

Matt Gray's Victory: A Raining on His Parade

BY TODD MACLEAN

On Friday, April 3, Matt Gray won the race for next year's Student Council President with a deciding victory of 179 out of 248 votes in the election that featured a mere 11.67 percent voter turnout from the student population.

"I am happy for the vote of confidence," commented Gray. "I would have liked to have seen more people come out [to vote], but I'm quite comfortable with the clear majority."

The percentage of student voters was relatively the same as in recent years according to Lisa Muzumdar, Chief Returning Officer of the election.

"If there were more races then the voter turnout would have been higher," she said. "In such cases people are more apt to come out and support someone."

There was only one actual race for positions in the Student Union elections this year -- that between Gray and Melissa Doucette for the presidency. But a high number of voters is not entirely necessary in university election processes anyway, said Muzumdar, as a certain percentage is not even required to decide a victory.

"If we have 2 votes, then a decision can still be made," she said.

Aside from voters lacking in the election process, though, it follows that there was a deficiency in proper campaign direction this year as well, as Matt Gray is presently being fined for not removing his campaign materials before the said time.

"Matt incurred the maxi-

mum amount of fines for not removing his materials," said Muzumdar. "The fines are \$10 per poster, to a maximum amount of a \$50 fine."

According to Muzumdar, Gray had been misinformed by the Student Union as to what time the materials were to be removed by.

"He went to the Student Union, asked when they were supposed to be taken down, and they said by midnight on Friday. It was really supposed to be 8:00pm on Friday."

Muzumdar said that she tried to inform the candidates as much as possible about the regulations regarding such concerns, and that there was both a meeting held to discuss these issues, and a reminder E-mail sent out before the deadline as well.

"He would have been made aware of the time at the meeting," she said. "I can't babysit them all."

However, according to Gray, he had received the E-mail notification at 6:58pm on Friday, thus leaving him with a total of one hour and two minutes to remove his materials before the actual deadline.

When asked about the alleged resulting fine, Gray said that he had been provided with no information up to that point regarding these charges. He was surprised, and thus refused to comment, pending appeal.

He did wish to bid a final thank you, however, to all those who took the time to vote, and who voted for him, and "a special thanks to those who nominated me."

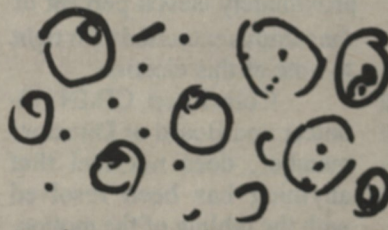
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