



The last two student elections have been dominated by the presence of first CAUSE and then the Student Party. This leads us to a couple of interesting questions. What is the function of a party system within the confines of university politics and more specifically, what is the role of the Student Party at UNB?

There is a distinct difference between a group of friends with basically the same qualifications/background and similar aims running for office and a political party fielding a slate of candidates behind a set platform.

The problem is of a twofold nature; the lack of individuality allowed the slated

candidate, and the inherent quandry of pulling weak people into office on the coat tails of their leader (s) ?).

The results of Wednesday's election show that for the Student Party, this problem has yet to be faced. Of the party's candidates, only John Bosnitch was elected. This seems to indicate that while voters may sit up and notice the dynamic Mr. Bosnitch, his fellow party members fade into obscurity beside him. Bosnitch was elected on the strength of his personality and not his politics--something he has repeatedly denounced.

To further illustrate, Randy MacDonald was a strong contender for the position of

science rep. But by allying himself with the Student Party, he lost the seat to the less well-known Don Higgins.

Student politics on this campus has little place for the confrontation style of the Student Party, et. al. The SRC are representatives of the Student Union, not members of parliament. There is an immediate need for some semblance of ability and willingness to compromise among the diverse interests of our elected representatives.

It is difficult to feel any confidence in a group who designed their campaign posters to purposely offend as many people as possible and who then scorn the votes of those students who are of-

fended. The party wants to be elected on their platform but fails to realize that many of those attracted by their election promises were in turn alienated by the image they projected.

Thus we have just been treated to some of the worst aspects of coalition politics and, although Senator-elect Bosnitch won his individual race, the grand experiment has to be considered at least a partial failure for the time being. The electorate apparently did not consider the SP candidates of equal calibre to their leader. Until this situation is rectified the best the SP could do to improve their potential would be to change their name, if not the people involved.