



Mugwump Journal

By TOM BENJAMIN

The upcoming SRC presidential election scheduled for Nov. 26 is marked by one clear fault — the complete absence of reality in the campaign platforms expounded by several candidates.

At least the candidates that bothered to prepare a platform show an ignorance of what this campus really needs.

I find it difficult to believe some of the candidates seriously think they are qualified for the position of president.

One candidate has listed a platform of withdrawal from the National Union of Students, co-ed "dorms", and lower student fees. That platform is so easy to knock holes in that I'm not sure I should even bother to comment.

First, withdrawal from NUS would mean disenfranchising the majority of students who voted in favor of joining the union during the referendum.

Second, the SRC has no jurisdiction over the operation residences, and can only recommend that changes be made in their operation.

Third, lowering student fees at this time would definitely mean a reduction in services offered for students by the SRC, and a reduction in funding for all SRC-sponsored organizations.

Another candidate has said "I will continue the efforts to establish an SRC forum in THE BRUNSWICKAN in which current issues will be discussed in a question and answer format."

Other platform planks for that candidate include increased lighting on campus with more security patrols, either evening or Saturday banking hours.

The candidate has never made an attempt to establish any type of forum in this paper, and to my knowledge has never darkened the Brunswickan office door. Not to mention the fact that the editorial board of the paper has the final say on what the paper decides to print.

The other planks mentioned by the candidate are certainly not of paramount importance to a council plagued by so many internal problems.

Voters in this election must be very, very cautious in choosing a candidate to support. This election more than any other has several candidates in the offing who could be extremely detrimental to student government if elected.

We are facing the possibility of having an uninformed, or misinformed, candidate elected as president.

An interesting line of graffiti on one campaign poster appears to sum up what most students think about the election — "If there are no issues, admit it."

The issues are there, the problem is that most of the candidates have ignored them.

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The alumni power conference beginning here today may have some startling repercussions on the operation of this university.

Most student leaders have agreed that the power of student government on this campus has decreased over the past few years, while the power of the alumni is growing stronger.

While I deplore the idea of the current decrease in student power I sincerely applaud the alumni's apparent desire to have a stronger say in the operation of this institution.

The alumni association here has a record of attempting to assist students in every way possible, as evidenced by the student leadership conferences the association sponsors each year.

With the current situation in student politics and government it would certainly be an opportune time for students to seek a closer association with the alumni.

The upcoming student leadership conference scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 30 will be a good time for both groups to get together.

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A National Union of Students committee has begun on this campus, and has already outlined several areas in which work will be undertaken.

Some of the issues the committee hopes to become involved with are student aid, housing and the Aitken University Centre.

Anyone interested in assisting the committee should attend its next meeting at the Atlantic Federation of Students office at 7:30 Tuesday.

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The scheduling of Christmas exams will provide more hardships for students than the perennial all-nighters with the books this year.

The last day for exams is Dec. 20, but most Air Canada special rates are blacked out from Dec. 19 to 24.

With a large amount of students forced to stay to the bitter end to complete their exams many will be forced to pay full fares for their Christmas flight home — if they are one of the lucky ones who can afford to fly at all.

McCluskey explains withdrawal

Dear Editor:

The political world of UNB is unique believe me! Last week I took my initial step into the political pool with the full confidence of an olympic swimmer in his ability to win.

As you know I stated my decision to run on the basis that student unity, though lacking, was not a dead horse as some believed.

Our SRC, so it seemed, had not recently provided anyone with a reasonable justification of its existence.

The SRC as representative of

this student body also came across to me as being diversified, polarized; ie. un-unified.

The basic question was, why? I came to the conclusion that it was not so much apathy within this student body as it was a lack of co-operation within itself and outside of itself in its dealings with concerned parties.

I then proposed that the only reasonable and intelligent method of rectifying this situation was to provide the proper kind of leadership which would instill confidence and co-operation first within the SRC and secondly in its interactions with other bodies. To that effect I had planned to provide that kind of leadership.

However, another fact was also clear. If another person with these qualities and aspirations already in the SRC but not in a position to instigate these procedures was available, why not back him?

As it so happened, this person did appear even though it was only momentarily. Gid Mersereau with the support of Warren McKenzie and many other people submitted his nomination at the same time as I.

In talking to him and about him with others, it became clear to me that his abilities and attitudes were the kind needed to do the job. The fact that he had present SRC status, was very involved and had the respect of many of the SRC members indicated that he could begin the revamping procedure immediately, where as I would still be on probation as it were, still having to prove myself.

This I felt confident I could do, only, the students need an effective SRC now, not later. Because there seemed no better alternative, I withdrew my nomination in support of Gid, keeping in mind that through co-operation with him, I would be in a better position in February to justify my running for the position of SRC president.

As you now know, politics, sad game that it is, has dealt a dirty hand to some of its players. This past weekend stock-piled such an extra burden upon the credibility of the SRC that Gid felt he could not have accomplished what he set out to do in the three months he planned on being president.

As a result, he too withdrew his nomination. Therefore, since my hope was to run for a full term, I

again felt my candidacy would be valid. However upon seeing Wency B., the returning officer of this election, I was informed that my nomination was not valid and I was legally out of consideration for this upcoming election.

So, having stated why I am not running in this election even though I wish to, let me state my present position.

In the next three months I plan to put to full advantage the time afforded me to further justify my credibility as a candidate by actively involving myself in SRC matters to the point where, no one but no one can claim a major lacking in the administrative duties of this position and the SRC as a whole, on my part.

If, as an outcome of this election, the elected candidate can prove to us, the student body of UNB, that he can unify our SRC, that he can unify the student body to a greater degree than presently existing, and that he can justify his policies, decisions and actions on behalf of the SRC, then on the behalf of myself and the student body at large, I congratulate him, offer my full support and see no reason why he should not continue as president come hell or high water and the February elections

John McCluskey

NUS becomes active

Dear Students:

The campus NUS committee is now working on student affairs at UNB but interested people are needed to help.

Topics discussed at the last meeting were getting work started in areas such as student aid and housing.

Also, much information is at hand which must be filed and distributed to inform students on the work of the National Union of Students on both national and local levels.

Are you interested in student affairs? Would you like to get involved? We need you!

Call the NUS committee office 453-3530, room 124 at the SUB or contact Mark Majka, 453-4937, 208 Neville House.

Smith denies rumours

Dear Editor:

It has come to my attention that there are rumours circulating that I am receiving substantial support for my election campaign from off-campus sources. I wish to state publicly that there is no truth in this rumour — all the financial support for my election campaign is being supplied by myself and members of my campaign committee, who are all full-time students at UNB.

For the information of all students all my pictures were taken by Mr. Robert MacLeod and all my printing has been done by Centennial Litho on Beaverbrook Street.

As I have yet to make any statements about pubs, a second rumour has arisen that I am against alcoholic events. This is also patently untrue. My feelings are that everyone should have the right to choose whether they wish to attend either alcoholic or non-alcoholic events, and both types of entertainment should be equally available on campus.

Although I appear to be quite young in my pictures, I am actually 23 years old, and before I enrolled as a full-time student at UNB, I worked for several years as an accountant with the Royal Bank of Canada. This past experience has given me substantial knowledge of both accounting and managerial techniques.

Jim Smith

Temptation causes man's downfall

Dear Editor: leave home for university, we find ourselves drifting away from the values and morals we held before. There are so many new philosophies, new ways of life for us to try and many of us go against what we once felt was right.

"Temptation is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes. These evil thoughts lead to evil actions and afterwards to the death penalty from God." (James 1:14-15). It is not the temptation itself that brings God's wrath down upon us. Rather it is the realization and fulfillment of our wrong desires that lead to spiritual death. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23).

God takes pity on us, IF we turn to him in our weakness and inability to do right. "He knows our

frame; he remembers that we are dust." (Psalm 103:14). We often feel that God would not understand our humanness. Yet he, Christ, "understands our weaknesses, since he had the same temptations we do, though he never once gave way to them and sinned. So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16). He is ready to help us if we come to him and depend on him for strength. "For since he himself has now been through suffering and temptation, he knows what it is like when we suffer and are tempted, and he is wonderfully able to help us." (Heb. 2:18). He cannot help us, though, if we do not yield ourselves to him, willing to obey him through his power.

How often we say, "But I can't do what God wants me to. I've lived

the wrong way for so long that I can't change." Or, "Everybody lives this way. Even though I know it's wrong, I couldn't stand to be different." Yet God says, "No temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. He will show you how to escape temptation's power so that you can bear up patiently against it." (I Cor. 10:13). If we keep our eyes open a way out will be there waiting for us to take advantage of it.

Even though we are weak and unable to do right in ourselves, Jesus says, "I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people." (II Cor. 12:9).

Signed
Alice Reynolds