

Tupper tops in tight election

by Jeff Cowley

Close: David Tupper slipping past Mike Evans by 450 votes to become the next Students' Union president.

Closer: The average electoral distance between this year's election candidates (about 297 votes).

Closest: Melinda Bang scraping by Aruna D'Souza to take the office of vp internal by one vote.

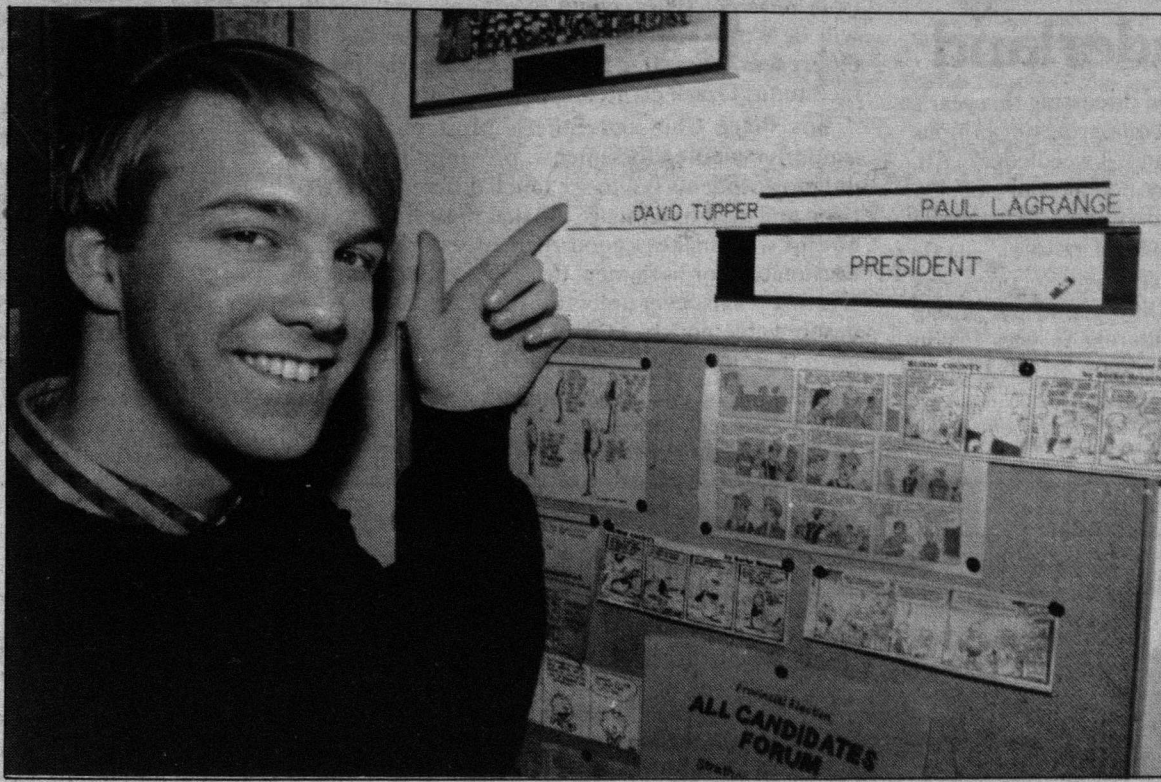
Like the anxious student sweating out the results of a final exam.

"It was the best night of my life. It was the worst night of my life."

SU candidates waited a long weekend for election results that came right down to the wire.

"It's the closest one I can remember," said Chief Returning Officer Michael Hunter. His office had to shift through some 6,000 ballots to tally up the outcome of this year's SU election.

"In a close election, a lead means nothing — there is always some doubt," said David Tupper, who kept a jittery watch early



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into Friday morning.

But in the final count, Tupper and his Direction '89 slate dominated the final count, winning three positions on next year's SU executive.

"It was the best night of my life. It was the worst night of my life," said Tupper after overcoming opponents Mike Evans and

Karen Hudson by at least 450 votes.

It was touch and go for other Direction candidates, however. It was Peter Chu over Ian Squair for vp finance, and Suresh Mustapha over Rob Cole for vp academic. Both Direction candidates nudged ahead with barely 200 ballots in their favor.

For the Rep slate, Wade

Deisman edged past Jason Forth to be the nextvp external.

Steve Twible was the only candidate to emerge as a clear winner. Twible, the only independent to win a position, took a safe lead over Kimberly Rogers and Kevin Klapstein to be re-elected Board of Governors representative.

But not everything was so decisive. Aruna D'Souza filed for a

recount after learning Melinda Bang ousted her by a single vote.

"It's hard. I'm going to go down in SU history as the first person to lose by a single vote," she said.

"I think thought it was fairly reasonable to ask for a recount — for both our sakes," she added. Melinda Bang refused to comment on the situation.

Ballot counts have been out by as much as 40 votes, said Hunter, adding that "anything can happen with a recount." His office has to shuffle through all the ballots by Tuesday afternoon.

"We've striven for 100 per cent accuracy. I'm not hoping to knock someone out of a position but I am hoping that we were 100 per cent accurate."

"However, any doubt in the results is just cause for a recount. And you can't get much closer than one vote," he said.

Grapevine: CJSR's operating grant got the go ahead with over 1,200 votes on the 'yes' side. And the SU's plan for generating a mandatory tuition policy from year to year was turned down. Meanwhile, candidates Rick Chamney for president athletics, John Pallas for vp men's athletics, and Monica Kmech for vp women's, were passed uncontested with sound 'yes' votes.

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