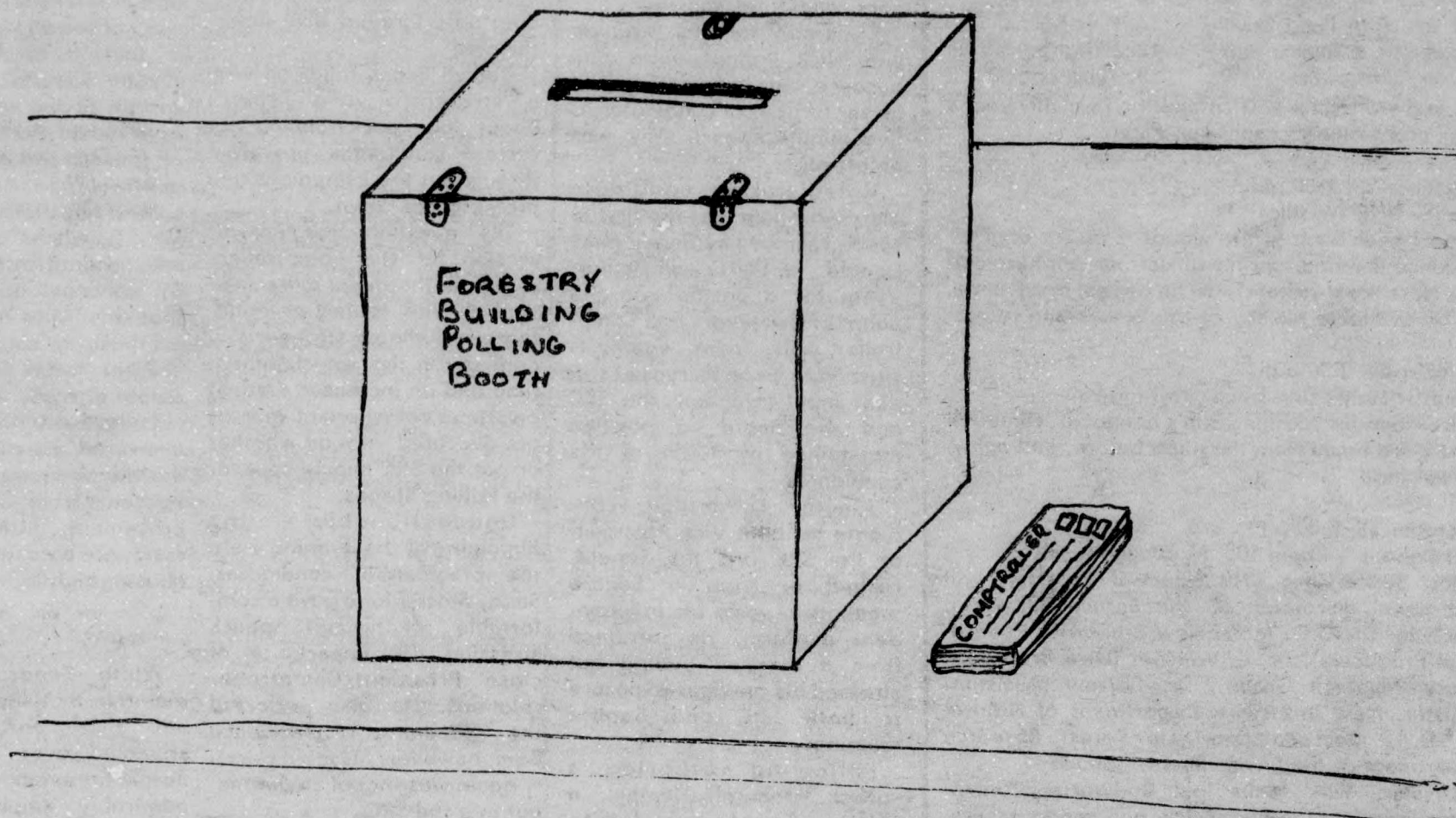


Voting results invalid?



The results of this year's SRC election are probably no surprise to anyone. A record 36 percent of students went out to the polls to vote in our new SRC representatives. John Bosnitch, the new SRC president, won by a huge margin of 400 votes. Timothy Lethbridge also won by a substantial margin over his opponent, and the closest race between the four candidates vying for Comptroller was eventually won by Darren Evans.

However, these results, and therefore the results for all positions are of a questionable nature. Although it is understandable that not all can run smoothly, some gross errors have been made that should be brought to the attention of those officials running the campaign and the electorate.

The first of the puzzling occurrences is this. Apparently no one voted for the position

of Comptroller in the Forestry Building. How can this be if all other positions were voted for there? One possibility that occurred to us was that no ballots for Comptroller were sent to that polling station. Chief Returning Officer, Ken Cuthbertson assured us that this was not true. So, if there were ballots, what happened to them? Three possibilities come to mind. First, the ballots may not have been handed out to the voters. Secondly, the ballots could have been taken from the Forestry Building and dropped in another ballot box and finally, perhaps after the polls were closed the ballots were removed from the box. In any case, this should invalidate the results for SRC Comptroller.

Even if this means only one vote for each of the candidates, it is a vote which they have a right to.

Unfortunately, this was not the only thing that did not

seem to run smoothly in the election.

In Lady Dunn Hall, a ballot box was left unattended for approximately three hours, between the hours the polling station closed and reopened at supper time. Who knows what happened during this time? Also, at the Lady Dunn Hall poll, a student who had received her ballot cards only to find that she did not have one for Arts rep was told "Oh, I think that seat was acclaimed." One less vote for one of the candidates.

Other incidents include cases of poll workers leaving the polls unattended with the ballot cards sitting on the table. One story tells of a candidate left to guard the polling station by herself. Isn't this against regulations? A Deputy Returning Officer sat by himself for one and a half hours while the poll workers were off somewhere else. Isn't there a rule that there must be two workers at the

polls at all times?

Another case of 'broken rules' was the handing out of flyers by the UNITY party on election day. Campaigning is supposed to conclude on midnight of the evening prior to the election. Worse those flyers were approved by the Chief Returning Officer who said that he didn't consider it 'campaigning'. How can this be?

Obviously there are more stories floating around this campus about things that went wrong, and obviously things did go wrong. Now the only question is why?

Apparently better control is needed in both organizing the election and the polls. Maybe more polls are needed so those people working them won't be flooded with ten people who they can't keep an eye on.

If there is a reason to question one vote, perhaps there is a reason to question them all