

## Confusion and disorder dominates meeting

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Mass confusion and disorder dominated Monday night's Student Representative Council meeting.

Student Union president John Bosnitch presented his communications before the meeting was officially called to order, and spurred initial debate among councillors on this point, with frequent interruptions throughout.

Bosnitch discussed a letter he had received from the Third Century Fund concerning the student vote on the issue. Three points were made:

1. The earlier the vote, the greater the impact on the rational phase of the campaign.
2. The more clear and simple the question, the better the chance of achieving a positive vote, concerning the proposed donation of \$10. from all the students.

3. The plebiscite was preceded by a campaign which has contributed to the Third Century Fund. A goal of \$10 million is set.

Bosnitch was concerned over comments concerning the Payolas/Bopcats concert to take place on March 16. He said there have been several difficulties, but now every thing is rolling, publicity is good and tickets are being distributed throughout Fredericton.

Student tickets are being sold (for UNB students only). IDs are required, and each person is limited to one ticket at the reduced rate. "Saying the tickets cost \$17.50 is unfair," said Bosnitch. He claims students will actually make \$2.50 of the \$10 entertainment fee. A comedy act called "Free Beer" this Saturday is free to all those who have purchased Payola tickets.

Darren Evans said the Financial Statement, although late, is in.

Tim Lethbridge stated, with respect to clubs and organizations, they must submit lists of their executive, or they will not be officially recognized during the next academic year. He added the election motion, detailing the running of it, would be presented at the meeting.

Bosnitch said that all referendum questions should be received within a week. He criticized Lethbridge by saying that no spending is to take place or the upcoming Spring election to go on without motions of council. With regard to election expenses and subsidies, Bosnitch says that he wants subsidies abolished, because he feels they are a waste of students' money. Students should not subsidize other's political campaigns. At present each candidate can receive up to \$25 for campaign expenses. Bosnitch maintained that a few dollars is not hard to raise.

During this period of constitutional reform, Bosnitch wants suggestions from students. He also noted the lack of interest from students at SRC meetings. He encourages especially those who are interested in future positions on the council to attend meetings, ask questions and find out what is going on.

Regarding advance polls for the upcoming election, there were strong objections to a proposal to eliminate them coming from the vice president. An argument for the retention of the advance polls in their value as a reminder of the main vote the following day.

Councillor Roulston raised a question about the lack of enforcement over rules by the SUB staff. He and other council members complained about the fact that there are people frequently indulging in alcohol and drug improprieties in front of the SUB. Roulston said he inform-

ed the SUB staff of this, but nothing was done. He pointed out the senselessness of making rules if they are not enforced. Bosnitch suggested if there were a large number of offenders, the police should be called. The president assured council of the security at the Payolas/Bopcats and "Free Beer" events.

The latter part of the meeting was taken up by wrangling over the election motion. Amendments were suggested to allow for polls at the on-campus residences, as well as the advance polls. Student Party councillors brought forth a motion to allow political affiliation on the ballot. This suggestion was defeated and a new motion brought to the floor to remove faculties and year of study from the ballot.

In the end quorum was lost as councillors embarked on a "free for all."

## Flashback looks at Student protests - 60's style

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Tuesday, February 20, 1968, 3,000 students marched from the Old Arts Building to the Centennial Building. They were protesting proposed tuition hikes.

Wednesday, September 30, 1981, 1,000 students marched from the SUB to the Legislature Building, booing the Centennial Building as they marched past. They also were protesting proposed tuition hikes.

The protest in 1968 was a larger affair. More students participated and it lasted longer. The day began with a boycott of classes, although students who wanted to go were not prevented from doing so (as is the case for unionized picket lines). At 1:30 in the afternoon students left the Old Arts Building, marched down University Ave., and headed directly for the Centennial Building. Speeches were made by student leaders on behalf of the schools they represented. As time wore on most left, but by 9:00 p.m. there were sixteen students staging a sit-in. They remained there through the night and into the following day when some food was

smuggled in for them. They sat in the Centennial Building all that day, also until finally being removed by twenty five policemen at 7 p.m. Their hard fought protest ended, and their tuition increased anyway.

The protest from one and a half years ago was a third as strong in numbers, but more learned in their use of marching. Instead of proceeding directly to their destination they went down University Ave and made three lefts on Queen, Regent, and King; thus they were more visible which is the idea of a protest march. Kevin Ratcliff, whom we all remember fondly, spoke first. He was followed by Felix Rebolledo, and the minister of education, Charles Gallagher, and finally, with a speech that sent everybody home, John Bosnitch. John, on that occasion, as reported by Timothy Lethbridge, denounced all other speeches. In the same Oct. 2, 1981, Bruns edition, John was asked in 'Viewpoint' "Would you return to university if tuition went up to \$2,000?", to which he replied, in typical Bosnitchian fashion, "I have to. Associated parties are not going to change anything unless we maintain

pressure." Needless to say, however, tuition fees increased. (What I'm worried about is if they stop increasing - a world without inflation?)

There is one particularly interesting man who took part in both of the protests. Now, let us pause and think of the pro and con arguments over tuition. Conservatives, small c conservatives, would support increases in tuition because that would tend to restrict higher education to those who can afford it, thus social standing for the wealthy and powerful would remain unchallenged. Liberals, in the true sense of

the word, small l, would oppose tuition increases because there would be intelligent worthy people who could not afford an education, and would therefore not achieve a social standing appropriate to their abilities. So, since these two positions are so opposite and irreconcilable, one would think it impossible to change one's mind, even over a thirteen year period. Wrong. Richard Hatfield changed his mind. In 1968 he supported the student's protests against tuition increases as leader of the op-

position. In 1981 he opposed their protests as premier. Does a change in title mean that much? Does Hatfield realize he leapt from true liberal to true conservative? Is it right that men in political office hold such an expedient attitude? Do all politicians

jump from side to side over issues as circumstances change?

Such an attitude as Hatfield's reflects that it is the seat on which a politician sits that makes the laws, not the man himself.

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