

It was or it wasn't-the ballot stuffing question

What a disappointment it was to see someone had tampered with the ballots during the SRC and Senate and Board of Governors elections.

We begin to wonder if some students on campus have any sense at all. We hope the person who has been accused of the crime, and yes, it is a crime, is satisfied that he has cost the SRC more money, at least for the previous candidates to rerun their campaigns.

This is the first time in the history of any of these three elections that a person has been caught doing such a thing and we wonder if this happens often. After all, the people staffing the polls unfortunately are not all that busy a great deal of the time.

So much has come into question concerning the incident and one of the possibilities is collusion. Supposedly the polls are manned by TWO people at all times or it is closed down until the required number is available. What was the other person on the poll doing while this alleged ballot stuffing was going on? It seems only logical that the other person must have at least known it was happening or was an aid in the incident. We hope the investigation into the matter will settle the question, since it would be unfair to charge just one person if more than one were, indeed, involved.

Apparently the accused said he was marking "in" the ballots but was writing on them, if this is the case then we feel the person(s) should be made to understand that it would still be a very bad joke.

It would not be fair to suggest any punishments if the person(s) is found guilty by the Student Disciplinary Committee, but if this does occur we hope the situation is dealt with in the serious manner it should be. In a legal election placing ballots in the boxes is a serious crime no matter what was on them.

If the person is proved innocent then something should be done, if

possible, to ensure such a mix-up does not occur again.

As for the Senate and Board of Governors elections, it is difficult to say what the respective bodies will decide. It is up to them whether they wish to lay charges and to have another election.

We do hope the two important bodies to the university community will not look upon this alleged incident as a mark against students in regard to maturity and

whether or not we deserve the representation that has been granted to us. The student senators and student Governors have influential and respected positions working on issues that often affect students directly. Let's hope their jobs will not be hindered by these accusations or that it will not happen again in future elections.

Let's show we deserve the right to vote.

What should UNB's criterion be for awarding honorary degrees?

The university's 22nd annual convocation took place this week, with 350 degrees awarded, six of them honorary.

This brings the total of honorary degrees to approximately 250 since the May convocation of 1949.

In other words, the university has awarded an average of 10 honorary degrees a year in the past 25 years.

Six persons were honored during this year's convocation ceremonies - a writer-professor, two recently retired members of the university administration, a local doctor and MLA, the federal environment minister, and a fisherman.

We feel the total amount of honorary degrees awarded to date does not properly reflect the number of persons who have

made substantial donations (not necessarily financial) to this university, the community and the country.

Lately the university appears to have set a figure of six degrees as the number to be awarded at each graduation ceremony. We disagree with what seems to be the setting of an approximate figure for each graduation. It is unlikely that the same number of persons distinguish themselves sufficiently each year to deserve the presentation of an honorary degree.

The appearance that there is a set quota of honorary degrees to be presented each year cheapens the whole idea behind the awards. Honorary degrees should only be presented to persons who have performed extraordinary services. Awarding even one degree to a

person who has not really earned it only serves to cause disrespect for what should be a very prestigious award.

Even a hint or a rumor that an honorary degree can be bought or won through influence in the university administration ruins the award's purpose.

Every effort should be made by the members of the honorary degrees committees of the senate and board of governors to ensure the awards are made on the basis of merit, with no considerations for financial background or personal connections.

Honorary degrees serve a purpose only when it is recognised that they are difficult to earn, highly prestigious, and awarded for merit, and merit alone.

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