



Irrepressible Harvey Groberman entertained the other candidates as well as the audience at an otherwise subdued election forum in SUB Theatre yesterday.

# Election forum jokes spark

Lucinda Chodan

The annual SU election forum, featuring an off-key microphone and a number of slightly flat candidates, was held at SUB Theatre Wednesday at noon.

And when it was over, it was clear the only controversial issue of this year's election is the National Union of Students (NUS) referendum. Except for the joke slate, the platforms of all the candidates were almost interchangeable. And none of the candidates managed to arouse much enthusiasm in the almost empty audience.

Presidential candidate Alan Fenna stressed the need for responsive leadership in student government. He said "There is a distinction here between platitudes and action" (the rallying cry of the farce-slate Liberal Democrats), and promised to "stand up and speak out" for the students.

Fenna backed residence students in their fight against the university administration, and the actions of Housing and Services "heavy-handed." He was, however, less assertive about NUS. NUS is official, he said, but is separate from the campaign. He promised to work within whatever parameters the students decided.

Fenna also promised reforms in the Board of Governors which he stated "is currently stacked against the university." He accused the provincial government of using the B of G to state its policies, and said

although a reform is not "imminently recognizable," he said students should voice a protest against the situation.

He concluded by saying "We do not want to see another Spark slate," but urged students to elect a complete slate.

The next presidential candidate, Harvey Groberman, represented the Liberal Democrat joke slate. Pelted by paper airplanes and serenaded by a saxophone rendition of "Hail to the Chief," Groberman said "All the other slates are promising platitudes without action but only we can deliver them."

Calling his opponents "the Bumstead and Hume-erous" slates and Brian "another new approach" O'Kurley, Groberman advocated referenda on every issue.

If elected he promised first to ask for a recount, and then to force the current executive to resign.

He explained the merits of

his slate to the crowd.

"When the Fenna slate needed a puppet president, we gave them ours," he said, "when Olmstead needed another pamphlet, we wrote it for them. And when Brian O'Kurley needed a platform, he took ours."

Groberman concluded with an explanation of the preferential ballot. "If you prefer anyone else, don't vote."

Brian O'Kurley, independent candidate, promised to go to the students and find out what they wanted.

He accused the current student loan program of preventing access to university because of its eligibility requirements. He also stressed the importance of the Grantham report, and supported students in Lister Hall complex in their conflict with the university administration.

O'Kurley said the service aspects—like CJSR, the record store and daycare—be run at a low-cost, no-loss basis. But he emphasized the importance of leadership.

"It is crucial that student representation is provided by uncompromising people with integrity," he said.

"Improvement in the quality of education is what I stand for

Liberal party policy, that there should be a job for everyone that wants one."

"The quote they use comes out of a paper on how to write a leaflet - *What to Say and What not to Say*. It was used as an example of what not to say."

Kushner vehemently denied this.

"The statement came from a NUS bluebook. They're not going to print things in the book which are not compatible with their aims. To clear up any misconceptions one should read the whole passage," he added.

Parr also complained about anti-NUS statements that the University of Manitoba and the University of Victoria have recently rejected NUS, the latter with a 90% NO vote.

"They've picked two losses as an indication of great dissatisfaction with NUS. They don't mention the 26 campuses

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# the Gateway

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Who says the Med Show is the only event on campus that features a cretin chorus? These upright citizens entertained the crowd at SUB Theatre before the election rally.

when I say I represent the silent majority."

Dean Olmstead, the final slate presidential candidate, also expressed the need for cohesive leadership.

The current executive has done a good job individually, but ideological and personality differences have interfered with their leadership, he said.

He said the Olmstead slate would be responsive and representative of students. Stressing the importance of a flow of information between students and the SU executive, he said each member of his slate would donate one evening per

week to meet with faculty associations and clubs.

Olmstead also emphasized the need for long-range planning and priority-setting. He identified the important issues for students as cutbacks and the accessibility of education, the priorities report, the university's investment policy, and its trust fund.

"We are a good slate," he said, "... and each individual is versed in his field of experience." He promised cohesive leadership if elected.

Len Thom, another independent presidential can-

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# NUS controversy continues

Tom Barrett

More charges were launched Wednesday as controversy over the NUS campaign continued to overshadow the National Union elections.

The latest leaflets from the NUS committee mislead students and don't deal with the issues, according to National Union of Students fieldworker Tom Barrett.

"They don't consider programs like the new student program. How is the U of A to have any input if it doesn't join NUS?"

They also say the NUS is undemocratic and the province should have one voice. Well, the executive is composed of one individual from each province."

The anti-NUS people have been taking things out of context to create a Red panic," said Barrett.

Barrett believes Kushner of the anti-

NUS campaign defended the leaflets.

"I think they do deal with some of the issues. The full employment proposal is discussed, and it is one of NUS's six central demands," said Kushner.

"The issues that are pertinent in this campaign are: What is NUS?; What is its structure?; Is it representative? These are the kinds of questions that our students have to answer in order to make a decision whether or not to join the organization, and we deal with these things."

Parr was extremely upset about a quote which appeared in the anti-NUS leaflets, suggesting that NUS believes our unemployment crisis is a direct and inherent product of our capitalist system.

"The quote was completely out of context," said Parr. "They put it forward as the NUS position on unemployment, which is not the case. The official NUS position is similar to the

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