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You know it's Spring in New Brunswick when:

1. The weather goes from a balmy 10°C to -20°C with freezing rain in the same day.
2. You just can't defend having a Christmas tree inside - it has got to go.
3. A very peculiar smell in the air - just beyond your reach yet. But, yes, it's... it's FREEDOM!

And the winner is...

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickian News

If an automatic recount confirms preliminary election night results, Joie Hellmeister is set to be the next President of the UNB Student Union. She would be just the third woman to win the post.

Hellmeister won a narrow victory over her nearest opponent, Matt Collins; Hellmeister received 385 votes to 371 for Collins. Jeff Melanson was third with 240 votes while current SU Vice President Jeff Clark finished fourth with 175. Eugene Davis garnered 150 votes while Raymond Rice got 96. A significant 86 votes were spoiled. Twenty-three percent of eligible voters turned out to cast their ballots for President.

Two other interesting contests for Vice President developed as election night counting continued into the early morning hours.

Monique Scholten emerged as the winner in a three-way race for Vice President of Finance and Administration.

Scholten received 640 votes to 420 for Shona Bertrand. Steve MacDonald trailed with 262 votes. 114 ballots were spoiled. Just 17.6 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots for VP Finance.

In a two-way race for VP External,



This intimidating sight greeted every student who cast a ballot.

Photo: Warren Watson

Andrew Knight emerged the winner, as the lead see-sawed back and forth throughout the night with Erik Mooers. When all the votes were counted, Knight received 622 votes to 498 for Mooers. 209 ballots were spoiled, significantly more than the margin of victory in this contest.

Trish Davidson, running for a second term as Vice President Student Services was the biggest winner capturing 956 votes to Ian LeTourneau's 370. 132 ballots were spoiled.

In a Yes/No vote, Anoushka Courage was confirmed as Vice President University Affairs. Courage received 1,110 Yes votes to 205 No. 112 ballots were spoiled. Just over 20% of eligible voters cast ballots.

In a close three-way race, Jeff Clark and Kelly Lamrock have been re-elected to the Board of Governors. Clark received 765 votes, Lamrock 747, and Eugene Davis trailed with 728. There were a significant 114 spoiled

ballots, far more than the margin of victory. An automatic recount will take place according to the Student Union Constitution.

At time of press, no other results were available. Counting took place on the evening of April 2, and continued through noon hour April 3.

All results are unofficial, until Chief Returning Officer David Gourley presents the final election results to Council. Several recounts are expected.

Violations abound in elections

by Joe FitzPatrick
Co-News Editor

Several elections violations, including poll stations with fewer than the required number of poll workers, poster violations and voting irregularities have been reported to *The Brunswickian* during the course of the Student Union General Election, April 1 and 2.

The Bylaws explicitly mandate that only the Chief Returning Officer or a Deputy Returning Officer may be alone with a ballot box, sealed or unsealed. At all other times, two people must be present.

The Bylaws also mandate a "media blackout" which prohibits campaign posters after 9PM on the day before the vote (Sunday, March 31).

On Monday, April 1, a tour of the polling stations by *Brunswickian* News staff revealed that 4 polls (Tilley Hall, Singer Hall, Science Library, and Marshall D'Avray) had only 1 poll worker operating the station.

Further reports received indicate that the Science Library poll had fewer than two poll workers on at least three occasions during the morning of April 1.

In addition, on April 2, on no less than five occasions, *The Brunswickian* observed polls in the SUB with less than two poll workers. One witness reported that the SUB poll in the main lobby had been operating with only one person for 20 minutes.

Chief Returning Officer David Gourley admits that there have been

problems with poll workers. "We had some logistical problems, as can be expected," he told *The Brunswickian*.

Gourley explained that a few poll workers scheduled to work on Monday did not show up, and this caused a few problems. One of the results, he stated, was that from 2PM-4PM on April 1, the polls at Tilley Hall and Lady Dunn were operating with only one poll worker.

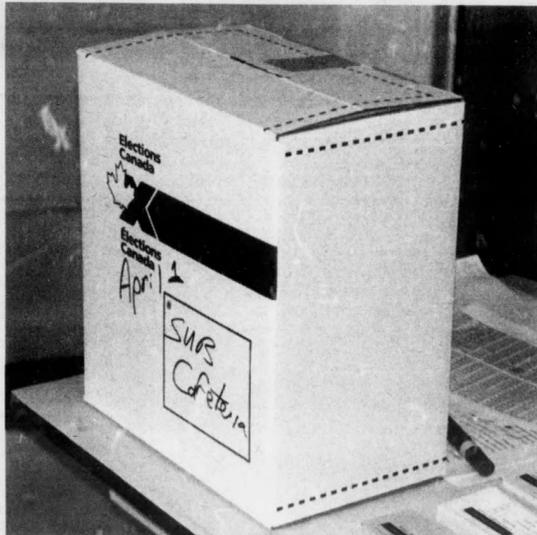
"It was a choice between closing one poll or having one poll worker work at each," said Gourley. "I would rather that there be polls open than closed."

Gourley acknowledged that technically, these situations were violations of the election bylaw.

Further reports of irregularities included: a graduate student member of *The Brunswickian* who was offered the ballots at a poll, despite only being eligible to vote for the position of Board of Governors representative. Another graduate student was turned away from a poll because there was no list of graduate students eligible to vote; the same student was able to vote at another poll without a problem.

Chantale Walker, Vice President (University Affairs) indicated to Council on Tuesday, April 2, that the problems encountered during this election were to be expected in an election. *The Brunswickian* was unable to determine if so many violations of the 'two poll worker' rule had ever been encountered before in a Student Union election.

Poster violations were discovered by *The Brunswickian* in many of the main



A new poll box used in elections.

Photo: Warren Watson

traffic areas on campus. The most flagrant violations of the "blackout" was John Steeves, a valedictorian candidate. Other posters found included: Monique Scholten (Head Hall), Jeff Clark (Head Hall), Trish Davidson (Head Hall), including the Geodesy & Geomatics Lounge), Matt Collins (tunnel to Kierstead Hall, Head Hall, LB Gym), and Anthony Knight (McLaggan, across from the poll, Kierstead).

Dave Gourley acknowledged that there were several violations of the "blackout," but indicated that John

Steeves was the only serious violation. No fines have been levied.

In fact, Gourley questions the "blackout" and indicated to *The Brunswickian* that he would not enforce that particular regulation.

"What is the purpose, really, of [the 'blackout']?" he asked rhetorically.

The Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officers, Marie-Eve Pilon and Sean Burnett, are authorized to make decisions regarding the course of election, subject to ratification by Council.