

Bosnitch/SP biography

By PETER THOMPSON AND JOHN STILLWELL

Note: Some of the opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the Brunswickan nor of John Bosnitch.

John Bosnitch is, undoubtedly, one of the most talked about SRC Presidents in the history of UNB. He rose to this position amid controversy, and criticism, and has maintained it for an unprecedented two years running.

How has he done it? How

did he become so prominent in UNB politics, and how has he stayed so long?

This article is an attempt to view, remember, and understand some of the more visible or controversial events throughout the past three years. Of course, some issues and events have been left out, or covered only briefly, but this was necessary; due to a budgeting of space and time.

So what is it, exactly, that an SRC President does, besides attend meetings? According to Bosnitch: "As Student Union President, my present daily routine includes

everything from cleaning my office, to filing documents, to typing letters, to making sure the toilets work, to checking that The Exchange stock is high, to making sure the Bruns has our press releases, to making sure the SUB works."

There is no doubt that Bosnitch has worked hard for the students. There is also no doubt that he has created controversy, and alienated many people. But he has fulfilled what he considers to be the most important goal on campus: To create more interest in student politics.

were frequently compared to Nazi's says Bosnitch: "For the same reason that I discount the claims that I'm a communist, an anarchist, or that I'm a homosexual, or a raving lunatic, I discount the claims that I am a Nazi." Bosnitch maintained that his opponents attacked his image because they could not attack his platform. "Our opponents realized that our platform was so correct...and that every student would support it."

The Student Party was a direct outgrowth of CAUSE, but it was not long before it outgrew CAUSE in notoriety. Its members were widespread, and in the October 1982 elections, there was a member running in virtually every seat, under the UNITY platform. And as the Brunswickan reported on Oct 22, 82: "not only did Bosnitch win the election, but so did most of the people associated with the UNITY platform."

The Student Party, says Bosnitch, had one main purpose: "to raise voter turnout... The SP was like an alarm clock"...Its one purpose was "to wake up the student body." And this it did, perhaps rather rudely.

In the first election that Bosnitch ran for president, voter turnout jumped to 40% from 13%, an incredible increase. The slogan of the administration? UNB Awake.

Now that the SP's main goal was achieved, it could slowly fade away, and become a "dead issue in the SRC's past." But it didn't; it had only just caught on. On Jan. 28, 1983, it became recognized by the SRC as a non-funded organization, and by late March, the same year, there were at least five branch organizations of SP.

Clearly, the Student Party was living its own legacy.

SPRING 1982

Jan. 22, 1982: Birth of Student Party (SP) with roots in CAUSE.

Apr. 7, 1982: John Bosnitch indicates he wants Finnan's resignation as SRC president.
Referenda

According to Mr. Bosnitch, UNB has had more referenda questions in the past 1 1/2 years than in the rest of Canadian universities combined. They (referenda) are important for two reasons: 1. They give the student body as a whole, more power to decide its own fate and; 2. They let the powers that be know what the students want, and how they feel about specific issues.

Referenda, however, pose problems: They cost money, for printing and counting. The question must be important enough to warrant the expense. Furthermore, the working of a particular question can spark considerable debate. Great care must be taken to ensure that the question is not misleading. Referenda also represent those that vote, and not necessarily the entire student body. Those that don't vote are implying that they will accept the results of the referendum, or simply that they don't care.

The referenda at UNB have started heated debates in the SRC, the Board of Governors, and the student body. But they have achieved what John Bosnitch considers to be their main purpose: to increase student awareness in matters that directly affect students.

more to come next week.

Bosnitch: Uncut

For the sake of preserving "freedom of speech" and ending John's incessant claims of being censored we present the following diatribe:

It looks like I'm finally going to be allowed to get a few words in the student newspaper...just in the nick of time. The reporting in the *Brunswickan* has now become so one-sided that without opposing commentaries many students could be duped into swallowing the half-truths and mistatements that this paper has become known for. Let's not waste any time in turning things around...

First and foremost, the make-believe "crisis" over Third Century Fund money has been resolved. The SU submitted its donation, complete with accounting over a week ago. The surprising fact is that the very same administrators who were complaining about our delay in making our donation, are now moving very slowly in turning over our full \$250,000 in student fees. That's no surprise though, we've had our fees delayed by six months and more every year for the last decade, and we've never received one cent in interest! True to form, the *Bruns* was aware that the full accounting was available for over three weeks, but failed to cover the story.

On a second front, Student Union politics has more than ever before become a game of "damned if you do, damned if you don't." The same people who have spent the last two years whining that the SU President had too much power and responsibility, are now lining up AGAINST the proposal to double the size of the executive to a total of six, including a President and Vice Presidents for Administration, Academics, Services, Public Relations and Finance. While Student Unions in the rest of Canada are all moving to increase student participation members of our SU Council are not only opposed to the decentralization (which would allow me to go home from work sometime BEFORE midnight), but they also object to even marginally increasing the total number of students who may sit on Council. Just when we need broader student representation more than ever before, present councillors prefer to maintain the status quo. Things are becoming, as Alice in Wonderland said, "curiouser and curiouser!"

Last, but certainly not least, comes the administration seizure of the SUB. The building was built by a student contribution of one million dollars coupled with an equal amount granted from public funds. In the 1960's the Student Unions of STU, and UNB entered into a contract to operate the SUB via a SUB Board composed of six UNB students and three STU students; which was eventually expanded to include two administrators in an advisory capacity. How things have changed! Now all of the student reps have been replaced by Dr. Downey with a hand picked "Gang of Four" students who are expected to cooperate peacefully with the administration takeover. As for the supposed "disarray" in the SUB, nothing could be further from the truth. Certainly, it was a difficult transition to student control this summer, but the problems encountered in no way justify the appointment of a Board of quislings whose main qualification is the colour of their noses. No matter what, there is no need to be discouraged...as Aesop said "He who laughs last laughs best", and the students have yet to "laugh." Enough happiness for one week...

PS: I'm now taking bets as to whether this column will be censored from the *Brunswickan's* next issue.

FALL 1981

Sept 81: Origins of CAUSE; Committee Against Unnecessary Student Expenditures.

OCT 81: Bosnitch wins SRC Engineering seat by acclamation.

OCT 22, 81: SUB allocation fee referendum results invalidated by new SRC.

NOV. 4, 81: Motion to impeach John Bosnitch introduced to SRC.

NOV 20, 81: 'NO' side wins referendum: CAUSE thanks students.

NOV. 27, 81: Motion to impeach John Bosnitch voted down 3-12.

The Student Party

In October, 1981, John Bosnitch became Engineering Rep to the SRC, a post he won by acclamation. At the time his campaign was centered around three main issues: he was opposed to a proposed tuition hike; he wanted higher public participation in Student Government ("I was sick and tired of having a council of about twelve to twenty people making the decisions for 6000 without ever consulting them once."); and Bosnitch was opposed to a 50% hike of student fees (\$15 per student) to be allocated for SUB renovations.

This was the birth of CAUSE, the Committee Against Unnecessary Student Expenditures. It was formed to "fight for the students on the NO side of the referendum raising student fees."

On Nov. 20, the 'NO' side won the referendum, fulfilling its main purpose and slowly faded into the background to make way for a new wider based political group: the Student Party. The SP's shocked a lot of people at the time, and

Linda Hutcheon to speak

Linda Hutcheon, associate professor of English and coordinator of comparative literature at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., will present a public lecture on "Parody in the Twentieth Century: The Need for Redefinition" on Wed., Oct. 17 at 4:30 p.m. in Carleton Hall, room 106 at UNB.

Her talk (accompanied by slides) will cover some of the major points of this study of modern literature, music, painting, and architecture and should be of interest to artists and art historians as well as to those interested in literature and literary theory. The public is invited to attend.

She is the author of two critical books: *Narcissistic Narrative: The Metaphysical Paradox* (1980) and *Formalism and the Freudian Aesthetic*:

The Example of Charles Mauron (1984).

Professor Hutcheon has presented papers and published articles on literary theory (in France, Italy, and the U.S.), British literature and Canadian literature.

Her articles have appeared in journals such as *Diacritics*, *Poétique*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Texte*, and *University of Toronto Quarterly*. She has just completed another book entitled *A Theory of Parody: The Teachings of Twentieth-Century Art Forms* which will be published by Methuen this December.

mornings 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. beginning Tues. Oct. 9. Registrations are being accepted in the Business Office 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm.