

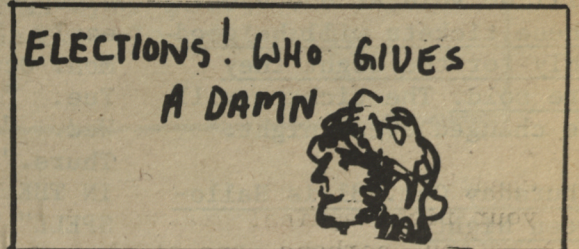
409 VOTE

Recently an election was held to elect two students to the University Senate. Approximately 180 students voted. The majority of these students did not know at least two of the three candidates on the ballot (students were to select two of the three candidates) and yet the votes were cast. Another minor point to add to this is very few students are aware of what the senate consists of i.e. who forms it, what its power is, where and when meetings are held, open or closed meetings, etc.

The senate affects the means by which we are presently educating ourselves, and will be making decisions in the future which will determine the general direction of this University. If you are a senior you may be saying: "I don't really give a shit, I won't anyway." If you are a freshman you probably are not aware of the fact that you are no longer within a system which does not recognize you as a person. Well surprise!! At this institution. Given enough effort, you can actually participate

in the decision making process that will make or break the quality of the degree that you are working towards obtaining. If you are a sophomore or junior, hopefully you are learning how to think for yourselves and no more need be said. Yeah! Elections are a drag and there is usually a very good reason why they are so, because once the election day has passed, no more is heard from all those wonderful people elected to all those wonderful positions by all of us wonderful students. An example

you ask? Why our good ol' Student Union of course. (Union did I say?) (Back to the dictionary)



Which brings us to yesterday's election. 409 students elected three out of a possible eight non-existent students to a non-existent Student-Faculty Evaluation Committee.

Think.

Election Results

The election results are in with a voting turnout of 28.7% of the student body. The three winners were Faith Sove with 203 votes, Ronald MacDonald with 193 votes, and John Costello with 183 votes. That's a pretty good turnout for eight fictitious characters running for a non-existent committee. We only had 43% voting for last year's Student Union elections and a mere 12.8% for the Senate elections two weeks ago.

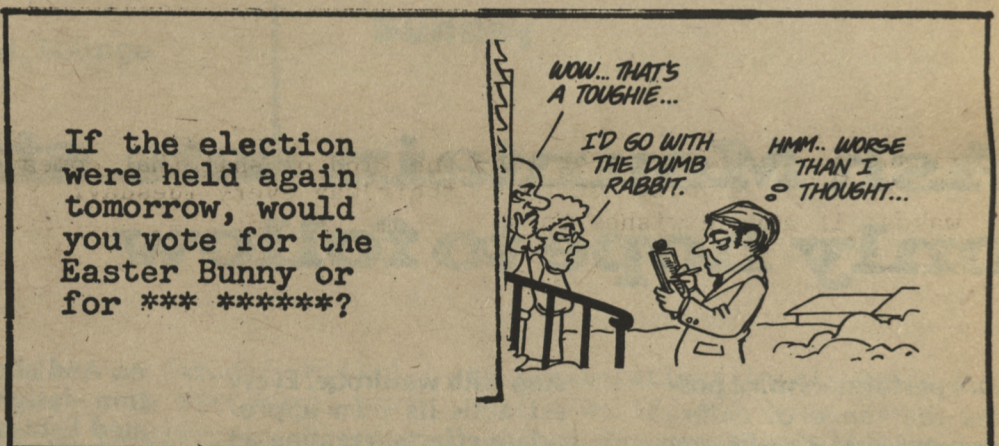
The idea of running a fake election, originated with a small group of stud-

ents who were concerned about the poor turnout for elections, and dubious about the before and after thought in casting a ballot. A fake election was seen as being one of the most advantageous ways to dramatize the poor voting habits of students. (at least we ran an election-- the faculty gave away all the positions for Senate to acclimation, because of lack of interest).

It was not done with the intention of making students seem foolish, but more as a plea for students to take their vote more seriously, which means knowing who and

what you are voting for and following up to make sure your elected officials follow through on their campaign promises and responsibilities. It is also a responsibility to make known discredibility to

the public. Some thought they were brilliant to figure it out, but who was let down. We sincerely appreciate the people who thought and pro tested.



letters cont. from pg. 6

Dear Editor;

Would you please give me space in your next issue. After reading the last issue, October 22, 1974, I have come up with a very distasteful and ill feeling towards those who have a hard time to appreciate what is happening. I understand that people who are not directly involved in an organization (Student Union) can find it easy to criticize it and those involved. I agree with some to the complaints and disagree with others. If those who take the time to criticize can again take the same amount to draw up alternatives for their complaints then we all would be a step ahead. Instead all you can do is bitch.

I'm not saying there is anything wrong with you voicing your opinion, but are you just wasting space or keeping your jaw muscles from getting inactive. As for the freshmen, I feel I know how they feel, for at one time I was in the same situation but I'm willing to help solve the problem. We the student union do not have the answer but the more heads and the more ideas the closer we get to it. Again you

may wonder what it is, well the union is not only social but look at the academic side of its involvement. There are issues that affect all of us that have been processed through the student union via senate representatives; student participation on committees, or directly to the department or person. Example may be, "What happens if a particular professor is never available for advice of consultation." Well, Senate says that the student should be certain and approach the head of the department and if he will not assist or make improvement then go to the Dean of the faculty. I am only one of the elite as some people put it but I am also in the same boat as you when it comes to the final outcome. I don't have the same opinion as other student representatives and vice versa. I agree there are areas that information is hard to acquire and I can see how you may wonder what good is a student union to you but are you encompassing all the activities they get involved in or do you just get awakened when somebody walks on your feet of pulls your chain. Last year when I decided to run for a

position on the council I did not swear to anybody or sign anything that would commit me. I felt that something was wrong and wanted to contribute to acquiring a solution. Since then I will admit that I may have been lacking in participation but also there has only been once that a student approached me to find an answer. As you can see there is representation on council, outside of the executive and these people carry a bigger opinion than just the executive. They are the same as you and perhaps if you don't know them then take the time to find out for they have the same capacity at the council meetings as the executive. I assume they have the same concerns as you do so you see they don't want to pull a snow job. The only difference is that they don't have a special corner in Memorial but they share the same problems and criticism as the executive may get. So why not get off your ass and find out what it is really all about instead of sitting back bitching and not doing anything constructive.

Paul Dorsey
Arts Rep.

Dear Editor,

I was amazed to read in last week's CADRE the article titled S.U. Elitists aren't great - but students are worse. I feel that the executive is doing a good job and ask them to hang in there in spite of this malicious attack. The question I asked myself though was, where was this person with the patronizing attitude last spring during the student union elections? I then decided that there were two possible answers. (1) The author did not run for any position. In this case, he or she just specializes in criticizing and is all talk - no action. (2) This person did run for some position and must still be annoyed about being defeated. Many of us wonder if the CADRE should accept such vindictive, malicious and abusive articles from persons who do not have the intestinal fortitude to sign their names.

Tom Cullen