

editorial

Presenting Dr. Downey

Excuse me, Dr. Cassano -
er, Downey, let's see your
stuff.



The scene; a small maritime university settled in a town within the province of New Brunswick. Here the campus seeks to find the ultimate candidate to fulfill the office of President of the University of New Brunswick.

Enter presidential nominee Dr. James Downey from Carleton University - the newest hopeful selected by a newly revised search committee. The committee, formerly headed by chairman Israel Unger and presently chaired by Reg Tweedale, has been on the trail for more than a year now. Downey represents the second attempt to present a hopeful candidate to the University - will Downey become President of UNB?

With the disappearance of the

Cassano fiasco came the reconstruction of the Search Committee, an organization of some faculty and one student, whose aim was to select an applicant they felt could become the president of UNB. Time was moving on and UNB seemed doomed to remain forever president-less.

Then last week dawn beamed along the horizon as the name of Downey began to circulate around campus. The Search Committee remained silent but meetings with the Senate and Board of Governors were set in order that they meet the man that had been selected as a promising choice. On Monday March 10th, 1980, the SRC and student press were invited to the Old Arts

Building in order to meet and talk to this man of mystery.

On paper Dr. Downey proved to be impressive. An English professor with numerous publications to his name he certainly seemed a promising candidate. But upon meeting with him, an entirely new light was shed onto the whole scenario. Downey is a man who creates the impression of an inner calmness - someone who is not easily upset but rather cool and very relaxed. His answers to questions concerning student life on campus (including alcoholic events) were answered with the honesty and foresight of someone who apparently is interested in and takes the time to listen to students. He desires to continue

teaching in order that he may retain a degree of personal contact with the students.

Faculty (rumor has it) seems to be equally impressed. Has UNB finally found its administrative leader? Campus skuttle-butt says yes but only the decision of the Board of Governors on March 17 will tell. If the answer is no - its back to the drawing board. But if Downey is in, UNB has a president and may once again settle down to university business and stop its speculation.

We believe that Downey is a good man for the job - and we wish him luck on Monday. I mean if he wants to leave OTTAWA to come to FREDERICTON.

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Put another ballot in!

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If students had to be prodded into action to vote back in February, we would suggest that the SRC seriously consider massive dynamite changes in the next couple of weeks. Yes folks! Once again you are being asked to get out and choose your student senator for the second time.

Now before you became upset, insulted or heavens forbid - angry, permit us to explain. The situation does not concern your competency to place an X in a ballot, but rather it is the competency of our Chief Returning Officers who apparently thought it was unnecessary to explain election procedure to poll workers. It is now at considerable expense that

the election of senators must be conducted just one more time. The previous election was considered invalid.

On the one hand, Thorbourne must be congratulated for his action concerning the whole fiasco. When complaints and comments began to be heard around campus Thorbourne took immediate action by meeting with Dr. Woodfield (University Secretary) to determine corrective measures to an embarrassing situation. A new election was the outcome as announced in an SRC press release.

What can't be excused however is the inefficiency of the Chief

Returning Officer who now claims he is ineligible to remain as the Returning Officer. One questions his terminology - not to mention the 'smoke screen of secrecy' he persists in promoting about the whole issue.

But, more importantly, why, oh why were poll workers not informed that GRADUATING as opposed to GRADUATE students were able to vote for student senators.

People get tired of mistakes and they really don't like voting - just look at the turnouts to the polls in the last election. How in heavens name does the newest in Returning Officer proteges plan to kindle

the flame of voting? How are they planning to face the campus and convince them that it was a mistake....something that just happened?

What about the students who thought they were - are they going to have faith in SRC election proceedings in the future? i.e. Will they consider participating in future elections? We sincerely doubt it. We're sure they are now wondering if people will change their minds this time around, let alone vote!

Well, its a staggering mind boggling affair my friends - and I will leave it with you. Do as ye will.

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Mr. Grigg

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