

## An interview with John Bosnitch

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(Life being what it is at this time of the year, I decided to straight verbatim on this interview. My thanks to the A-V department for the equipment.)

Why do you think you lost the election?

Why did I lose the election? I think it's a combination of many factors. I think, as is always the case, there's an instinct on the part of the voters for change and after having two terms and after serving longer than almost any other Student Union President, the instinct for change is very strong. In addition, it seems to me that many people believed I would win the election; in fact, there was quite a great deal of surprise that I lost. And I think that to some extent many people who may have voted for me felt that their vote wasn't necessary. Nevertheless, I think, regardless of what the factors were, I think the students decided that they wanted somebody new as president and I have absolutely no complaint with that.

Well, I was certainly surprised. You say that a number of students didn't feel their vote was necessary and yet there was a very high student turn-out (at the polls).

I would suggest that if all of the people who had expressed an opinion about this election had voted, we would have been seeing an election turn-out of 60 or 70 per cent.

You still have a seat on the Senate, is that right?

That's right.

Do you plan on playing an active part in that (the Senate)?

Well, I think that I have the duty to serve the people who elected me to Senate and I expect to continue my role on Senate as a student representative. So, if it's a question of whether I'm retiring to the countryside to live in a little cottage, no that's not the case. Where I see my duty as an elected representative, I, of course, will continue to serve.

Outside of student politics now; will you be returning more and more to studies...?

Yes, I would say, right off, the first change that should be noticeable is that my face will be seen around Head Hall more often. I have a great deal of class work to catch up on; I'm going to do my best to move back into my studies in Surveying Engineering.

What about things outside of studies? For instance, I believe you once had a column in the Brunswickan...

Oh, I hope that, you know, over the Christmas holidays, I can reassess my participation in student government. I hope most students will have seen these past two years as, without a shadow of a doubt, the most progressive years in the history of the Student Union, and I would hope that where there is an opportunity to protect the advances that we've made, I could participate along with any other student who is interested.

Do you look back on the last couple of years as being very good years at UNB?

Well, I would say that one can tell best how we've done her by listening to the external and impartial observers. At our meetings in the Canadian Federation of Students representatives from all of the schools in the entire nation looked at UNB's student government as an example of how good a student government could be, how active a student government could be and how progressive a student government could be. I think that it's a foregone conclusion that whenever something is very progressive and very active, there's a natural tendency on the part of the student body to stop for awhile and to catch its breath. And they said that in the election.

The Vice-Presidential posts—of the four of them, two of them went, I believe to "Bosnitch-supporters" and two went to "non-Bosnitch-supporters." Do you think that's significant?

Well, I don't know where you get two and two. I see only one of the vice-presidents as being a so-called "anti-Bosnitch"-type and that would be the V.P. Finance. As for the others, I'm very happy with all three of those vice-presidents and, in fact, I have nothing against the V.P. Finance and I wish all four of them the best of luck in their jobs. I must say the interesting feature of the election was that the pro-student forces, in other words, the pro-student candidates—the ones who wanted to push forward with student activism, with student rights, with student building, with student businesses—the pro-student candidates took 3 of 4 vice-president positions and virtually every single seat up for contest on the council. So I think that anybody who thinks that progress on the part of the Student Union is completely dead is wrong. I think we can look forward to a new government lead by a new president who will probably do more to attempt to consolidate the gains of the last two years than to push them radically forward.

So without trying to foresee Larry Fox's policies, you think that it will be a steady movement, a jelling; a consolidation, if you will?

I expect I hope to give Larry the benefit of the doubt. I know very little about his plans and I would expect that Larry, or the new president together with his new vice-presidents and council would most definitely protect the advances that we've made over the last two years. As for his initiatives, I know very little of them.

Is there anything else you'd like to say?

Well, I would like to say something generally, to all of the students, on the campus, and that is, in a quite straightforward manner, I would like to thank them for the support that they've given me over the past two years. And also, for those who were discouraged by the election results, in the case of the presidency, for those who were surprised or unhappy, I think they should take heart in the fact that what I've tried to do on this campus, the progressive plans, the new initiatives, the defence of student rights, doesn't depend on one person; it doesn't really depend on who the president is. It depends on the wish and support of the students. Now, if the students on this campus stand up for what are clearly their rights and continue to do what they've done in the past two years, there's nothing to be discouraged about with respect to these past elections. I, for one, have the utmost faith in the student body to recognize that for some 20 years they had very little in the way of say on campus and have now got the doors wide open, have now opened the door very wide to allow them to really participate on campus as something other than second-class citizens.

Thank you.

Thank you.

### Unemployment part of N.B. Work Experience

Unemployment has, paradoxically, always been a part of the experience of work in New Brunswick, says David Frank, history professor at the University of New Brunswick.

On Thursday, Nov. 29 at 8 pm at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, in a free public lecture entitled "The Working Class Experience in New Brunswick," Dr. Frank will survey the complex experience of work in New Brunswick. He will look at the kinds of work that have been performed in the past and the ways the experience of work has, and has not, shaped the way people think about and identify themselves.

Work in this province has always been seasonal. Because New Brunswick industries are tied so closely to the province's natural resources, "work" has included a number of different activities--chopping wood, fishing, planting potatoes--that would be performed by the same groups of people over the course of a year.

Dr. Frank's lecture is the fifth in the "Heritage Lecture Series" sponsored by the history department at UNB. Each lecture is designed to showcase important work being done at the university in the area of provincial history.

Next week, on Dec. 6, Earnest Forbes will discuss "New Brunswick and the Canadian Problem of Regional Disparity."

## UNB CARNIVAL 85

*If you are interested in joining the winter carnival committee, but missed the meetings, you can still join by filling out an application at the SRC office. Deadline- December 3; at 5:00 pm.*

**best OF luck**

EXAMS



from the Bookstore Staff

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Want to have a direct say in what direction the Services wing of the Student Union takes?

Apply in writing at the SRC Office by Jan. 1 for one of three student-at-large positions on the services commission in care of Ron Spurles, Student Union Vice-President Services. Interviews will be held.

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