



the
brunswickan

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OPINION...

By BARRY PARKINSON
Brunswickan Staff

Last autumn I was wandering down a wet Fredericton street, reflecting on whatever on-again-off again SRC President John Bosnitch was up to at the time. The best move he could make, I reasoned, was to take off to some village in Mexico, soak up some sunshine, smile a bit, and forget about politics. Then I realized that that was exactly what I, the Embattled Journalist, needed. So I did it, except that my village was in southern Portugal.

After Portugal and other nice places, I made my way back to Fredericton only to find Bosnitch still twisted up in the local scene, and some of his friends doing strange things with the judiciary. Will he ever learn? Will I?

Politics is a bizarre pass-time. Why anyone would want to have power over some abstraction like the "student body" I'll never understand. Practical control over something that actually hits you between the eyes, that I can grasp. The rest just seems like an exercise for no apparent end.

Now don't get me wrong: there is a purpose to the SRC. They make decisions and carry them out. And that's nice of them; it must take a helluva lot of time and energy to run a student gov't. When you consider the amount of significant power the SRC has and the sort of thanks they get, there must be a real altruistic streak in the people who get involved.

Except for the dramatists. Some people - Bosnitch and crew included - seem to live under the delusion that their activities concerning the student council are of incredible importance. But it just ain't so.

I remember last year interviewing Bosnitch after the local police investigation involving him was completed without charges being laid. John's version of relief was to say "I feel like Lazarus - like a man coming back from the dead. After all the efforts to bury me, I'm still breathing." Melodramatic? Well, yeah...

And here we are a year later, and Bosnitch is referring to the change of gov't last spring as the "palace coup". Meanwhile, Michael Bennett, one of the folks who is presently messing around with legal action connected with the "coup" has been making all sorts of strange associations. To quote:

"Canada is founded on principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of the law, not the supremacy of Downey and the rule of his student contras." "Student contras? Hmmm. Dwelling on subjects like Bennett's sense of reality could lead to lawsuits, so let's leave at this.

All very weird, this. Why are these people getting so worked up over such minor drivel? I'm not about to deny anyone the satisfaction of burning out their frontal lobes on adrenaline over-doses, but this type of dramatics is really kind of primitive. Why not take up skydiving, or something else that doesn't involve messing up other people?

I suppose we also have to consider the ego angle. Things just keep escalating and no one wants to give the "struggle" up and get on with new stuff. For that sickness, all I can recommend is my initial prescription: go away, leave all this foolishness behind. Portugal is very nice.



Photo by Al Macdonald

Clean Up Your Mess

"Get your act together people" says Grace, "or you'll get a whack over the head."

(I'm passing on Grace's request.)

—Melynda Jaratt

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