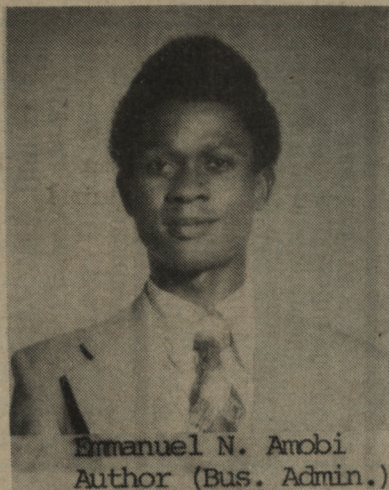


MATTERS of the MOMENT

OUR HOPE FOR A BETTER STUDENT UNION



Emmanuel N. Amobi
Author (Bus. Admin.)

King Solomon explained that there is "a time to keep silence, and a time to speak out." (Ecclesiastes 3:7) Wise is the man who knows which is which. On many occasions we battle with the tendency to remain silent when we should actually speak out and prevent many a devastating occurrence. Someone observed, "Silence isn't always golden - sometimes it's plain yellow!" I bet, this is exactly the case in U.P.E.I.S.U. It is high time someone spoke out about our affairs and its management by the Student Union Officials. In fact, this is precisely what I have resolved to do. To achieve this purpose, I have taken up this column on our widely read newspaper - The Sun.

I want to hit the nail on the head by writing immediately on the most current issue and one that means very much to all the students of this institution. This is the fast approaching Student Union election. The long expected date for the election has been fixed at last. It is the 22 of February and the day is Wednesday. This is the day that will either increase or decrease our hopes for better Pig 'n Whistles, very good programs from CIMN Campus Radio, very good newspaper, a very good representation on the various Boards that run U.P.E.I., to mention only a few.

It is very sad indeed that most students that agitate for improvement in the aforementioned services, sometime during the semester, are most nonchalant with the elections of those that make the entire decisions regarding how these services are rendered. Come out now and choose the right person for the right position. You may not know this, but the one vote you make matters very much. When we vote, we give all

our rights of decision-making regarding the Student Union to the persons we voted for. I therefore, feel very strongly that those we give such rights are the people we believe can handle it to our maximum advantages. A Student Union that has an annual income of about \$73,000 needs to have the best students of the institution on its management. But has this been the case in UPEI for many years now? Think about it for just a second. There is no doubt that we have the know-how to make ours be one of the best student Unions in the Maritimes, and I dare say, right across Canada.

Let us come together and decide to give the right person the right position. This can only be achieved by our knowing those we vote into offices. We can know the prospective candidates only by being involved in the Campaign. You may say that after all yours is just one vote and that it does not matter whether you vote or not. I bet you, if everybody decides to keep his one vote on that basis, nobody will vote at all. It is true that a tree cannot make a forest, but it is even

"truer", if you can permit me to invent that word, that a tree is a necessary condition for a forest.

It is true, though, that if only 50 students decide to vote in this forthcoming election that all the positions are going to be filled, but is it proper that only 50 students should decide the faith of the entire 1,500 full-time students in this university? On many occasions, I have come across some students that grudge about the management of our student Union. Now is the right time for us to express our grudges by pushing away the dead-woods, so to say, on the wheel of our progress, with our votes.

Past records show that last year's election had the greatest amount of votes. Thank goodness for that. But what was the figure? Only 600. Consider that in relation to the number of students on role. This is just about 55% of the entire students. How many of us go about throwing parties for making jsut that much on our exams? Probably very few or even none. Now pause for a second and ask yourself this question. Am I among the six hundred students that

voted last year? Did I decide to keep quiet and let other people decide on my fate? If the answer is positive, resolve now to make sure you use your vote, and of course give it to the right persons.

Just a word before you commit blunders with your resolution. You are free to vote for one office and not vote for another. By doing this, you will stand a better chance of having better officers. For instance, if after voting for the Presidency position, you find out that there is nobody of your choice or someone you know that is suitable for the Vice Presidency position among all the candidates for that office, you should not vote for the office at all. This allows those that know those persons better to vote for the more qualified person. Our chronic disease is that we always do things just because our friends did them, and not based at all on our personal convictions. Now remember that a man without principles is like education without certificate. Consider your fate if after working very hard for four years here, you leave without a degree. Let's become ourselves and exist properly.

I have this little message for the prospective officials. The positions that are open include those of the President, Vice President, Comptroller, Communications Officer, two Senators and faculty Reps. You must have read from the editorial of the last issue of the Sun that the salaries for the executive officers are \$1,000, \$600, \$800, \$701, \$600 respectively. Thanks to our hardworking editor, J. Laurence Green, for working tooth and nail to provide these all-important statistics. I have gone inside-out the constitution without finding that information. I wonder who determines the positions that get paid and those that do not, and more importantly, the salary scale for each position. Well, whoever does that, the fact still remains that those who work should get paid. I am not grudging about these salaries. In fact, I appreciate the wise and noble step to increase them as soon as possible. Put the big question is

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