

Another Student Union Election with little to offer.

Note: this is a commentary not a news article.

SU election season is upon us once again. Who would have known?

After last spring's election, and Andrew Peppin's 'sensational' campaign, little can be expected from this year's ballot. The two candidates in the presidential race, John Desrosier and John Fleming, seem to have little to offer or in any case, if they do, are keeping it a secret.

With a few drab posters tacked sparsely around campus, this fall election certainly lacks the effervescence of the

previous race to office electrified by Peppin's "Nude Photos" and "Just Do It" gusto.

UPEI students are unlikely to run to the ballot box as they did in March with a record breaking 25 per cent voter turnout. Student Union Executive, candidates, and a few hungry souls haunting the 'pit' were the only ones who attended last Wednesday's twenty five minute General Meeting. Did anyone know there was a General Meeting? Did anyone care?

Due to arduous class schedules and midterms, only one candidate, Mr.

Fleming, was available to answer my questions.

"I can't guarantee anything," starts John Fleming, "but my objective would be to listen to the students. I have picked up what they told me, and will bring it to [Student Union] Council. I am the middle man."

When asked about his plans to work toward a tuition freeze for UPEI (as advertised on his posters), Fleming explained that the high cost of education is a worry on the mind of every student but that like every prospective Student Union President, insists that he

cannot promise such a thing [tuition freeze], but will try to get the tuition-meter to drop a few notches.

Awkwardly, government lobbying, which goes hand in hand with such an ambitious project is not high on Fleming's agenda.

"I think it [government lobbying] is very important but I think that there are other issues," says Fleming who wants students to get involved in their campus politics before worrying about external matters.

How will Fleming, who is prepared to put his

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duties as President ahead of his academic work, do this?

"I want to make students more involved in the [Student Union] Council and Student Union activities. I don't think that meetings are enough because a lot of people don't know about them," says Fleming, who claims that even the present Council seems to know little about their own activities.

Fleming has little relevant experience with on-campus organization except for a few fundraising endeavours and cameo appearances with the UPEI debating society.

Unfortunately, he who appears ill informed of the operations of the campus radio CIMN and newspaper, advertises the intention of giving greater attention to university media.

"I am not sure what happened to the radio station [funding cuts and eviction from the Student Union Building], but I asked a lot of people who said

that they didn't care one way or the other. They just don't care about the radio station. It is unfortunate that we lost it [for now]. It was an asset to the community, but it people don't want if..." said Fleming. "With the radio station gone, it is even more important to have the paper. Otherwise there will be no way of informing the campus."

Fleming added that perhaps a good way to inform UPEI students of Union events would be to print notices in the Cadre. FYI: it has always been done.

Advanced polls have scheduled for October 12th and 13th, followed by the regular polls on October 14th and 15th. All full time students are encouraged to cast their vote, for better or for worst.

I extend my congratulations and best of luck to both candidates. A lot of work awaits, work which should be done right. And don't forget us, students of UPEI. We are the ones who walk up (or don't walk up) to the ballot box to elect you. We can get rid of you too. END

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