

Candidates discuss issues

The Gateway had an opportunity to talk with the candidates on the two slates contesting the upcoming election as well as two independent candidates before the hard-nosed campaigning actually got underway. The two slates, headed by presidential candidates Scott Thorkelson and Nolan Astley, as well as vp academic candidate Darrell Rankin and Board of Governors representative hopeful Mary Ann Gillies, all came to the office early this week. Following are highlights of those discussions.

The Gateway: What do you see as the role of the Students' Union for the upcoming year?

Astley: We should try to achieve a balance between leadership in external affairs and administrative common sense in internal matters. I've learned a lot about the Students' Union through three years of observation, and feel that I can achieve this balance.

Thorkelson: I think the Students' Union can achieve a lot more than it does right now, and I feel that the Students' Union must do more to represent the students. I have a strong belief in the right to a quality education, and I want to work towards this goal.

The Gateway: Are there any major changes in the structure or operations of the SU that you would like to enact?

Thorkelson: There is room for quite a few refinements, especially in the area of SUB Theatre and the duties of the SU commissioners.

Astley: I'd like to examine a change in the structure of Students' Council, with increased representation at the departmental level for big faculties.

The Gateway: What do the candidates for vp finance and administration see as

priorities in their area for next year?

Berni Conrad (Astley slate): To make the Administration Board a more quick and efficient operation. A deadline should be put on groups seeking funds, and monthly SU expenditures should be monitored more closely. Long range financial planning is also important and a five year budget should be considered.

Pat Haws (Thorkelson slate): Good financial management and responsible allocation of funds are most important. SU monies should go where students want them to go. I'd like to examine ways of increasing grants to clubs.

The Gateway: What are priorities for the vp academic next year?

Rankin (Independent):

Dissemination of information amongst faculty associations should be a priority. As well, I think students need more input on university boards, and that we should be striving for improved library hours, student evaluation, more periodicals in the library, and a decrease in class sizes. The Bill of Rights for students should be completed immediately.

Steven Gould (Thorkelson): Priorities are programs for student evaluation of classes and an examination of the tenure system. As well, I'm concerned about the "psychological" aspects of being a student; helping students fit into the university community.

Karen Stephanson (Astley): A better grievance procedure for students is important, and we must work towards eliminating a lot of academic red tape. The Lister Hall situation should be improved, and closer relations with faculty associations should be sought.

The Gateway: What do the vp internal candidates perceive as the priorities and problems of that position?

Jan Byer (Astley): I'm in favor of the long range planning report. I think it's important to improve the operations of Friday's and RATT, and if necessary, I'm in favor of increasing Students' Union fees.

Thorkelson: Our candidate for vp internal is not present, but our slate sees CJSR expansion as very important. It's another way of communicating with students, and for improving the image of students and fostering pride in the university. We must make sure funds are allocated properly.

The Gateway: Do the candidates for vp external agree or disagree with the statement, "The SU should not be involved in outside issues?"

Lisa Walter (Thorkelson): I disagree. I think students' opinions should be represented to the university, the government and the public at large. Our involvement in issues depends on what sort of issues come up. Our slate will soon be revealing a more detailed policy statement on this issue.

Kris Farkas (Astley): I disagree. The provincial government doesn't realize what the lot of the students, and it's important that we make our position known. There are a lot of issues that affect students and the Students' Union should be facing those issues.

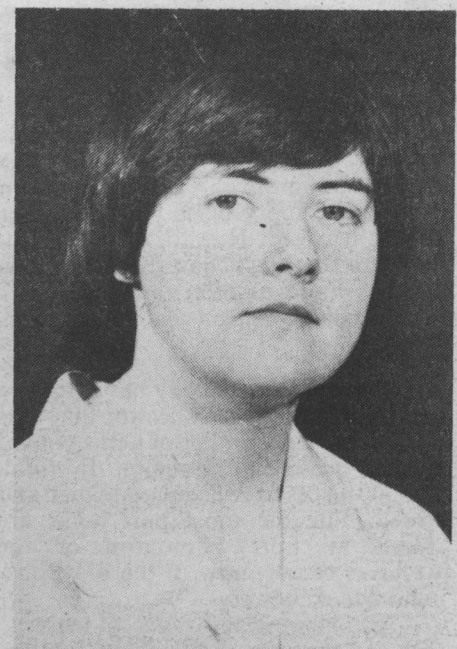
The Gateway: What do you perceive as the differences between your slate and the other slate?

Astley: The major difference is experience. Our slate has much more experience in the SU and the university community. As well, I think we're more flexible.

Thorkelson: Our members come from a variety of backgrounds, with each of us having different but equally valuable knowledge and background. It's difficult to elaborate on policy differences until statements are issued by both slates.

The Gateway: What are the issues concerning the Board of Governors' representative for next year?

Mary Ann Gillies (Independent): Better student representation and better communication. The work and progress of the representative should be publicized more. We have



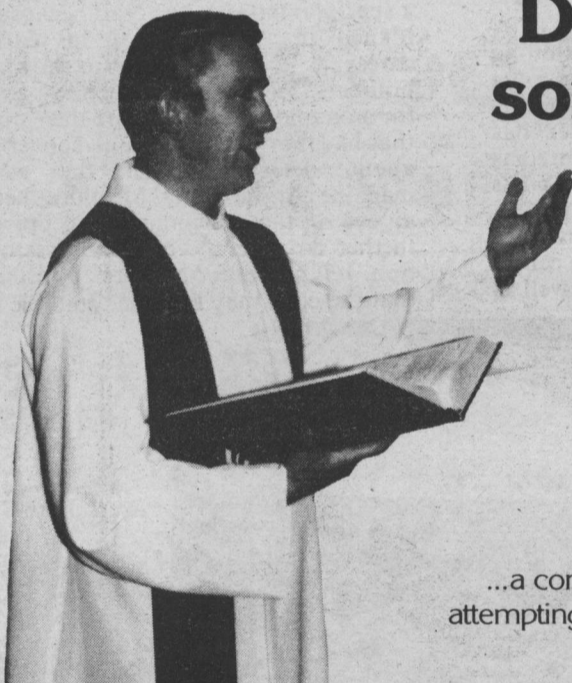
Mary Ann Gillies

heard little from Rhon Rose since he was elected to the position last year. Student views on cutbacks and tuition increases should be given a strong voice.

Norman Ingram (Astley): The B of G rep should be part of a unified voice with the executive, and that's why I'm running on a slate. Some of the issues are expansion of the Summer Work Experience Program, the B of G policy on tuition increases, and the possibility of establishing a general undergraduate scholarship fund.



Berni Conrad



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