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Bosnitch resurfaces at Concordia

Injunction naming Bosnitch as respondent granted to CUSA

by Aime Phillips

Recent allegations by Concordia University Students Association co-President Charlene Nerocified John Bosnitch as partly accountable for the controversy surrounding their spring elections.

Bosnitch is the student politician considered by some fully responsible for the mismanagement of student union affairs between 1985 to 1987. An article from the Daily Gleaner dated May 22, 1987, titled "Judge Says Actions Without Merit" reports Bosnitch was referred to by Justice Dickson as being controversial: "All or most of his terms of office with the student union appear to have been marked by controversy with, and a defiant and controversy, toward, the university administration and latterly, perhaps especially toward the president of the university (Dr. James Downey)."

Bosnitch was served notice under the Trespass Act S.N.B. (1983) C.t. 11.2.5.2, as amended) by UNB Security on March 24, 1987, preventing Bosnitch from coming onto both UNB Fredericton and Saint John campuses.

Since that time, Bosnitch has apparently attended McGill University and been in Japan. Bosnitch described his presence at Concordia as being temporary: "I'm back in Canada on a visit to renew my visa status in Japan. While I'm here I'm staying with my girlfriend Lana Grimes (past UNB SU vice president)." Lana Grimes was a vice president at CUSA this past year. Bosnitch continues "She asked me if I could help her out, give her some tips from an old retired student politician."

Nero describe the events leading up to a Quebec Superior Court injunction which cited Bosnitch, Grimes and Hugh Brown (another past student politician at UNB) as respondents.

On February 18, 19, 20, CUSA General Elections were held for the term commencing April 1, 1992 until March 31, 1993. At Concordia, only the positions of "Co-Presidents" are elected as opposed to the entire executive. The executive are then appointed by the elected co-presidents. When the election was over, there was some controversy over the number of votes cast at a particular polling station. Nero and his running mate had won only by 31 votes. Nero claims she waited with "baited breath" to see if a recount would be requested during the required four day deadline during which a recount may

be requested. She further claims a recount was never requested during that period. Bosnitch claims a ballot discrepancy of 110 ballots was noticed by ballot counters after the Chief Returning Officer announced the results. This total could reverse the co-presidential results. Bosnitch claimed one of the losing candidates could not reach the CRO before the four day deadline.

There were accusations about irregularities which soon bloomed into accusations about ballot rigging on Nero's part, electoral fraud on her part, and about her "owning" the Judicial Board, which administers the student elections. After the four day period, the ballots and materials were shredded. "Now there is no way to investigate anything" Nero admits. "But that (procedure of shredding the ballots) is a matter of course."

An annual general meeting, like a shareholders meeting, was held. Nero states: "We normally get 30-40 people, struggling for quorum, but 150-200 showed up and 117 voted not to accept the CRO's report." Nero angrily stated "It's not required a motion be passed to accept the report. A report is received when a report is given."

"It became apparent over a course of time" Nero continues, "that Mr. Bosnitch, Ms. Grimes, and Mr. Hugh Brown were attending all our regular Board meetings, meeting fairly frequently with individuals who were trying to overturn the elections."

Lana Grimes submitted a statement to the student newspaper, the Link, which was printed in their March 24 edition, saying "I hereby declare my full support for a complete annulment of our recent general election and for the immediate organization of a replacement election to be held before the end of classes this year."

Bosnitch, Nero claims, kept showing up. The board would call meetings, and at one point "The board endeavored to pass a motion which essentially impeached my former colleague and I in our term which only ended April 1."

"Soon" Nero alleges, "Mr. Bosnitch was on the mezzanine with a 'democracy petition' calling for a new election." Nero said he collected 1800-1900 signatures. "Bosnitch was attending meetings, advising the board what to do."

"The really amazing thing they did was start a meeting on March 31. The meeting did not have quorum, because a number of

directors, who I would characterize as being on our side, wouldn't attend the meeting because they disagreed strongly with the motions to be considered and they had been told repeatedly by our legal council that the motions were illegal. They convened informally until midnight. At midnight they declared that it was now April 1 which is, coincidentally, the first month of the new term. They declared we were now in summer quorum, which is 2/5 instead of more than half, so they had quorum and they passed all these motions annulling the elections. They passed a motion to call elections on April 7, 8, 9."

Bosnitch explains the board called a special election, just to re-vote. "No new candidates, no campaigning, no change whatsoever in the ballots. The nominations procedure in February, nobody ever questioned, so it was kept. Whoever was nominated stayed nominated, whoever did not withdraw then was not allowed to withdraw from this vote."

Nero stated that not all candidates wanted to run again, because they did not see the legitimacy of the election, some because they recognized the level of violence associated with it. Nero said death threats and physical violence has not been uncommon during the campaigning. "Because no one will make an official complaint, we have no recourse, no forum in which to defend ourselves," Nero went on.

An injunction was sought against the elections, which was granted temporarily on Tuesday, April 7. Nero said that Bosnitch, Grimes, Brown were named as respondents, along with other Concordia students, because they have attended all or many of the meetings in which the illegal motions were passed, and "it's quite clear they've acted as intimate advisors."

Nero confirmed that the CUSA bank account has been frozen, but "for a number of reasons. Primarily because a group of renegade directors changed signing authority in an illegal meeting and have refused to rescind it." The student newspaper, the Concordian, however, reported that the accounts were frozen due to an overdraft of \$154,000 in their March 19 issue.

The university has also created a commission to look into whether the association needs overhauling.

Bosnitch, while commenting on how he has become involved in yet another student

government controversy, in closing stated: "When I see an aspect of my character, and the character of the people I consider my friends, any where in the world, if we see something that's undemocratic, and if we have some way to personally contribute and to express our opinions freely, we exercise our

freedom of speech. And it just so happens I have a loud voice; when I make a little peep in Montreal there are people who have very sensitive ears in Fredericton who tend to hear it."

Nero concluded that she asked Bosnitch why he believed she should step down as

co-president "We didn't lose, nobody made a complaint. He said 'because you only won by 31 votes; democracy should have its day.' Well, democracy isn't voting over and over again. Democracy is not who can last through the most elections, or who can keep calling referenda, or what have you, until they win."

Gender Issues Committee resigns

by James Rowan

The UNB Law School's Faculty Council recently approved a proposal by the faculty's Gender Issues Committee to affirm their commitment to gender issues and curriculum development and to incorporate the proposal into the Law School's Mission Statement.

However, during a previous meeting of the Faculty Council, on March 28th, the document presented to them by the Committee was tabled without discussion; this was the last straw, and the Committee decided to resign.

"Something as important as this needed to be discussed. It is integral in the development of curriculum in our schools," said Arlene Glencross, a member of the Gender Issues Committee. "In fact, there are 50% women in first year, which indicates that with more and more women coming into law school, these things have to be addressed," she said.

The resignation was intended to bring the issue to the forefront, as the committee had had difficulties in getting the attention of people who could do things in the Faculty.

Faculty Council in the past in regards to the passing of some of their suggestions.

With the resignations, the committee got far more interest than they expected. Student reaction to the resignations, which were publicized within the faculty by notes on the doors and a "memo-war", drew great support from the student body, both male and female.

A meeting held by the Law School's Faculty Council had already had difficulties with the Student's Society to address the issue drew five times more people than had been expected. The Law School has already appointed a Chair of Women in Law, who will arrive on July 1.

The Gender Issues committee had asked the Faculty to affirm their

commitment to the issues of equality and equity before her arrival, but some members of faculty wanted to wait until after the arrival of the new Chair.

Glencross stated that the Committee felt that it was in the best interests of all if these matters were dealt with immediately. Furthermore, Glencross added that an affirmation of principles that are so basic should be done from time to time as a matter of course.

With the passing of the motion to affirm these commitments last Friday, coupled with the open discussion and airing of views that the controversy has caused, the matter has come to what one committee member described as "a happy beginning."

Aitken Centre fire

by Karen Burgess

As reported in the Monday, April 6th edition of the Daily Gleaner a fire at the Aitken Centre early Saturday morning has been confirmed to have been caused by arson.

The fire apparently broke out around 2 a.m. in a basement storage room.

The AUC's sprinklers system helped to contain the fire which caused extensive damage to hockey equipment of the Fredericton Canadiens.

Gordon Lebel, A.U.C. Director, says that the fire, which is the Centre's first, was contained quickly by the building's sprinklers, and caused no structural damage.



Shown is a participant in Friday's Jones House Mud Dive VII. The event, which was held with the theme "Go Ahead, Muck My Day!", raised over \$1,000 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters and brought out 1500 spectators. For those who missed the event on Friday, the Mud Dive will be aired on MITV's Sports Replay on Saturday. Michael David Smith photo.

STU SU elections controversy

by Mark I. Minor

Saint Thomas Student Union elections were held March 18th of this year. Voter turnout was roughly 42 percent according to past V.P. (Administration) Tony Sekulich.

Sekulich attributed high voter turnout to the transition from a single poll to a 5 poll system.

For most Executive positions, margins of victory were very small. The Presidency was won by 10 votes, V.P. (External) by 3 votes, V.P.'s (Administration, Finance and Activities) by 1 vote each.

The Brunswickian has been informed that controversy arose when a poll worker confided to a friend that he or she had stuffed 12-15 illegal ballots into a ballot box. The friend then approached a candidate who, in turn, approached the poll worker in question. After these discussions took place, the poll worker contacted Tom Marshall, the STU SU Ombudsman and admitted to ballot stuffing and crossing off names from the list of potential voters. Marshall also received complaints of SU Bylaw violations such as polling stations not opening on time and at least one ballot box remaining unsecured.

On Tuesday, March 31, the STU SU executive (old and

new) met with Marshall. He said he believed the poll worker and thought that further investigation was warranted. At this point, Marshall was instructed to continue a verification process of contacting voters and asking them if they had voted at the poll in question. He already had found two voters whose names had been crossed off the list and who claimed that they did not vote.

Marshall was asked to attend a council meeting on Saturday April, 4 and submit his report. At this time he reported to council that he had completed the verification process and was prepared to table his findings. Having been able to contact approximately two thirds of the voters whose names had been crossed off the list of the poll in question, he still found that only 2 voters claimed that they had not voted there. Marshall's report consisted of two parts. The first related to the bylaw violations. These were not considered serious enough to justify a new election.

The second part addressed the alleged election fraud which would have resulted from ballot stuffing. As only 2 voters out of all those surveyed claimed that they hadn't voted at the poll where the alleged stuffing took place, council decided to accept the election results. It was

mentioned that if new evidence arises, proper action will be taken.

At the STU SU meeting on April 7, council was told by Marshall that only 7 voters could not be reached and the result was still only 2 voters claiming that they didn't vote at the poll. According to Bruno sources, he commented that the poll worker's story was probably just that: a story.

SU banquet held

by Aime Phillips

The Student Union's 3rd Annual Banquet was held last Friday to distribute the Activity Awards for those students who have made significant contributions to student life on campus.

The recipients of the Gold Awards, intended for those students who have shown an outstanding commitment to student activity in a variety of ways are: Kevin Bourque, Kevin Ferguson, Greg Lutes, Jim MacGee and Steve Williams.

The Silver Awards in recognition of an outstanding contribution during a limited part of their time at UNB went to James Chappelle, Arthur Doyle, Derek Dunnett, Mark

Subsequently, the new council has been seated and the election results accepted. However, a petition has been circulating around STU in support of a new election. Sources say that after rejecting the petition on first submission, the SU has had to recognize it as the number of signatures on the document exceeds the 20 percent minimum required by SU bylaws.

Fletcher, Reil Givan, Chantelle Hanley, Jon Lazar, David Robinson and Lynne Wanyeki.

Merit awards recipients are: Shelly Allen, Alane Marie Boudreau, Dawn Carrier, Jodi Cruickshank, Sean Daly, Angie Dickson, Werner Disselkamp, Rich Gaigneur, Melanie Lloyd, Susan Magasi, Brigitte Menard, Kate Rogers, Stephen Seabrook, Paula Shott and Adrian Tan Teckwah.

Councillor of the year is Jodi Cruickshank, with Honourable mentions to Andrew Fuller, Patty Smith, Jim MacGee and Jon Lazar.

Kevin Bourque was the recipient of the Dr Downey Leadership Award.