

Does end justify means?

By Riz

Without mentioning names, places, or dates ... an election was held recently at a small university somewhere on the East coast of Canada.

The candidates running for positions presented constructive ideas and all appeared to be excellent candidates for office.

The election was scarred though, as a candidate threw cheap shots at the present student government and uproven allegations threatened its integrity.

Yes, immediate action was taken, but does this mean the end justifies the means?

Some would agree with the points made by the candidate in question but others were quickly turned off by the unfounded accusations.

People were hurt, as this public display of defamation unveiled what the candidate thought a shady government.

While attacking the constitution, some alleged its incoherence was the sole responsibility of one person, also running in the election.

An election speech is not the time to hurl stones or to condemn, because a candidate will either sink or swim.

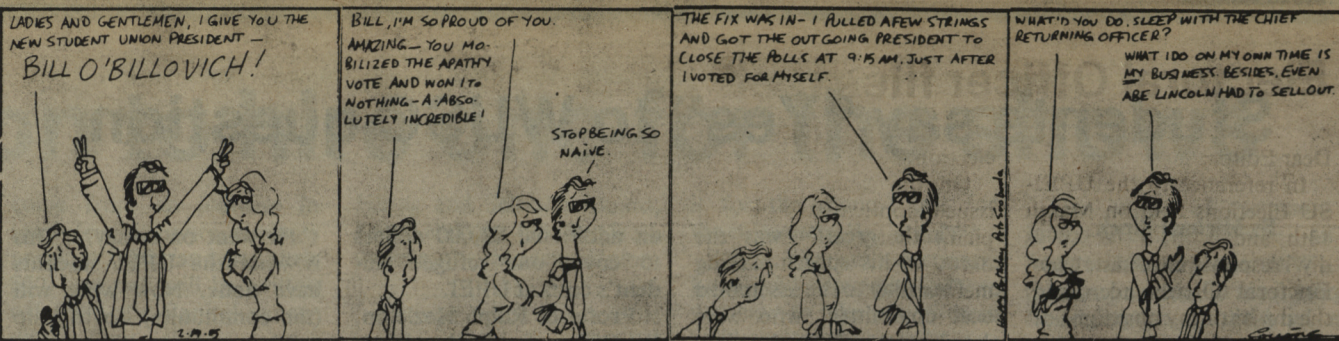
While sinking, I presume other and probably more constructive avenues for change popped into the candidate's head.

The university has a new student government, but the general elections has left primarily two implications.

A good one — students will watch the student government more closely next year, and will be more involved in it.

A bad one — campaign speeches may be used in the future to condemn student government rather to highlight a candidate's platform.

There are going to be changes in the constitution but the scars in the backs of some people will haunt them for a long time, and their ability in any capacity may be question.



Graphic/Cord Weekly

LETTERS

Apology

This is an open letter to Mr. Kevin O'Brien, candidate for VP Academic last week:

Dear Kevin,

As president of the U.P.E.I. Student Union I wish to apologize to you for the unfortunate series of events that has taken place during this year's General Elections.

I have always been taught, when an error has been committed, to make amends as quickly as possible. I realize a letter can never in itself be retribution for the damage that has occurred, but it is my most sincere wish that we can deal with this now and dispense with the hard feelings.

The Student Union will incur all of your election expenses.

Although the blame for this is shared by many, I take personal responsibility for encouraging your participation in the Elections. I admit that I had referred only to one section of the Constitution to check your eligibility.

Although I regret the whole situation has occurred, I believe some good has evolved; we now have a better understanding of our constitution and procedures. For this I thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dorsey
President U.P.E.I.S.U.

Dear Editor:
I would like to congratulate

Karen Blacquiere on her victory in the recent SU elections. I am looking forward to working with her in her new position as VP Operations.

I wish to thank my supporters and assure them that I will continue to be strongly involved in CIMN and the Orientation Committee.

Sincerely,
Bob Stanley

to office does not diminish our commitment to you, the students.

We welcome your input on any Senate or Student Council issue. Either of us may be readily reached through the Student Union office in the Barn. You shall be hearing from us and we hope to be hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Inge Dorsey
Paul Ledwell
Student Senators

Thanks

Dear Editor,

With out recent election by acclamation to Senate, and consequently to Student Council, we did not have a chance to really speak with a good cross-section of the student body. We therefore feel it is necessary, through this letter, to propose some sort of informal dialogue between us and students.

Senate is presently addressing issues concerning the present and future academic environment at our university certainly a concern of all students.

We, being representatives of students on Senate, feel it is necessary to have input from students to provide adequate representation. It is our intention to communicate with the greatest number of students possible through sub-organizations, Student Council, *Netted Gem*, and any other methods we might find beneficial to create an increased dialogue between students and their representatives on Senate.

The large number of acclamations in the elections is seen by some people as an indication of student apathy. It is our wish for you to be assured that our acclamation

More Thanks

Dear Students,

(I obviously can't say "Dear Editor", since I'm not in the habit of writing letters to myself.)

What can one say in a situation like this?

If you've heard anything at all about the events of last week *Gem*, you have a pretty good idea of the circumstances surrounding my assuming the position of Vice President Academic. I won't belabor that point.

I would like to stress in passing, though, that one of the first things I'd like to do next year is amend the constitution so that acclamations are not automatic, but must go to a "Yes-No" vote. There's something undemocratic about giving students no choice at all in their representation — especially for paid positions.

Still, the new executive has been formed, and we can have a productive year, despite the trials of our formation. I encourage all of you to use Gordon, Karen, John, and me to the best of our abilities. Talk to us, inform us, ask us questions. Push us

if you have to. Please don't let us have an easy term of office. I'm sure none of us want that.

I have to thank several people, though, who taught me more about politics in the R.W. than a Political Studies major could have! Tracy (both of you), Kevin (both of you), Ross, Howard, and Lydia especially. Weird as it was, this election brought out the best in many of the people I encountered, and that was an unexpected bonus.

I would also like to steal this chance to announce that the *Netted Gem* is looking for an editor, effective Sept. 1!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Ryan

Thanks again

Dear Editor,

Before memories fade and the events of last week's election become history, I would like to thank all my supporters and express my deep appreciation.

This campaign has been a wonderful learning experience, and one that I will never forget.

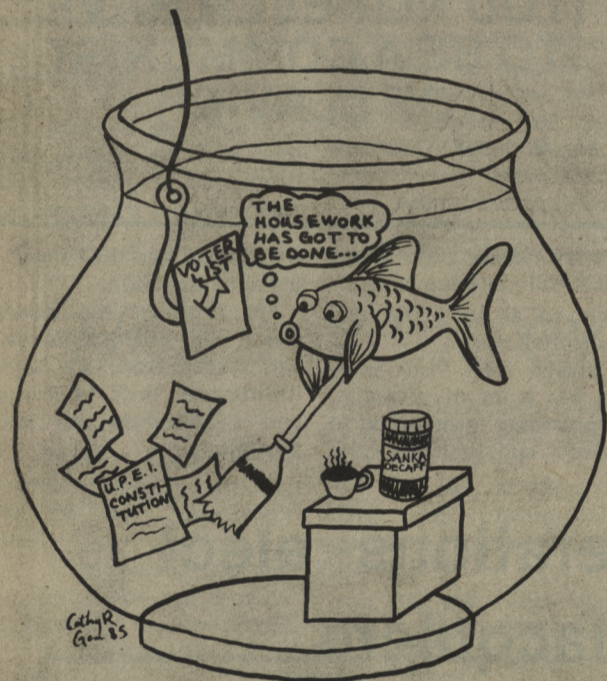
To all of the friends who helped on the campaign, to those who shared their opinions with me as I made my way around campus, and to everyone who voted for me — what is there to say but thank you?

I especially appreciate the help of three friends, Lydia MacLaren, Chris van Buskirk, and Carl Doucette.

I can only hope that you enjoyed the experience as much as I did.

Sincerely,

Robert Hanf



New Senators Dorsey and Ledwell at Sunday's meeting. (Photo: Hartinger)

The Netted Gem

Volume 2, Issue 22

March 21, 1985

We are the staff: Howard Beattie, Robert Bodrog-Goodland, Glen Boswall, Kaberi Dasgupta, Lori Anne Heckbert, Ross Hartinger, Jim Lai, Ron Lewis, Brian Linkletter, Brian MacLeod, Jonathan Orłowski, John Pendergast, Nancy Ross, Carolyn Ryan, The Shadow, Bob Stanley, Phil Stanyer, Jill Warburton, Dave Yorston and Michael Zinck.

And yes, P. Stahl MacIntyre is still on staff. We keep forgetting to add his name, though. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the staff, or anyone in particular. We reserve the right to edit copy for space, style, or legal reasons. Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and submitted before noon on Mondays. All letters must be signed by their author(s), but names may be withheld upon consultation with the editor. Phone 892-4121, extension 387. Staff meetings are Mondays at 6 p.m. All students are welcome to join the staff.