

New plan for the Student Union is good; calls for maturity

Let's forget where the suggestion came from, and consider the value of Student Union President John Bosnitch's plan for the re-structuring of the Students' Representative Council. There is a strong tendency to discount any idea of John's as one more raving from a madman, but in this case, hear him out.

Mr. Bosnitch's plan calls for a new Executive, with five Vice-Presidents. Another major change is for these five VPs, along with the President and three representatives from St. Thomas, to comprise the SUB Board. Campus Services Limited and SUB Holdings will be disbanded and instead fall under the aegis of the SUB board. A further innovation is to increase Faculty Representatives. Currently, there is one rep per 300 students. The new plan calls for one rep per 200 students.

Presently, the Executive is comprised of the President, Vice-President, Comptroller, who are all elected, and an Assistant Comptroller, who is appointed by the Comptroller and then ratified by council. Under the new organization, the Vice-President becomes VP Administration, the Comptroller the VP Finance. The current job of director of CSL becomes VP Services, who thus joins the SU Executive. A new post, VP Public Relations, would be created to promote rock concerts and other events on campus, as well as to publish information handbooks. The sixth new position, VP Academics, would head a commission much like the current academics committee on the Senate. The Academics commission would give students a more direct voice in matters concerning course format, the weight of final exams in the course grade, and other matters in the struggle between students and good marks.

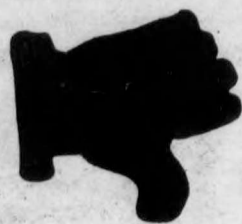
Each of the VPs would head a commission of six, made up of three members of the Students' Representative Council and three members of the general student populace. Each commission will elect an assistant VP from their ranks, subject to ratification by Council. The assistant VP of the Finance commission will take over the job of Assistant Comptroller.

Are you with me so far? The merits of this plan are apparent. For one thing there is a greater division of power since more positions are created. The argument that Bosnitch simply gets his friends on all the boards will be quashed, since there are more elected positions than before. All the VPs are elected and the commissions are half composed of elected councillors, half by student applicants who must be approved by council.

However, there are certain realities of campus politics than cannot be ignored. For one, students take classes. Thus they are supposed to spend most of their time studying. This new plan requires more students than before, and it may be difficult to find enough people to contest these positions. We may well end up with acclaimed seats and positions, and the accusations that John simply got his henchmen to a fill the spots will go ad infinitum.

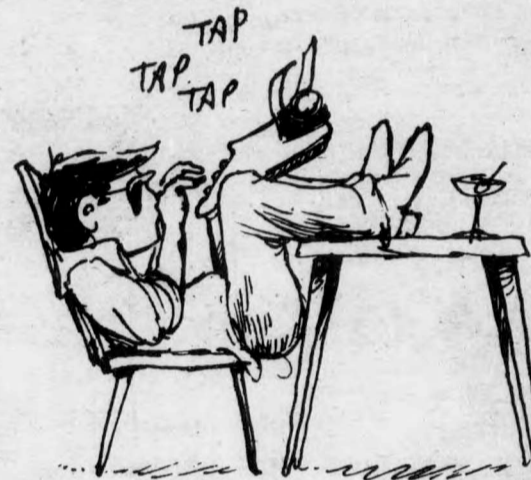
Another reservation is the prospect of the Student Union Executive being the SUB Board. There is not a very promising track record of student management in the SUB. President Bosnitch refers to a difficult transition period this summer. Well, how long do transitions last?

The principles of the plan are wonderful. Students, working side by side running a building owned by students. Students as landlords and bar managers and publishers in the cause of students. Students deciding what stores best serve student needs. "Students serving Students." We need, as students, to inform ourselves and to decry any missteps when they occur. Seek out President Bosnitch and members of council to give your concerns and criticisms. The plan could work if we enter into it maturely and realistically.



By DAVID MAZEROLLE

Hi, I'm back! The reason I'm doing Mugwump two weeks in a row is because the Managing Editor, Tim Lethbridge, at the time of this writing is still in Florida. Tim, you see, was the winner of the raffle held among the Orientation Committee members. Lucky stiff...



I would like to begin by clarifying a few statements of last week's edition. I mentioned Julius Csabai in last week's inside editorial. I included his name in a paragraph that began by mentioning there were some MacKenzie residents who were readmitted to the house even though they had charges against them or low G.P.A.'s I did not mean to imply Mr. Csabai belonged in their company; that was simply a problem with sentence structure. My apologies to Mr. Csabai for any embarrassment or besmirchment of reputation he may have suffered.

With this week's edition, John Bosnitch gets a chance to get a word in (that is, a word that is unmistakably John's own, as opposed to the reams of words we have received in the past few weeks in the form of letters and news articles which seem Bosnitch-inspired). As you see John, one cheap shot deserves another. My word to Bruns readers is: believe what you want. I couldn't care one way or the other.



Last week's Kaptain Kaching cartoon has been construed as offensive by a number of people, due to a comic situation that uses an attempted rape for its humour. True, rape is not funny, but neither is fag-bashing, as this week's Kaching will show. However, one of man's and woman's biggest strengths is the ability to laugh at oneself. I do not feel the cartoon will incite anyone to commit rape or to assault a homosexual.

Jane Siberry, a Toronto singer/songwriter, will be bringing her highly original and artistic show to UNB this Saturday night at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4.99 and available at the CSL Exchange. Siberry is a rising star in Canadian music, compared favorably with Joni Mitchell, Laurie Anderson, and Karen Carpenter. Such disparate comparisons underscore the fact that Siberry is utterly original. For an example of her evocative, subtle work, perk up your ears the next time "Mimi on the Beach" plays on CHSR. And go to the concert, at the SUB cafeteria on Saturday night. Opening for Jane Siberry will be another Canadian band, L'Etranger.