



Mugwump

By **DERWIN GOWAN** Journal

After last week's literary effort I probably should be ashamed to show myself in public. But really, my predictions were not all that off.

I was wrong on two counts - the president and one of the referenda. Not bad! How I ever guessed that computer science seat is beyond me.

There was one good sign in that election. In the case of the presidency and the valedictorian, the candidates who put up the least amount of posters won. So much for the myth that posters win student elections at UNB, and good riddance, I say!

Of course, the problem with the whole election was that the results were too predictable. There still seems to be a thing against new blood in UNB student politics.

So much for the election. Congratulations to the winners and hope you'll do a good job; condolences to the losers and hope you'll keep the interest up.

I should say a word about two of the acclaimed candidates, that is, Arts Rep Jan Trifts and Business Rep Jack Trifts. We had a husband-wife team on council last year, known by some as the abstaining twins. No offence to Jan, Jack, Damian or Theresa, but these matches always make student politics a bit more interesting, especially for the gossip mongers. It's almost like a mini-course in marital relations.

Get used to it now Jack and Jan. You'll take a lot more of it before your terms are up, and if you decide to run again, well...

Apparently, Council did not appreciate our little effort at humour on last week's editorial page. Certain members of the SRC [don't run away, Steve and Mike] thought The Brunswickan should not have released the remarks on some of the more interesting spoiled ballots. Encourages people to spoil ballots they say.

Well, I say, "Phooey!"

Some councillors [don't be shy, Steve] even suggested that scrutineers who released such information be sent before the Student Disciplinary Committee.

An ex-councillor and myself had a discussion in the Coffee Shop the other day, and we decided that, "Keep the plebs ignorant and they won't do anything bad," is the attitude of all too many councillors.

As the one chiefly responsible for that editorial I guarantee that the name of the informant will forever remain a secret.

You have a perfect right to know what was on those ballots. Disgruntled people have a habit of spoiling ballots as a legitimate form of protest, and if some of them are rather explicit about their feelings, then there is no harm in releasing it to the public.

They [come now, Mike and Steve] want to control the information flow to modify the voters' actions in certain directions. They apparently think candidates such as themselves are above reproach and to protest against an entire slate is a mortal sin. They should move to the Soviet Union and offer their services to the KGB.

Actually, Steve and Mike aren't really such bad guys, just a little over zealous at times.

Due to an over-abundance of letters, this week's column had to be cut short. But I'll be back. Until then, find the fence and keep on sitting.

Hildebrand:

Accuses Bruns of B.S.

Dear Editor:

You are either misinformed or have no more respect for the truth than a tomcat does for a marriage license.

In your last issue you stated that payment of SRC fees is voluntary and always has been. You are not alone in having said that. The last Student Union president and comptroller (along with many others) strung the same line of

Too bad Neville

Maggie rates the boys

Jones House has extreme good taste, due to the fact a number of guys go out with girls from the super fantastic residence of Maggie Jean, and also from her sister residence Murray House. Therefore it can be said that Jones House ranks far above the other male residences, at least as far as the academic year of 1976/77 goes.

Furthermore due to the recent interest in the before unmentioned residence of Aitken, it is running a close second to the before mentioned house of Jones. This writer wishes it a continued success for the future.

Victoria House has come onto the scene rather late in Maggie Jean's history but from the last progress report it can be surmised that it will become a rather prominent part of the social and unsocial life of this fair house. Only time will be the judge as to the social maturing of this adolescent residence.

Always being referred to as the youngest house on campus, MacKenzie House has outlived itself in the hearts and minds of the young ladies of Maggie. We must admit it did exceedingly well in the spring term of 1976, but somehow could not make the pace in the fall session.

Neill House as well as having the great good fortune of being adjoined to Jones House, also is privileged by being visited by a few girls of Maggie. Neill therefore ranks high on this list of men's residences of UNB.

Another house who is visited

B.S.

In the Student Union bylaws, Bylaw VIII, entitled "Finances", clearly states in Sections (1) and (2) that payment of SRC fees is compulsory. For example, from section (2): "The fee referred to above shall be required . . . from those students who are taking three or more courses."

I checked with the Business

Office concerning your claim. I first spoke with Mr. Davidson who very clearly stated that payment of SRC fees was compulsory. I then spoke with Mr. Morehouse, the university's Assistant Comptroller who also clearly stated that payment of SRC fees was compulsory. He said that in the past if SRC fees were not paid the student involved would not be able to obtain transcripts of marks or his (or her) graduation diploma. This policy is currently in effect. He also said that some students protest paying their SRC fees and that the Business Office's job would be easier if payment were made optional.

I know at least one student on campus who did not pay his SRC and he has not student I.D. card. I don't know how he can prove he is a student at movies downtown on buses, etc. I also wonder what is going to happen to him when he tries to graduate.

I never heard anyone say that payment of SRC fees was optional until we started talking about making it optional. I submit that this B.S. was created in an attempt to stop a campaign for optional Student Union membership. So many people involved in SRC activities lack the perspective to see that optional membership would work and that the Student Union would be better for it.

I think a major cause of apathy throughout our society is that government at all levels have told the people to give them their money and then the government will look after them. This has led to huge, wasteful, self-perpetuating government bureaucracies. But worst, the people have stopped worrying about what is happening to them. They let the government look after them. The governments in this way, perhaps without even realizing it, have created apathy. As long as student fees are compulsory on this campus nothing will change. With optional membership the SRC is going to have to work to attract members and the people they do attract will worry about where their money is going.

The other non-truth in your editorial is the statement that optional membership is a non-issue. Well over the required 10 percent of the student body signed our petition so the SRC has an interesting meeting coming up.

I want to mention that the biggest difficulty we encountered in our petition campaign was persons unknown ripping down our petitions irrespective of the signatures thereon. Everyone has a right to their own opinion but to prevent others from expressing theirs is a little shaky to say the least. We had petitions ripped down in Neville, Harrison, and Aitken residences and in the Engineering building as well. Please check your claim.

Alan Hildebrand

Student claims 'non-issue' is an issue

Dear Editor:

I feel obligated to comment on your recent editorial concerning voluntary membership fees to the SRC. First of all, I feel that you are trying to sweep the whole thing under the rug by making statements like "It is impossible to support something which is a non-issue." When a motion to this subject was put before the SRC, it was defeated by only a one-vote margin. Surely, if this was a non-issue, it would have been defeated unanimously. Cur-

rently, there is a petition circulating the campus concerning this issue. It could force the SRC to reconsider its decision, because there is substantial amount of people (over 300 at the time of writing this letter) who feel that this is a big enough issue to deserve their signatures. Finally, Mr. (sic) Editor, if voluntary payment of fees is a non-issue, then why does it even rate an editorial comment in the Bruns? Of course, here I am assuming that the Bruns editorial always deals with issues pertinent to the

welfare of the student body as a whole.

You also said, "This is a closed shop." Quite a reversal, in my opinion, for a newspaper that has often cried out about the injustices of a bureaucracy. To me, it seems that such a statement supports bureaucracy almost to the point of totalitarianism and encourages student apathy to the point where it would be best to simply pay the fees and keep our mouths shut. I find it hypocritical for a student newspaper to lash out against student apathy and then turn

completely around and chastise the students who attempt to get involved.

Mr. (sic) Editor, your version of "voluntary" would fit in very well with the classical military version. You know, where the sergeant says to a group of men, "I want two volunteers, you and you." To me, in order for anything to be voluntary there has to be a clear choice presented to those concerned. In my three years at this

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