

Politics

By Jim-beau Lieyeah
STAFF GONZO

page 8

The Centre

It is Wednesday, March 15th and I am coming from the speeches given by candidates to the student body in the "Pit." It was an interesting exercise for me and I want to take this opportunity to share some of my impressions and opinions. What I hope to be able to do is help you, the student, make a more informed decision. If it does not work, you can seek out the candidate, read whatever lame advertisements they made up, or vote for your friend.

But today there certainly was a campaign atmosphere. The sun was out and the air was warm. All candidates had friends and colleagues out to support them. Of the roughly 200 people I guesstimated, most were there to support somebody. Candidates popularity was easily measured by the applause provided.

And this is what student politics has really come to mean. Fortunate or not, it is an exercise in popularity. And for President, what I gathered here was an edge for Vice President External BJ McCarville over resident life assistant Bill Johnson, in the race for President. In this area, third place went to Tom Carlaw. President is probably the most important position in Student Union (SU). It is the point person for the school and often times the president

speaks for the students through various forms of media. The position itself has evolved over time. Once upon a time, competence was the most important criteria. However, in this day and age, I believe image takes precedence over this. All candidates are certainly competent to do the job and followed the first rules of RealPolitik: Don't make any promises you can not keep. They did this so well that I did not hear a measurable promise at all. I heard a lot about improving school spirit and communication and that sort of thing but nobody stepped forward,

All candidates are certainly competent to do the job and followed the first rule of **realPolitik:**
Don't make any promises you can't keep.

identified an area that needs to be improved, and indicated their plan which would be the way to measure the success of it; all this made for a dry presentation. The one thing I feel is important is what kind of message will be sent to students and others being exposed to UPEI SU President. Personally, I would want someone closer to my age representing my

needs. This sounds like outright discrimination and in a way, it is. But I am writing what others are thinking. So for this voter, McCarville certainly fits the bill over Tom Carlaw and Bill Johnson.

Some seemed to feel more comfortable than others and I think that preparation had a lot to do with it, it is one thing I looked for. The last type of person I would want representing my needs as a student is someone who is scattered all over the place. In this area I would give the edge to Johnson followed by McCarville and Carlaw. The last relevant area would have to be experience. McCarville served as Acting President when

the 1999-2000 President elected to split town. She has experience and seems quite pragmatic. Johnson certainly brings a wealth of experience

and wisdom. He identified areas that concern a lot of students, which is good. However, criticizing these concerns and doing something about them is a wide gulf to hurdle. He has the ability to do the job and I think he would be good at it. Tom Carlaw addressed things in an off the cusp manner which makes me wonder how serious he is about it. I'd



Express

566-1911

University Plaza

SPECIAL
15" pizza with
three toppings
\$9.99 + tax

**We now offer Lasagna
for take out and delivery**

12" works and 9" cheese fingers
\$11.99 + tax
Please present coupon to driver.
Only one coupon per customer.

12" three topping and
12" garlic fingers
\$12.99 + tax
Please present coupon to driver.
Only one coupon per customer.

Free delivery to UPEI and Brown's Court

Politics
continued on page 10