

Editorial

By John Cairns.

The 1980 Student Union elections have come and gone. Now it's time for some post-mortem comments. That's not to say that the student union is dying, mind you. In fact, quite the reverse may be true.

The turn out at the polls was a switch from UPEI's usual apathetic nature. 684 students voted. That's 54% of all eligible voters, and both figures compare very favorably with last year's totals. There were only about 450 voters then, a figure even smaller in real terms because enrolment was higher then than now. Actually, our 54% showing this year, I am told, is tops in UPEI election history, and one of the highest in recent years in the Atlantic Provinces.

The voters weren't apathetic because the candidates weren't. Almost all of the politicians were aggressive and actively pursued votes. They drilled home to the electorate that a decision was to be made, and we reacted by making it. If the calibre of the campaign is a reflection of how next year's Student Union will run, then undoubtedly we have better times ahead.

In terms of results, election day produced few surprises. Some thought Ivan MacArthur might give Phillip Brown a better battle for the presidential position, but Phillip was not about to let that happen. He had been campaigning virtually since Christmas, and his opponent simply couldn't overcome the base of support that he had accumulated. Really, I doubt if any mortal man could out talk (I mean out campaign) Phillip, and Ivan deserves credit for trying.

The vice presidential race was a comfortable victory for Sue Parlee, and John MacAleer ran away with the Treasurer's job. The real dog fight was between Neil MacKenzie and Scott Thomas to be

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comptroller. Both were good candidates and either would probably have served us well.

The best people available were probably the ones running for Senate. No one thought Joanne Peters would lose, and she proceeded to even exceed expectations by polling 473 votes, more than any other candidate. At the other end of the scale was Kevin Walker, our reigning Student Union president, who failed to win voter approval this year. The electorate felt that 1979-80 had not been a good year, and President Walker fell victim to that opinion.

The new Student Union does face problems, both in finances and student involvement. The key for success is probably to keep valuable personnel involved. If our student government is to be effective, it will have to find room for the likes of Ivan MacArthur, Tom Clow, Bob Kelly, and Scott Thomas.

LETTERS

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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Mr. Editor:

I am writing a response to your editorial of March 13. It is somewhat misleading. It seems to be of the opinion that there was a conspiracy on the part of the Business Department to have the semester shortened.

In the first place, Prof. J.J. Revell is not a member of Senate, although it was he who introduced the idea of a shortened semester to the university community. There are only two representatives from the Business Department on Senate. There were two business students present. This makes a total of four "Business" votes. Obviously there had to be support from other departments.

As for the February 21st meeting, a request for reconsideration was not turned down. There was a snowstorm on that day and as a result, there were not enough Senators present to vote for reconsideration (sixteen are required). The meeting was rescheduled and at this meeting a motion was introduced and accepted by the Chair. It was subsequently passed by majority vote.

As for the student senators not representing the views of the students, I talked to many students about the

issue, and their support was overwhelmingly in support of the motion to shorten the semester. This included views of Science as well as Arts Students.

Thank you for the opportunity to set the record straight.

Robert O'Hanley
Student Senator

CONGRATS

Dear Editor,

I would take this opportunity to congratulate all the successful candidates in the recent Student Union elections. I would especially like to congratulate Neil MacKenzie for a fine campaign and a well earned win.

This election has been a real enlightening experience for myself, one that I will cherish and learn from for the rest of my life. It also has proved one thing, that the students of UPEI still care about the Student Union and their student council in general.

Now that change for the better has already begun to take place, every student should make the effort to support the new Executive Council. I know I will. Thanks to the 319.

Scott Thomas
March 17, 11:30 pm

UPEI SUN

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The staff meeting is every Monday at 7 PM in The SUN's office, fourth floor Main, East end.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The debate over the decision of the university Senate to cancel the final week of this semester's classes continues. Last week a small delegation of three students visited university president, Dr. Peter Meincke in his office to protest the cancellation. At the same time two separate

petitions for a similar purpose were circulating among the student body. At this writing the pair boast a total of 112 signatures. Six to ten names appear on both leaving approximately one hundred people declared against the Senate and the shorter term.