Bosnitch wants UNB students to join forces

By JOHN BOSNITCH

One year ago today the Student Union was an ineffective organization which had just finished voting itself a deficit budget giving its members on the SRC everything from wages totalling thousands of dollars, to solid gold activity awards rings. The council was almost entirely made up of a few friends and girlfriends who seemed to run everything without so much as a whisper out of the students. It was going ahead with plans for a renovations referendum for the SUB building...a referendum which was to be organized in its entirety by the YES camp, the SUB Board. Rumours were floating around about a missing sum of five thousand dollars out of the Orientation budget. Finally, and most discouraging of all, the council was in the process of happily accepting the fact that a former president had "lifted" over two and a half thousand dollars in student money. I was sitting in a classroom full of students, many of whom had never even touched two thousand dollars in cash, and I promised myself that at the very least, I would work to fight the rip-offs being made by the clique of insiders that ran the student government. That was the day I decided to run for the position of engineering representative to the SRC.

One year later, I know that I made the right decision. Within two weeks of my getting in office the "Thorbourne debt" was back on the Student Union books - not cancelled as had been their plan. The CAUSE committee was formed to fight for the students on the NO side in the referendum raising student fees... a proposal that the students overwhelmingly rejected by a 63 percent margin. Later in the year it was proved that there really were thousands of dollars missing, and a full investigation brought resignations as high up as the presidential office. Finally as a last step I put forward a motion just this week to cut the exhorbitant honoraria of the president and comptroller by up to sixty percent, while simultaniously abolishing the waste of up to two thousand dollars spent in giving out gold rings to the student councillors who had collected the most "brownie points" by sitting on various stillborn committees.

This year has been one of the roughest of my life. If there ever was an easier way to make fanatical enemies than by uncovering irresponsibilitiy, I don't know what it is! Just three days after the elections, steps were already in progress to "impeach that lunatic engineer". After that scheme was defeated, it seemed that flak just continued to fly at the least provocation. Regardless of what the student body wanted, some councillors refused to change their policies. Even today, the only faculty to have had a real constituency meeting is the faculty of engineering; you don't have to ask why. It took more than a little fighting just to keep my head above water under such conditions. However, the time has now come for a change in tactics. It's time to forgive and forget, in the hope that everyone by now has gotten exactly what he deserves from the students. It's time to close ranks and stop, once and for all, the attacks based solely on personality. This is our last chance at UNB to join forces and work constructively towards a united responsible student government. If the voters are willing, so am I.

The moment to take the initiative and build a Student Union of which we may all be proud has arrived. As of today, I am running for the presidency
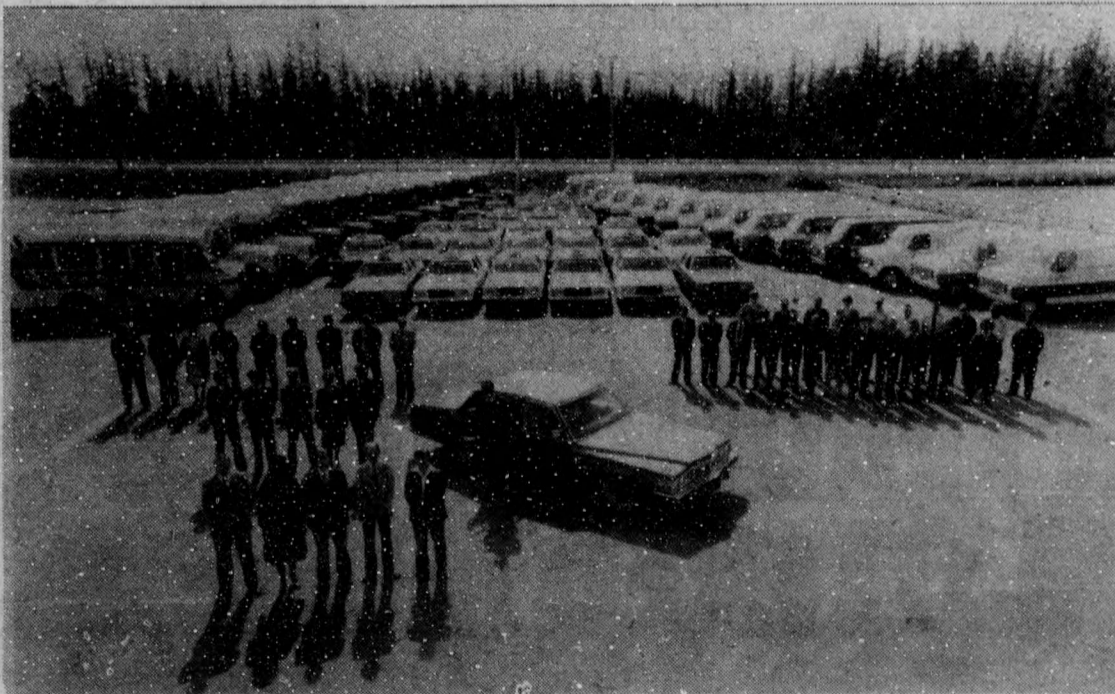

The politician knows his real job is to get elected.