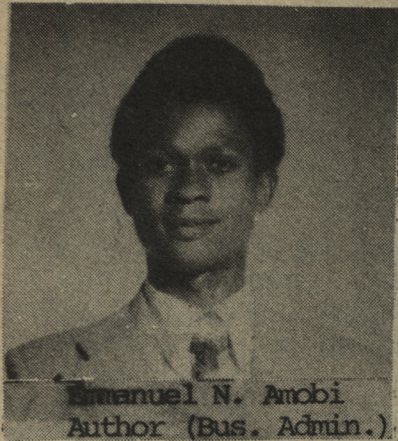


MATTERS of the MOMENT



Emmanuel N. Anobi
Author (Bus. Admin.)

**BRAVO! OUR CHIEF
ELECTORAL OFFICER**

Francois de La Noue explained that "The bravery founded on hope of recompense, fear of punishment, call of bad names, experience of success, on range, or on ignorance of danger, is but common bravery, and does not deserve the name. True bravery proposes a just end; measures the dangers, and meets the result with calmness and unyielding decision". The second part of the above statement I greatly accept for qualifying the action of our chief electoral officer in the meeting held for all candidates contesting for this present Student Union election. Thank you very much, Miss Susan Hornby, for a job well done. So far so good.

I strongly disagree with the comment which the editorial column of

this paper carried on this very bold step you took. I do not know the person our honourable editor thought took that action. But as far as I am concerned, the chief electoral officer was the one that presided over the meeting and made all the decisions. After all, other students around were all candidates for the election and, therefore, had no say whatsoever.

I am not attacking the person of the editor, but I want to point out that the editorial did not do any good to the chief electoral officer and to many other students that value rules, especially in such an important issue as the election of the officials of the Student Union. It baffles me to see how we can turn round to blame a student for doing very well the job that we gave to her.

The editor thinks that we are the losers because some candidates won certain positions by acclamation. I can bet my person that we did not lose anything; rather we had the best of what we could have. I mean that we had those that consider positions in the

Student Union with some seriousness. We do not want people that will resign from these positions immediately after they have been voted in. Instances of this have been seen in the past. There were even cases of a president resigning -- last year's case.

As the editor rightly pointed out, one of the regulations of that meeting was that any candidate that failed to be there by 5:00 p.m. was going to be disqualified. I personally read and signed that contract with the chief electoral officer. Despite all the comprehending abilities of the candidates, the chief electoral officer took the pains to point out to each candidate that very rule. What else did we expect her to do?

Every rule that is made to be obeyed has some aims that it is meant to achieve. To me, no one rule is more important than another. Why didn't the editor point out the cases of all those students who were disqualified because they returned their nomination forms late? You see, all the rules about this election are meant to get rid of unqualified persons and those that may not serve the Student Union to its best interest. Some students were disqualified because they did not have enough time to attend to the duties of the Union. This was what the regulation in question was meant to do. I do not know most of the disqualified candidates, but one of them was my roommate and is still a very good friend of mine.

I do not think that he was offended by this disqualification since he broke the regulation. Moreover, he has another opportunity of being a Council member in the fall, during the by-elections.

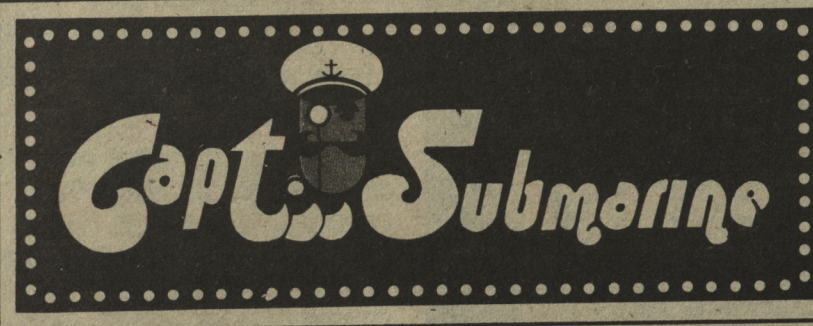
Many people may think that I hold this view because I was one of the candidates present at the meeting. Although I was there, the four candidates that want my desired position were all present. So I was not acclaimed, neither as of now, have I been voted in, since the election has not been held. I am



SUSAN HORNBY

only interested in this issue because I am one of those that want our Union to have the best students we can have, as our officials. The word best here does not mean the smartest students, rather it means a reasonable student that has got the time to put into student unionism to our best interest. You can recall that my last article here was soliciting for your help to get rid of all that will not serve us well. I do not think, though, that the editor had me in mind in his comment. Hence this is not a reply to his comment.

So let us give honour to whom honour is due. Once again, I say, BRAVO to our chief electoral officer. Her's was a job well done.



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