms, but the experience gained will prove its worth in years to come.

Committees and boards of the University and Student Union are presently looking for students. Information about senate committees is on page four; information about Student Union positions may be slightly harder to come by at this point--the SRC rarely gets around to calling for applications until the need for personnel is extreme (CSL is an exception, but that is another story--see below). Keen people with initiative and dedication are needed to find out what Student Union positions are available and push the powers-that-be to fill them.

Examples of positions that need immediate filling are Student Directory managers (as editor last year I am still assuming this responsibility until someone else shows interest); Winter Carnival management; Student Activity Awards Committee members, etc.

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Most student positions are appointed; the most important ones though are elected and now is the time to consider running for election this fall. The election should be held in October so the new administration has time to learn the ropes; Student Union President John Bosnitch wants to hold the election in late November though. Why? Surely John you are not thinking of running for a third year?

Good candidates are needed for all positions. The important thing to ensure is that petty character-assassinations and name calling do not distract the voter. Prospective candidates should start becoming knowledgeable about student government and then should start building a detailed platform in the near future.

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Congratulations are in order for the Orientation Committee. As always, the committee has shown that students can skillfully manage a large series of events.

This year's committee has been the most innovative of the last few years' committees. Poor scheduling of resources, though, meant that many events did not prove the spectacular success they might otherwise have proved.

The solution of Orientation's problems would be to have an experienced computer programmer work closely with the committee to develop tools for effective resource management. Don't look at me though.

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While on the topic of computers ... the Student Union purchased a beautiful system late last term. At purchase time, praises were being sung about the possible benefits that may be reaped.

It looks as if we will have to wait several years for the investment to pay for itself. A large group of students were hired over the summer to work with the computer, but although their work is of reasonable quality, much more must be done. There is a danger that the the programs already

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