

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

by David MacKeen

A provincial election was held in Nova Scotia on October 30, 1956. I was in Halifax at the time. Since then many have asked me, "What was it like in Halifax on election night?" This is my answer.

During the day I worked in Halifax South, a seat which was held by Richard Donahue, a Conservative. Mr. Donahue had been elected in 1954 in a bye-election following the death of Angus L. MacDonald. At noon hour I had my lunch in Conservative Headquarters. The atmosphere seemed gloomy, and the workers went mechanically about their various tasks with a marked lack of enthusiasm. I spoke to a ward Chairman and he told me that "he didn't like the look of things. She was too quiet." This had not been the case in the bye-election. Somebody else said "It is bad through the whole city. They are running circles around us." I knew that there was a certain amount of truth in what he said. At my own poll I felt that the Liberal vote had been heavy compared to that of the Conservatives. This became even more apparent as the day wore on. When the polls closed at 6 o'clock I felt that Mr. Donahue would be lucky if he kept his deposit.

Dad and I went home and listened to the radio. The first returns were surprising. In Dartmouth the Conservative candidate was leading the sitting Liberal by 40 votes. I felt that there would be a swing in the other direction as more polls reported. The next returns were from Halifax South. My fears of defeat seemed justified. Donahue had a three vote lead. In the bye-election, he had had a 1500 majority. He wasn't going to this time.

More reports came in from Dartmouth. The Liberal member was in the lead. I began to feel that once again the Conservatives were doomed to defeat. The first returns from Colchester County showed that Mr. Stanfield, the Conservative leader and his running mate, Ike Smith were ahead. This was to be expected. It was a safe seat.

The next place to be heard from was Antigonish. It had been a Liberal seat since 1896. This time the Conservative candidate had a slim lead, but as in Dartmouth only a few polls had reported. Donahue led in Halifax South by 80 votes. I still felt that he was doing badly, and that he would be defeated by the waterfront vote. In Halifax North the sitting Liberal member built up a strong lead. We had planned on winning that seat. The Conservative candidate in Dartmouth again swung into the lead. A tight race developed in Halifax Centre.

It was about this time that the first returns began to be heard from Cape Breton. It had been a Liberal strong-hold under Angus L. MacDonald. This time the Conservatives led in three seats. I began to feel that perhaps we wouldn't be badly beaten.

In Antigonish the Conservative candidate increased his lead. Dad and I went up to headquarters. It was a smoke filled room, jammed with people. They surged back and forth in front of the black boards on which the returns were being posted. Some of them seemed to be pessimistic; some of them seemed to be hopeful; the majority just watched and waited.

There was a cheer from one side of the room. The Conservatives had built up a lead in 4 of the 10 Cape Breton seats. On my left someone said, "Oh my God!" His oath was justified. In Yarmouth two Conservative members were being defeated. We were holding our three seats on the South Shore. A new seat had been established in Lunenburg, and we led on it. One of our provincial organizers told me that the election was going to be a deadlock. Another election would be called and the Tories would win it. Suddenly there was more cheering. The Conservatives led in five Cape Breton seats. Somebody shouted: "The heather is on fire."

The next returns came from the Annapolis Valley. The Liberals led in four seats, the Conservatives in three. Premier Hicks had built up a strong majority in his own constituency. On my right a boy who couldn't have been more than fourteen years old turned to a friend and said, "That . . ."

A tremendous shout rocked the room. Donahue was elected by 900 votes. Creighton the Conservative in Dartmouth had an 80 vote lead. But Liberal candidates were pulling ahead in other city constituencies.

In Shelburn County, the Minister of Trade and Industry began to fall behind his Conservative opponent. The excitement was almost unbearable; Dad and I went to hear the returns on the radio. A Canadian press report showed that the Liberals had elected eight and led in twelve. The Conservatives had elected seven and led in thirteen. The C.C.F. led in one Cape Breton seat. Two seats had not reported.

A large number of people came to our house. They were trying to remain calm. They were trying to conceal a hope which no one dared express. Hardly anyone had a drink. It was too exciting; stimulants were not needed.

A Liberal led in the District of Clare, but in neighbouring Digby county a Conservative forged to the front. In Antigonish the Liberal Cabinet Minister conceded the election to his Conservative opponent. Those who began to cheer stopped abruptly as we heard that a Conservative member had been defeated in King's County. At 9 o'clock the Canadian Press election analysis predicted a deadlock. The Conservative candidate in Dartmouth was defeated. Mr. Stanfield was interviewed from his headquarters in Truro. He said that he wouldn't make any predictions but that the situation was becoming more interesting.

I found that the tension and excitement was unbearable. I went outside but was drawn back to the radio as if it were a magnet. The standings were, Liberals elected 13, leading in 7. The Conservatives had elected 12 and were leading in 10. The C.C.F. had elected 1. This, with the exception of the speaker a majority of two in the legislature. Could we hold this lead; would we hold this lead?

Again I went away from the radio. I came tearing back in time to hear the voice of the announcer say "I now take you to Robert L. Stanfield, who has just been elected premier of Nova Scotia!" We had won. The Conservatives were going to form the government. There was loud cheering. Others, unable to believe

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THE NEW DESIGN



Christmas Cards Available

The proximity of the Christmas vacation brings to mind the annual problem of Christmas cards. In past years the UNB cards have more often than not been too plain or too cheap looking to sell and many entrepreneurs have burnt a good part of their stock in trade after ekeing out a meagre profit or none at all.

This year the holders of the Christmas card concession tried a new approach. They went to Trophy Craft in Toronto to get a card which would sell well enough at the prevailing \$1.00 a dozen rate to justify a higher cost price. The card represented above is the one selected over many others by a small cross-section of the campus as the best looking card the printers had to offer. It features the words "Season's Greetings" in red with a black border and a UNB Coat of Arms in gold. The card is a pleasant departure from the monotonous mediocrity of past years although it retains the severity common to most university Christmas cards.

Among the new innovations used on the present card are the different grade of paper which has a sort of kid finish, and embossed gold Coat of Arms which makes a third colour (perhaps the first time we have had a three colour card).

The sales arrangements for the cards are the same as other years and the bookstore and library already have their stocks.

The next few weeks will determine whether UNB students are impressed by a different card and whether the new card is enough of an improvement to deserve widespread sales.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Friday, Nov. 30.

Fall Formal, Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium

Monday, Dec. 3.

Forestry Association Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Forestry Reading Room. S.C.M. Panel Discussion 1:30 p.m., Student Centre.

Remarks:

These are the only activities which have been reported for the coming week; however, below are the proposed regular dates of various club meetings.

Proposed Regular Meetings:

Debating Society: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of month, 7:30 p.m., Room 106, Forestry Building. Student Wives' Club: 1st Tuesday of month, 8:30 p.m., General Purpose Room, Student Centre. Bailey Geological Society: 1st Tuesday of month. Forestry Association: 2nd Monday of month, 7:30 p.m., Forestry Reading Room. Student Christian Movement: Every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. Newman Club: Every other Sunday, 8:15 p.m.

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S. C. M.

We expect an especially interesting evening this coming Sunday at Open House: the Rev. Bob Miller of the National Office is now in Fredericton, and included in his busy schedule will be a talk at that time on the subject: "Faith and Doubt" with a discussion to follow.

We invite all interested students to come. (The place and time: George St. Baptist Church at 8:30 PM) In addition we will have an old-fashioned sing-song, coffee and sandwiches, and a devotional.

With reference to Rev. Miller's UNB schedule as given in Tuesday's Brunswickan, two corrections are in order: The talk on

Existentialism will be on Monday at 7:30 PM (2nd floor Arts Bldg.), and the panel discussion entitled "What is Man?" will be held at 1 PM in the Student Centre.

Editor's Dilemma

by Ken Grant

7:34 P.M. Stereotype contributor enters office; demands columnist rating for his article on mast-head. He also wants his article to appear same location on page each week. Editor concedes that he may have a case. But wow, what problems!

7:45 P.M. Re-writer enters office; chastises editor for failure to include last line of his final draft of article printed three weeks ago. Editor explains mechanical problems involved.

8:02 P.M. Editor makes several phone calls in search of missing column. Suspects that it has been destroyed or hidden by a competing columnist.

9:25 P.M. Editor again criticized by re-writer for failure to give columnist rating to friend of latter who contributes occasional press release.

9:50 P.M. Editor still making phone calls in search of missing copy which he now suspects has been stolen by a rival newspaper. 10:15 P.M. Representative of "Writer's Workshop" enters and promptly blasts editor for encroaching upon their copyright upon which they threaten to launch lawsuit proceedings.

11:20 P.M. Editor paces floor, violently tearing his hair; still wonders what has become of his high-priced columnist.

12:00 P.M. Editor proceeds to keep all night vigil hoping missing copy may yet arrive.

12:30 A.M. Editor changes mind. Goes home. Considers retiring.

See the

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