

# Smith's campaign issues questioned

Very few people seem surprised about the results of the presidential election Wednesday, but many seem quite worried about the quality of the winning candidate.

THE BRUNSWICKAN shares the concern of many students that a president has been elected who is not really in touch with the needs and desires of the whole student body.

Jim Smith, the new president, ran on a campaign platform which included lengthened banking hours and increased lighting and security patrols on campus.

We aren't exactly sure those are the most important issues facing students at this time.

Smith also mentioned he would have a "shadow cabinet" of eight friends to advise him during his three-month term. We seriously question the validity of such an advisory committee - a committee which could possibly sway the president against the general well-being of the student body.

The new president has made few or no comments on student issues which are affecting students. His stand on student aid and housing - when he bothered to mention those issues - was certainly not impressive.

We wish the new president well, and certainly hope he will be able to represent the students adequately. However, we feel he should not bother to waste time with inconsequential issues like increased banking hours when it is obvious there are so many important problems.

September of this year brought one of the most harrowing housing shortages ever to face the students of this university. The administration has done little which will prevent the reoccurrence of the shortage. What use will lengthened banking hours be to students when they don't even have a place to live next September?

Increased lighting on campus might help to avert the apparent

increase of sexual attacks on campus, but that is a matter to be taken up with the administration and is definitely not of paramount importance to most students.

The only reassuring point which arises now is that almost 37 per cent of the students voted in the election. The comments about student apathy on this campus are irrelevant when this university has one of the highest voter turnouts of any university in North America.

The students of UNB deserve a round of applause for taking an interest in the election. With the situation in student politics on this campus, the voter turnout is one of the few reassurances the student government has received this year.

While all students appear to be interested in their government, every possible attempt must be made to continue to keep the student participation rate as high as possible.

We question if this can be done with a president who appears to be interested in inconsequential issues only.

Smith must use every option to continue to stimulate the interest of students in their government, and to do so he will have to become more involved in the basic student issues.

We feel that Smith has the opportunity to bring the students together on this campus, so we can all work together to solve the many problems facing contemporary students.

We are prepared to give our entire support to a president that is aware of - and working on - the basic student issues.

We are not prepared to support a president who can support only what we regard as unimportant issues.

At present, Smith is in a position to do students on this campus a great service. We suggest he take a strong stand on the important issues so we can work together to improve the lot

of all students.

A strong presidency is what this campus really needs in the

present situation. We only hope Jim Smith can fill the needed requirements.



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## THE BRUNSWICKAN

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