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Federal Candidates Debate

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On Tuesday, Nov. 1st, in the SUB cafeteria, UNB students had a chance to pose questions to five federal election candidates representing the Fredericton riding.

Bud Bird (PC), Chris Fullerton (Rhino), Harry Marshall (IND), Allan Sharp (NDP) and Brad Woodside (Lib.) voiced their positions on various issues in what turned out to be more of a question and answer period between students and candidates than a debate between candidates.

Two issues that surfaced more than once were those of Free Trade and abortion.

Mr. Bird was the only candidate who repeatedly gave his full support to the Free Trade deal, saying it would expand the service sector for women and open up "a vast market" in other areas. As an example, he noted how a local business, Mrs. Dunster's Donuts, would benefit. He did not comment on the question of abortion by claiming that it was too difficult to take a position on the subject.

Mr. Woodside said that the deal would endanger Canada's sovereignty and dismissed it altogether, saying "Free Canada by trading Mulroney." Although his party does not have an official stand on abortion, he said he does not believe in abortion as a form of birth control nor in abortion on demand.

Mr. Sharp told the listeners that Free Trade would put power in the hands of the Americans and would be fine if you wanted to "make donuts",

but that most Canadians want better jobs. He said that as far as most abortion goes it was not up to him to pass laws to tell women when they can or can't have an abortion.

Mr. Fullerton's party would resolve things by coming up with their own Trade deal and ensuring that "everyone gets a government job." He stated that the decision on abortion should be left up to each individual's own conscience.

Mr. Marshall compared the deal to a donut, stating that there was "nothing in the middle", and that most big business would go to the US. He also answered the question of abortion by saying that women should only be allowed to decide during the first six weeks of pregnancy and should not have any rights after that.

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Marshall agreed that tuition should be abolished over time. Mr. Woodside emphasized that government money allocated for higher education should be spent on it only. Mr. Bird said the problem should definitely be taken to Ottawa, while Mr. Fullerton said his party would give students money and they could do with it what they wanted.

When the question of funding for alcohol awareness programs came up, all candidates agreed that they would fully support such programs in various manners.

The session allowed students to see what, and who, they will be voting for. Prof. Conde Grondin (Pol.Sci.) moderated the "debate" which was organized by Dean J Frost and sponsored by UNB Student Union



Fredericton riding candidates in the federal election: (from left to right) Chris Fullerton (RHINO), Allan Sharp (NDP), Bud Bird (P.C.), Brad Woodside (Lib) and Harry Marshall (INDEP.).

Photo by Keith Minchin

SU Election Results:

Board of Governors:	Valedictorian:	Engineering Rep.:
Jane Arnold 284 E	Kevin Hollis 82	Amyl Ghanem
Sean Riley 193	Luigi Rocca 82	Yes:100 No: 11

According to Chief Returning Officer, James Gill, there are three possible options available to resolve the tie situation for the position of Valedictorian: 1) Have two Valedictorians.

2) Flip a coin.

3) Have another ballot in the Fall.

No decision has been made yet as to how this will be resolved.

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