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Photo by Jerome Kashetaky

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THE BRUNSWICKAN

Canada's oldest official student publication

VOLUME 109 ISSUE 6

24 PAGES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1974

FREE

Somebody got itchy fingers?

By SUSAN MANZER
Editor-in-Chief

An alleged case of "ballot stuffing" disrupted normal procedures during the UNB Student Representative Council, Board of Governors and Senate elections on Wednesday.

Two witnesses have filed written statements claiming they observed from a distance, a person responsible for the poll in the Student Union Building marking on ballots and putting them in the box.

SRC President, Peter Galoska said, "The SRC as an incorporate body will lay charges against the person in front of the Student Disciplinary Committee." He could not give any possibilities on punishment which could be laid down by the SDC because he felt it would be obstructing a fair trial.

The incident is supposedly the first of its kind in the history of the SRC, Senate and Board of Governors elections.

Galoska said the SRC has no choice concerning the laying of charges; since formal statements have been submitted "it is out of the hands" of the SRC. He added the matter must go to a non-biased body or the SRC itself could be accused of "stuffing". Galoska mentioned Council was acting under the advice of their legal council Peter Forbes.

"It is really the candidates who are suffering", said Galoska. "An election on any level is emotionally draining and the higher you go the harder it is. It really hurts to lose after all the publicity and now this case is in doubt." He went on to say Council was withholding the unofficial poll counts since, in the case of another election, it may be an influence to release the results to the student body.

During a meeting with all the SRC candidates yesterday afternoon, it was decided through legal waivers on the part of those running in the election, to hold another voting day along with a by-election for three seats including Physical Education, half term Arts and Engineering. But date of the proposed election will have to be voted on by Council.

Galoska said his reaction upon hearing the news of the alleged stuffing was one of "extreme anger then it lapsed to a point of disappointment. But I decided to wait until I talked to all the candidates and gathered all the facts before I formulated any opinions".

He also mentioned the possibility of collusion if it is a definite case of "stuffing".

"The possibility does exist but we do take as many precautions as possible such as closing a poll if only one person is on duty until the required two are available. But the investigation will bring this out. Right now only one person will be charged but it is possible the second person might have been involved," he said.

University Secretary and Acting Registrar Dugald Blue also expressed concern over the incident. "It is a great pity this should have occurred. We have been running the Student Senators and Governors elections in conjunction

with the SRC for six years now and we have in the past had only a few minor irregularities which were all unintentional."

Blue said the results of the incident will have to go before the Senate and the Board of Governors and what will happen from here will be up to the respective bodies. He said he is responsible to them for making a report which, he said, will be based on his own investigation

made by talking to the people involved. He said both bodies could be influenced by the candidates' views on the matter, which may or may not lead to another election.

Blue added the ballot counts are obviously in doubt and therefore he cannot release the results in case of another election.

He also said the question of laying of charges will also be up to the respective bodies.

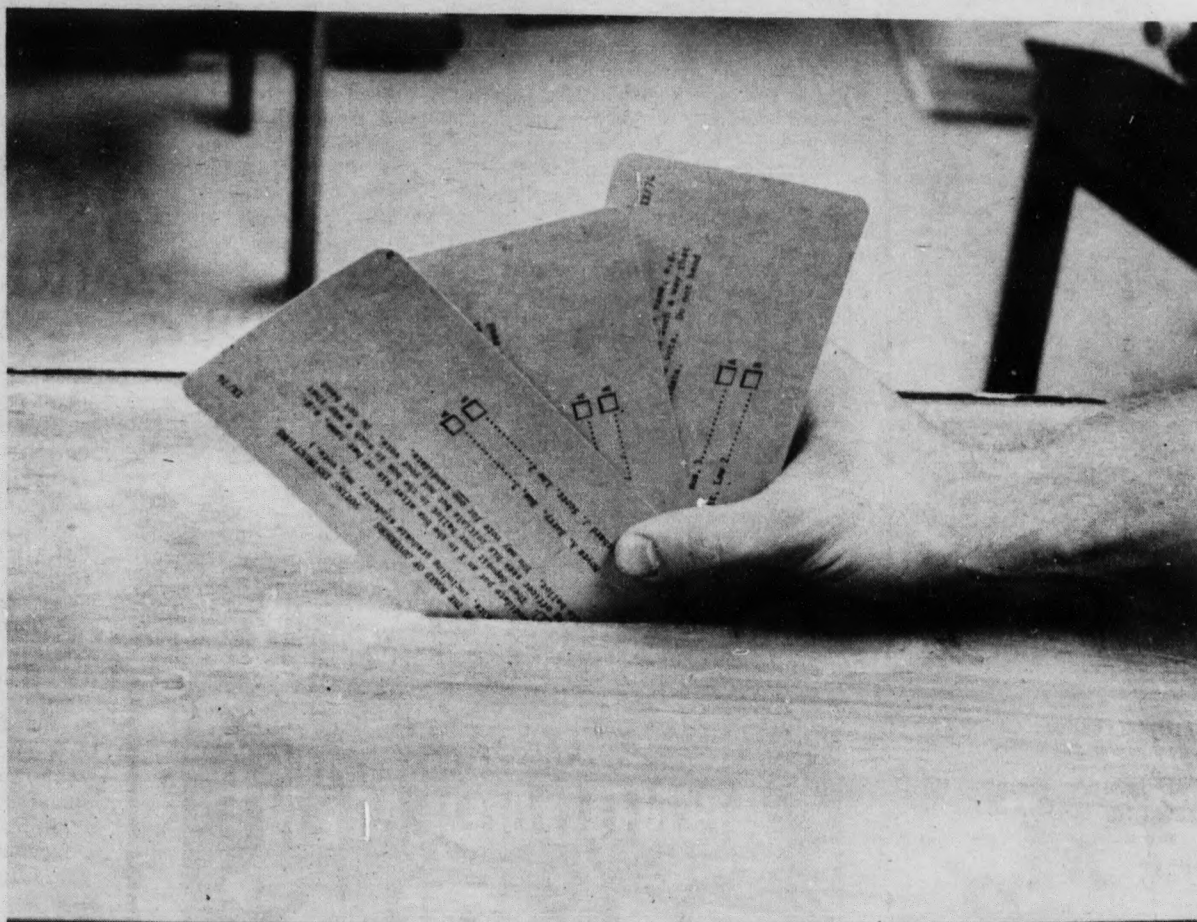


Photo by Steve Patriquen

For the first time in the history of SRC, Board of Governors, and Senate elections an alleged case of ballot stuffing has disrupted electoral procedure. The individual(s) involved will be charged in front of the Student Disciplinary Committee, according to SRC president Peter Galoska.

Bombers cop

long awaited

win

-see page 23

NBLCC cards

may not be necessary

for students!

-see page 3