

Blue smoke and mirrors: the dynam

"Illusion. Mirrors and blue smoke, beautiful blue smoke rolling over the surface of highly polished mirrors, first a thin veil of blue smoke, then a thick cloud that suddenly dissolves into wisps of blue smoke, the mirrors catching it all, bouncing it back and forth. If somebody tells you how to look, there can be seen in the smoke great, magnificent shapes, castles and kingdoms, and maybe they can be yours. All this becomes particularly dynamic when the person telling you where to look knows how to adjust the mirrors, tilt one forward, wait to the other side, and turn one on its base a few degrees to the right, suddenly causing the refractions to be different everywhere. And then going to the blue smoke, lessening it, intensifying it, and all the time keeping those watching transfixed, hoping, believing himself. Believing perhaps more than anybody else in the room. And at the same time knowing that what he is believing in is mirrors and blue smoke.

This is the game called politics and power as it is played in the Legion Halls and Elks Clubs and church basements and political clubhouses throughout the country, throughout the world, while men try to please and calm others in order to maintain and improve a public career..."

—Jimmy Breslin

Could this be true?

Could such a cynical assessment of politics apply even to our very own U of A Students' Union?

The Gateway, in an unprecedented display of extensive election coverage; chaired a round-table discussion last Friday with the candidates in the upcoming SU executive election. The mini-slates consist of Mike Walker, president, Jeff Reading, v.p. internal - Walker Slate; Gord Stamp, president, Martin Schug, v.p. internal - Stamp Slate; and Robert Greenhill, president, Raymond Conway, v.p. internal - Greenhill Slate. The discussion was chaired by co-news-editor Greg Harris.

The following is the complete, unedited (except for ums and uhs) transcript of the tape-recording.

Part Two of this generous public service will appear in Thursday's edition.

Gateway: I have some questions drawn up here, but before we get going, if anyone wants to say what they're running their campaigns on - what they think the issues are, feel free. Robert?

Greenhill: Sure, I guess I could offer some opening remarks by saying that in this campaign, as far as I can see it, the main issues aren't necessarily going to be concrete issues — cutbacks, FAS and other areas — but they are going to be important. The main issue is going to be more one of approach, sincerity and cooperation. I think that students are going to be looking for a presidential and v.p. internal candidate who can cooperate with the other people who have already been elected, and work well with them, and it will best represent the needs and best interests of the students, or the majority of the students.

Gateway: Gord, did you have anything to say?

Stamp: The members of the Students' Union Executive are supposed to be representing students. I do not believe that the other students running in this election are doing everything that they should to help the students. Martin Schug and I are prepared to fight for the rights of all students. The issues are scrip — the students should not be forced to buy funny money that devalues 65 per cent in a few months, and is worth nothing in eight months. I feel that the Students' Union should be doing something about that.

Also, censorship is another issue. There should be no censorship on campus other than the Alberta censorship laws.

And the Heritage Fund money — Loughheed just stated last week that he's not going to be investing in other provinces, he is going to be investing in Alberta. I feel the Students' Union should try and get better guaranteed student loans — more accessible.

Gateway: O.K. - you're changing your platform a bit this time, you're strictly serious, and you're not out to present the humorous side to serious issues.

Stamp: There is no humor in it at all, I'd like to be humorous but I didn't get proper coverage (last time) but I am probably going to this time by being serious.

Schug: This is a serious slate.

Gateway: Right. Well it's good that we can get that straight right from the start.

Jeff - did you want to say anything on behalf of Mike or perhaps lead off and talk about the role of v.p. internal?

Reading: I can talk about the role of v.p. internal, but I'd prefer to let Mike speak for himself. I think that the main issue for the v.p. internal is the fact that there is a tremendous amount of poorly utilized space in the Students' Union building, which is a direct result of the curling rink closure earlier this year.

I have two points of philosophy on how we should utilize that space - I feel that we should expand and increase the use of student services currently provided in the building, and I believe also that we should ensure that all revenue generating businesses located in the building will have a high service component for the students. I think my internal policies reflect this basic philosophy, and my policies are as follows:

That building renovations increase the number of offices available for on-campus job interviews; number two, that we will ensure that 38 new club offices planned by this year's executive will be constructed and ready for clubs by September of 1982; three, we hope to rent more space to the bookstore so that they can stock and supply more required texts; number four, we want to lease space to the university for more student access to computer terminals; we want to centralize and expand the exam registry and duplicating centre. I feel that this is a major point. By introducing an inventory control system in the exam registry, and by expanding the duplicating centre to at least six machines, we will offer a much better, over-all student service.

I also feel very strongly about the world student games. I feel that we should work with the University Student Games Corporation and the administration in the planning process for this international event.

In terms of Dinwoodie Lounge - I feel that Dinwoodie has been a very effective fund raiser and a social outlet for campus clubs and faculty associations. I am personally dedicated to working closely with the clubs to preserve the club run cabarets. In addition I feel that Entertainment Services should be more of a service component to students, and not just a revenue generating service as it has been in the past.

I feel very strongly about RATT and Dewey's in that we should have a full liquor license as well as beer and wine, and that both areas should be open as studying and eating areas.

I'm dedicated to streamlining the board granting procedures for campus clubs. And finally the ALCB policy which could be a human rights issue - in fact ALCB has come up and said that the campus or students in general are not responsible enough to hold liquor functions on campus. I feel that I have to work very closely with the clubs and all the other organizations in order that we can successfully go to the board of governors and reverse that decision.

That's basically my stand.

Gateway: Alright - that's quite a detailed mouthful. Ray - do you want to respond to that or add to that or present your views on the role of v.p. internal?

Conway: I'm not sure what we're supposed to do - is this kind of a debate between the two of us?

Gateway: If you want to pick out points that Jeff mentioned or raise objections that's fine, or you can just state what you feel the issues facing the v.p. internal are.

Conway: I'll just state what I feel the important issues are for the v.p. internal but if we do have time I would like us to at least talk about some of the issues.

I guess I'm mirroring Jeff's concern here that ALCB policy and the Students' Union is one of the, if not the, major issue for the v.p. internal. I believe that students have to earn the right to do certain things, but I believe at this point the Students' Union has done that - they've done a hell of a lot with respect to the administration of the liquor policy on campus, and I think they have the right to be given credit for that responsibility and they are not getting that credit. I think there are avenues that we can take which can at least indicate not only our concern, but I think that we've got most of the support of the university - as such the administration and other boards, and that kind of thing. And I think we can use them to indicate to the liquor control board that policies they are presenting, that the guidelines we've got are much too strict and too restrictive for students.

The second most important issue I think for the v.p. internal is student involvement with the students union. I believe the students union is supposedly representative of the students on campus, and therefore our best resources are the students. I don't know if right now the students union is making the most of the

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S.U. ELECTION '82

VOTE

Put the Students' Union In Its Place

Friday 24 March 1982

Watch For Full Page Ad In Thursday's Gateway Indicating Time and Polls.

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