



The time has come, the walrus (and others) said, to speak of many things.

The joint Board of Governors-Senate meeting a week ago today failed in many more aspects than the obvious. The University of New Brunswick needs a president, and we still have not got one. Why not?

Duly-constituted democratic procedure defined a presidential search committee which subsequently produced their top-rated only candidate. The Chairman of that committee, Dr. Israel Unger, has stated that his committee came up with a candidate satisfactory to the committee as well as to the majority of the faculty and students, but not to the Governors and to somewhat less than half the Senators. It would be stretching things too far to claim that this was a failure of the search committee.

There is no doubt that the nature of an academic institution provides for debate argument based on well reason and constructive argument, one would hope. Dr. Condon's nomination from the floor is evidence of such debate. However, there appears to be damn little evidence to support the thesis that it was a well reasoned argument.

The *Daily Gleaner* of Oct. 2 noted that the faculty and the majority of students seemed to demand a change; a change in the form of an outside presidential candidate. The Brunswickan believes this to be true.

In a serious attempt to explain why many of the Governors and most of the Deans are against Cassano, and seemingly in favour of Condon, many ideas present themselves.

With respect to the Board of Deans, their publicly-stated criticisms of Cassano were his academic record and his lack of administrative experience. Cassano's c.v. was found suitable by the search committee. Furthermore, he has published more papers than, for example, Condon, who has not published major papers in ten years. It has been said by scholars

of high reputation (with Ph.D's) that of all the deans, only two or three have better c.v. than Cassano's. It is hard to imagine that Cassano's administrative experience was inadequate. Again the search committee, many of whom are successful businessmen, found it adequate.

Although young, Cassano has been the Dean of Arts at the second largest university in Ontario. Furthermore, he was the president of an organization of 8,000 professors. And Dr. Condon?

Perhaps Cassano's youth and determination to be actively involved in academics 'despite' being the president was threatening. If so, it is well to remember that McGill recently elected a president even younger than Cassano.

Consider also what would have happened if Dr. Condon had been elected president. It is no trick to realize that two vice presidential positions would consequently be open: Vice-President Saint John, and Vice-President Academic; the latter because Dr. Anderson recommended that the position not be filled until a president was chosen. It is also true that the

recent appointments 'upstairs' at UNB have come from the Board of Deans, Dr. Franklin from Dean of Science to Vice President Academic, and Dr. Condon from Dean of Arts to Vice President Saint John.

It is to be expected and demanded that the Board of Deans took their part in scuttling Cassano's candidacy for the president for only the best of reasons. However, it is quite hazy what those reasons were, and in at least the case of Dean of Arts Kepros, they did so against the general wishes of their faculties.

Students of this university sometimes do not realize and appreciate that UNB is a very good if small university. True, we are removed from the mainstream of academic life in North America, and true also that we should pay our faculty a little better. However, undergraduate and graduate degrees in many faculties (eg Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, English History and one or two others) are of very high standard indeed. UNB has a good library and a superb computer, not to mention physical resources unmatched by most universities anywhere in the world.

Given this truth (and pride), it is quite erroneous to then assume that UNB has been managed very well in recent years. Dr. Condon told the press last week he was amazed to find anyone who would say that UNB has management problems.

The Brunswickan is amazed that anyone in management here

would have the gall to say such a thing. Everyone in New Brunswick must be aware that UNB had an unplanned surplus of one million dollars last year. Certainly everyone at UNB should be aware that the Governors hired a management consultant firm, Price Waterhouse Associates, to clean up the mess. After examining a copy of their first report, The Brunswickan felt that little constructive criticism could be made using the report because it reflected so badly on the management of the university. One statement from the summary of the Price Waterhouse report seems to reflect our recent management problems:

"...The lack of financial control, as evidenced by a substantial surplus for the year ended June 30, 1979 which was not planned, nor expected. This contradicted the deficit position put forward by the University in union wage and salary negotiations and was a source of embarrassment and criticism."

The Board of Governors really put the screws on Cassano's nomination. It was a majority on that body which, even after three votes, stopped the outside candidate. Again, why did they do this? Since no signed declarations were circulated by the Board of Governors concerning their reasons, one can only examine a list of how the voting went in the joint meeting.

All of the student representatives, the nominating committee representatives on the Board, half of the faculty representatives, and some of the Alumni representatives voted for Cassano

YOU COMIN' BACK THIS WAY?

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