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Absence the rule - Council plays cool

by donalee Moulton

Every year loyal students dutifully file into the voting booth to elect their Council rep for the year, naively expecting those elected to attend the meetings as all conscientious reps do. This unfortunately is only an expectation and it most certainly has not been fulfilled.

There are 34 members on Council, at the last meeting 24 members were present, which according to President Bruce Russell is a very good turnout. Many of the absentees are making their absence the rule instead of the exception. There is one Council member who has not attended the meetings since well before Christmas.

According to Council regulation if a member has missed three consecutive meetings with no good reason, and this fact is pointed out, a motion may be passed to ask that member to resign. Mike Zed, the Dentistry Representative, has missed more than 3 consecutive meetings and there has been no mention of requesting his resignation.

When the Gazette asked why no motion had been made, Bruce Russell stated that, "...doesn't seem important. I'm involved in other

things."

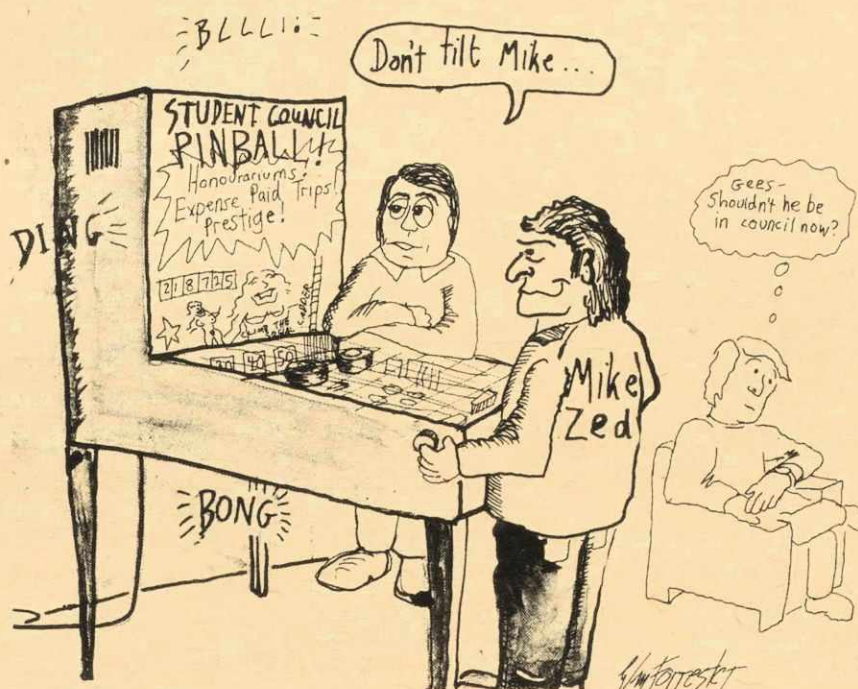
According to Mike Zed the reason for his continuous absence has been "Because I've been extremely busy." When asked if he planned to attend any more meetings he replied, "Well, I imagine so."

If Council did ask for a member's resignation it would mean selecting a new representative and since Bruce Russell admits to not noticing Zed's absence until Christmas he questions the effectiveness of a new appointment.

Russell is happy with the fact that he has never had quorum problems and says, "On the whole Council members have been very conscientious about attending meetings."

Les MacDormand, Arts Rep, had attended about half the meetings up until Christmas, his reason — conflicting interests. He does feel however, that the items on the agenda are not appropriate or relevant and Council members are, "...not clued in to the background of the items on the agenda."

Would he ask for a Council member's resignation? First he feels he would speak to the member and if the member had no good reason — then, yes, he would ask for that member's resignation.



Housing Secretary appointed

by Ron Norman

Barbara Beach, a second year Law student, has been appointed by Student Council president Bruce Russell to fill the newly created position of housing secretary.

Beach was selected from a group of four candidates. She has had previous experience in the housing field, working in relation to urban housing for a Toronto alderman's office.

Beach will assume her new duties as soon as possible, and according to Russell this should be no later than February 9.

The specific duties of the housing secretary have not been drawn up, but they would entail advice and recommendations to the Student Council, Russell told the Gazette.

Russell said that the reason for the vagueness of the duties is that he and housing director John Graham wanted to meet with Beach to work out the specific terms of reference.

Russell also made it clear that the Student Union executive was not unhappy with the job that John Graham has done. It is simply, said Russell, that Graham serves both the union and the administration. Russell said that there was a need to have an experienced person who would work exclusively for the Student Union.

Russell elaborated on the need for a housing person who is responsible only to the union. Citing the Gazette editorial, (Jan. 29) Russell said that he recognized his failure to completely live up to his campaign promises to work on housing.

He said that because of other matters resulting in lack of time, he

has not been as responsive to student housing needs as he would have liked.

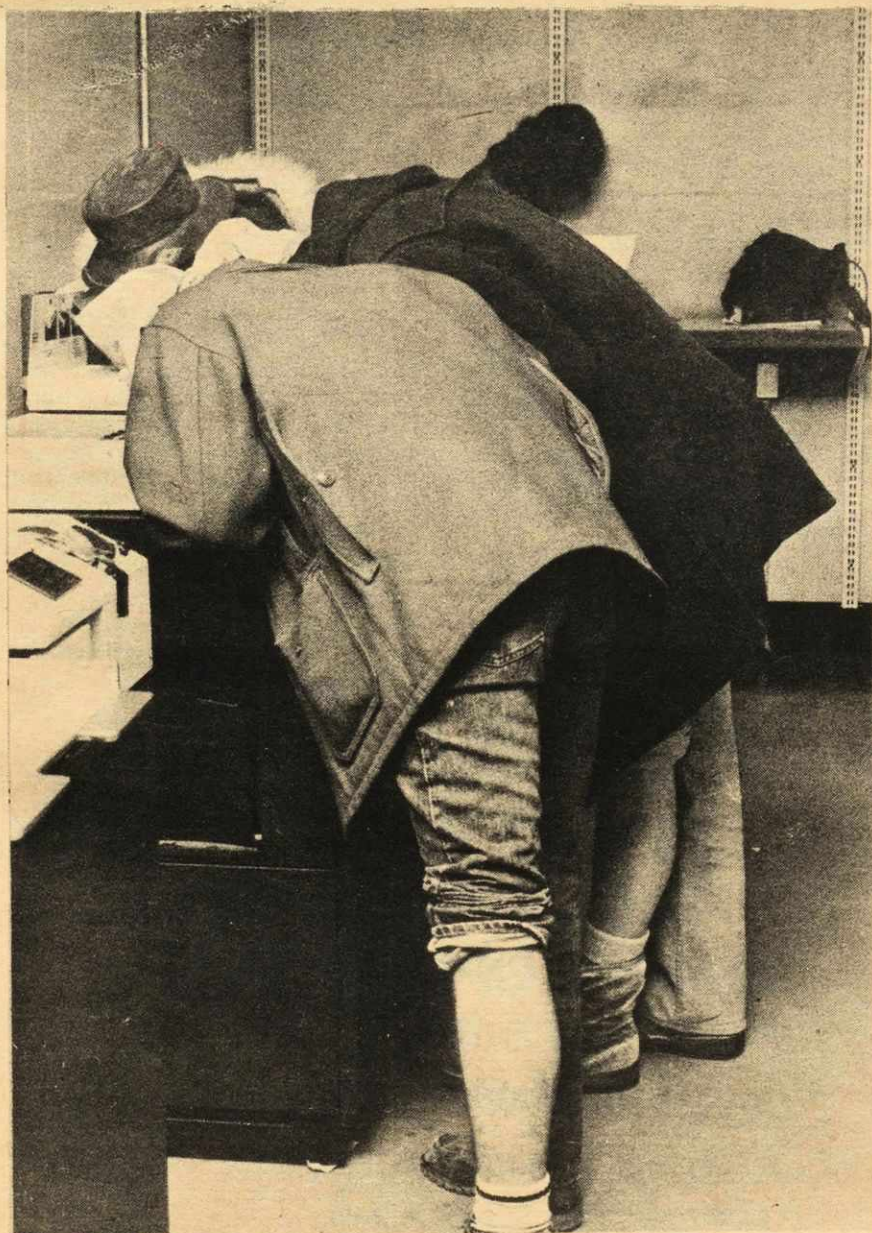
He said that a housing secretary will be able to accomplish much of what he could not get around to.

With the additional information which the housing secretary will provide, Russell said that he will be able to produce a more effective presentation at the Board of Governors meetings. Right now Russell said that the Board of Governors simply show "lip service" because of the lack of substance in his knowledge about student housing. The housing secretary will fill this gap.

The housing position is an academic year placement running from September to May. There is an honorarium that goes with the position of \$50 per month (reduced from this year's \$125 per month). Beach, will finish her term in May of this year and another person will assume the duties next September.

Money is a-waiting

There is money at the Student Awards Office and the University is anxious to give it away. Ontario Loan Certificates, New Brunswick Loan Certificate, Nova Scotia Bursary Checks, and New Brunswick Bursary Checks are just collecting dust in the office. So all you students who haven't already picked them up, don't give the administration the impression that you don't need the money. But remember to bring them your green sheets. The money is there so get it!



The Student Union elections race is on! Dal Photo / Walsh Candidates vie for exposure.