

A hardened cynic looks at the council elections

The Student Union Elections are coming up for yet another time. Once again we will take issue with the up and coming young politicians who in a fit of inspiration, get on the band wagon and decide to place themselves at the disposal of the electorate; the student body.

Hey you out there - the student body - do you know what a Student Union is? A Student Union is precisely what the name suggests, (theoretically) a union of ALL students who have organized themselves to stand together: to fight for their rights such as fair tuition and residence fees; a union you can go to for support with any legitimate complaints.

At UPEI we have, instead of this hypothetically, strong, together, powerful union, a bureaucratic, administrative, glorified social committee. The \$40 every student pays annually upon registering amounts to quite a few dollars and cents 4/5 of which has already been spent on salaries, maintenance of the Barn, the yearbook, that rag, the Cadre, Campus Information Music and News (CIMN) which leaves them with almost nothing with which to work. Get the picture yet?

Alright so you're going to run for a position. Don't give us a lot of bull that you're really going to do something this year because frankly I don't believe you! Anyone thinking of re-running has a lot of gall if they think they'll be re-elected. You haven't done anything yet and you've had a year to do it in. Don't try to tell this "stupid" student body that

you have nor try to tell them that you are finally going to actually get up off your behind to do such a simple little thing as your job even if it is the running of this glorified social committee. And don't give us MORE election promises. Promises, contrary to popular misconception were really and truly meant to be kept. And by the way spare us those moose labels huh! Give us a break!

For all those of you thinking of running for the first time a word please. Make sure doubly sure that you know what you are getting into. Don't make the mistake of thinking that you're going to be Mr/Ms Popularity t'aint so. Don't think you're going to have unlimited power on which to have one of those famous ego whatchamacallits because you just don't have anything. The Student Union is powerless!! Let me repeat powerless. Therefore having no power you can do nothing unless you want to try your hand at attaining power therefore you become as apathetic as Joe Student(?) at Garbage University. This powerlessness reflects itself upon the student council, which from year to year rubber stamps the executives decisions about what to do if the Mad Hatter ever went on strike-would we act or not? It reflects itself on the Senate-five students (the V.P. never goes) where the positions are pure tokenism and generally the students feel intimidated at the meetings.

It all sounds rather cosy and neat-keeno huh? Sounds like you want to

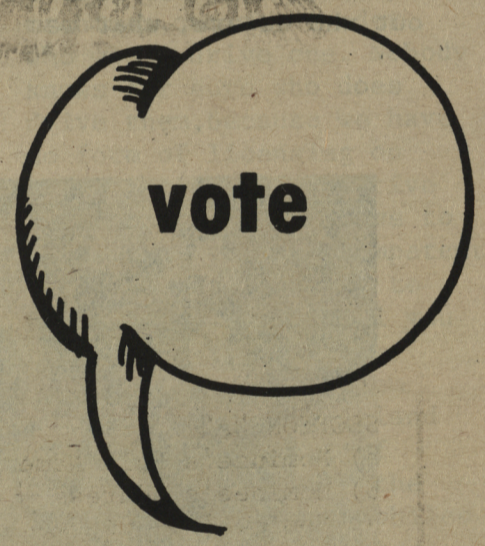
do something but you're not quite sure what needs to be done? Sounds like if you really wanted to do something, SOMETHING could be done? Maybe. You could always try. Here's what you do. Go down to the Student Union Offices - you don't know where that is? Well it's in the basement of Memorial Hall and don't be afraid to walk in because if anyone's there, they're not worth worrying about - anyway ask for a nomination form and fill it out! Plan your campaign - lots of posters and stuff like that - think of something to say that's not too, too committing or pretentious for that matter - make sure you say a lot of generalizations about general stuff - make sure you at least sound angry about something and you're sailing - you're going to be a winner. You can then be just as powerless as

everyone else and still go on a power-trip. Sounds fascinating doesn't it? Try it - you'll like it. Oh yes, don't forget to vote; that's the fun part of it but be sure you know who you're voting for because we don't want to give our pseudo-"intellectually superiors" game players a chance to pull the wool over eyes again like they did in those fake elections in October. This election is for real and I hope you are too, and that you will seriously think not only about running in this election but also think seriously about what you can add for the betterment of this University.

Stay tuned next week for details on what you can do on the positive side. Take one case at a time. From one who dares after all to sign her name.

Louise Mould

General Appeal says.....



Graphic from the Muse

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