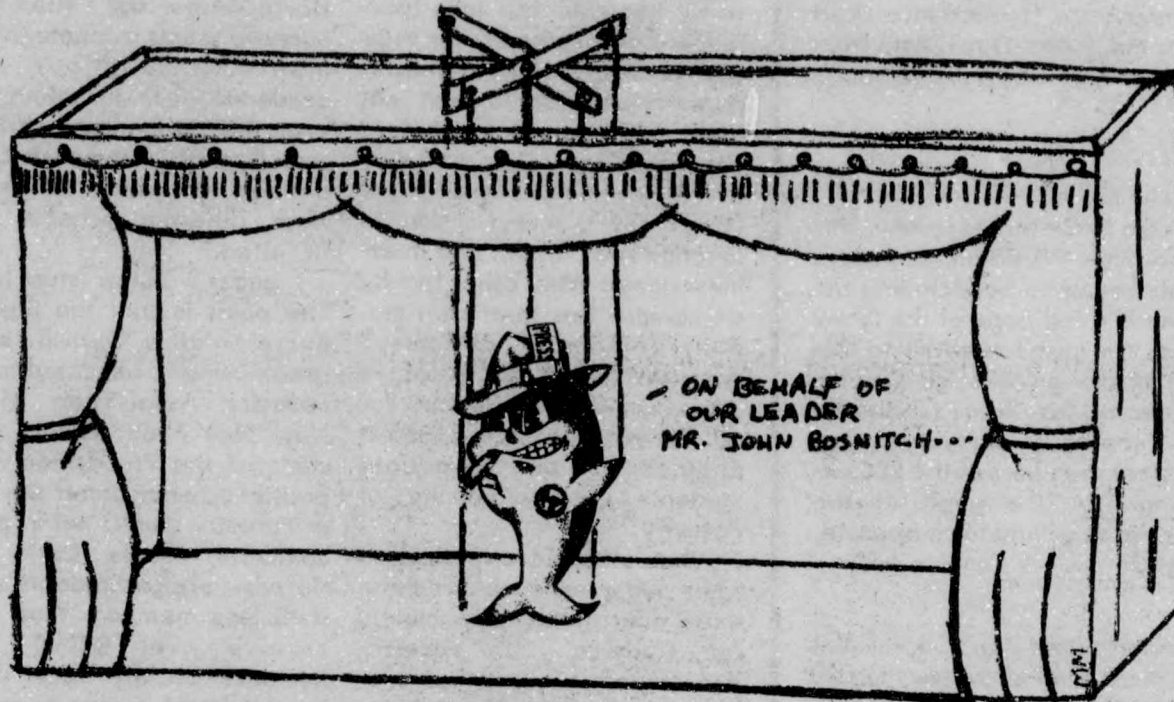


"You can dance, you can sing like a puppet on a string but you ain't in control of a single thing."

From Crazy Talk by Chillawack



"Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely".

Since the election, three weeks ago, of John Bosnitch as Student Representative Council president, we have noticed many alarming trends developing. Bosnitch does not seem to be content with the position of president, but needs to become a one man Student Union. He has recently under cut the duties and authority of the SRC councillors. He has done the same with certain duties of the vice-president. The *Brunswickan* has not escaped the expansionist policies of the president and neither has the Student Union constitution itself.

Despite proof to the contrary in the constitution (see story), Bosnitch has implied that he is the only one who can call a meeting of the SRC. Note 2 of the Executive meeting minutes of November 5 states: "The President expressed displeasure that an SRC meeting was held in his absence and without notification." At the time of the meeting, the president was not in Fredericton, but had been expected back before the 6:30 p.m. start. Had he been there, there would have been no complaints, and, as a separate story says, the president is by no means the only person on Council who may call a meeting. They may be called by petition by students, petition by councillors, and in the absence of the president, by the vice-president.

Another duty of the vice president is that of Public Relations officer (By-Law VII 4d) Monday's announcement of a Secretariat containing a Secretary of information will be responsible for dispensing SRC notices and opinions to the student body. There is a little if no difference between this and

the job of a public relations officer. This is an undermining of the constitutional powers of the vice-president.

The authority of councillors has also been undermined by the Secretariat. The appointment of ten secretaries to maintain continuous contact with students in his duties is admirable, but is this not already the function of councillors? As faculty representatives they are bound to see the students, and as councillors, they advise the president. Is this duplication of services necessary to the students of UNB?

We feel that the students are also being unfairly treated by the ill treatment of the *Brunswickan*. The Student Union Executive has demanded one full page per issue on any odd numbered page. We not only resent the fact that it was a demand, not a request, and that they are already guaranteed 20 column inches (about one-third of a page) of unpaid advertising, but that they feel they may demand as much space as their whim dictates. Granted, the Student Union publishes the *Bruns*, however, nowhere does it say the *Bruns* may be dictated to.

The executive wishes the president to authorize the use of this space. This is impossible, since only the editor-in-chief is "responsible for the content, makeup, layout and general management of the *Brunswickan*". (Regulation XVIVA). This means the editor-in-chief is legally responsible for every word printed in the newspaper, not the president.

At Monday's SRC meeting the president rammed his motion through, despite a request for time to consider it and come up with a unified response by the Editorial Board. This is also in violation of the Bylaw

of the Student Union which states "No organization. . . that may be in their opinion, adversely affected by the operation of the Bylaws or Regulations made hereunder shall be denied the right to notice. . . (Bylaw XVII6). In our opinion we are adversely affected by the president's machinations and we were given two and a half hours notice before the SRC meeting, certainly not enough time to call and Editorial Board meeting. We are harmed by the motion because there is no guarantee that having been raped once, it will not happen again. It has been mentioned by certain Student Party members that the *Brunswickan* is their newspaper so they can put what they want in it. Even if the President was able to control the content of the paper how does this make it a tool of the SP? It would appear that SP members are suffering from delusions of grandeur. Bosnitch himself said that the executive could take the entire newspaper if they so wished. This is quite simply, not true; Bosnitch is unable to do many of the things he is trying to do.

The president has only held office for a short while and already we have seen the assumption of more and more powers that should not be vested in one individual. There appears to be no reason why this will not continue. It is up to all members of the Student Union, that is, all students and not just the Student Representative Council, who have shown they will meekly let themselves and their constituents be trodden upon by a near megalomaniac president, to take notice of what is happening and put a stop to it. To borrow one of John Bosnitch's own slogans: "UNB Awake".