

Television is a cheerleader...

The Gateway

Thursday, March 12, 1987

for the team that has already won.

Robert MacNeil

Hodgins sought criminal records

by Randal Smathers

During his term as SU president in 1984, Floyd Hodgins asked SU Finance Manager Ryan Beebe to research the criminal record of a "political adversary," Anne McGrath.

At the time McGrath worked for L'Express, and had been turned down that August for the post of Academic Affairs Commissioner by a Students' Council of which Hodgins was president. The Council decision was termed "irresponsible and extremely unfair" by the Student Ombudsperson, but was upheld by Council later in September.

In an August 30, 1984, memo from Hodgins to Beebe, Hodgins states "...It has come to my attention through the rumour mill that an Anne McGrath, an employee, has (a criminal) record. Could you either verify or prove false such a rumour."

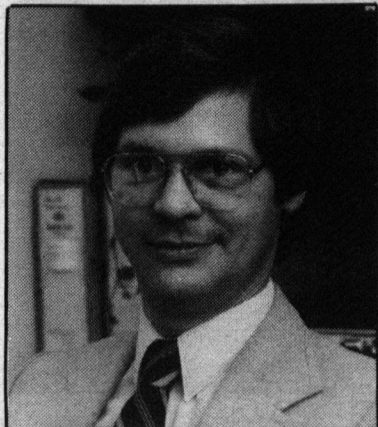
Criminal records are not in the public domain.

The RCMP said that anyone may get a copy of their own criminal record, or verify they do not have one, but there is definitely no legal method for a third party to get this information from the police.

In a second memo (March 19, 1986), this one from Beebe to SU Business Manager Tom Wright, Beebe stated: "I suspect he (Hodgins) was asking me as he knew I have friends in the RCMP."

Beebe was not in a position of authority over McGrath, and had nothing to do with personnel other than doing payroll, according to Wright.

In the same memo, it also states that Hodgins made the request for information after a "disturbance" in the SU office. The disturbance was created by a confrontation between Hodgins and McGrath. Hodgins said that he could not recall the "time-line" involved, and thought the argument may have been after the second Council meeting that refused McGrath's nomination. The date on the memo



Ryan Beebe, SU Finance Manager

placed it between the first and second meeting.

In Hodgins' memo, he states that "an employee with a criminal record, including theft convictions, is not covered under our bond coverage." As well, in a Wednesday interview, he said that this may have jeopardized the coverage. According to Wright and Beebe, this is not the case.

When asked if he felt it was ethical to act against an employee based on the rumour mill, Hodgins replied: "It depends which rumour mill you're listening to, I think, how close to reality they are."

Hodgins said that he believed that McGrath "had been involved in" writing graffiti (Stop the Dick) on the legislature. However, he admitted that because there had been no arrests made, McGrath could not have had a criminal record from this.

He now states that he does not think McGrath has a criminal record, although he could not say what changed his mind. He could give no other reason for suspecting McGrath of having a record, nor could he explain why McGrath in particular was chosen for this type of investigation.

Hodgins stated that he thought Beebe had solicited the memo originally. However, Beebe stated that Hodgins had made the request verbally at first, and he (Beebe) had asked for a memo because he was

"particularly concerned" with the request.

Despite the fact that Beebe categorically denies having ever done this type of activity before, and that he was opposed to it, Hodgins claims otherwise. "I believe Ryan has performed this service for a

number of years," said Hodgins, also stating that Beebe "volunteered that he would research criminal record backgrounds because he had contacts in the police department."

Hodgins could not suggest why Beebe would volunteer an illegal

service, although he maintained that "he had no idea" it was illegal.

"What I find most amazing about this is that type of action is illegal because that is something I don't understand; why somebody in his position would be offering an illegal service," he said.

THINK pamphlets purposely misleading, claims Tom Wright

by Randal Smathers

Presidential candidate Floyd Hodgins is deliberately misleading students, according to SU Business Manager Tom Wright.

Wright and Finance Manager Ryan Beebe decided to speak up because they feel the THINK slate's interpretation of budget figures is incorrect.

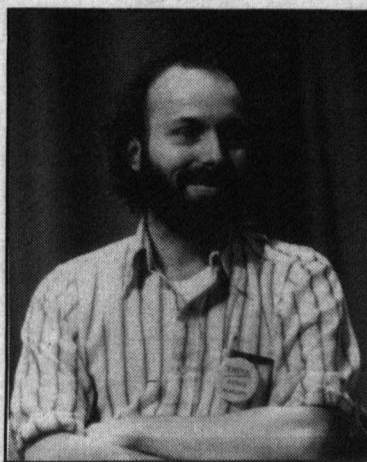
"We haven't been involved before (in SU elections), and we don't like to be, but we can't see information published to students that is totalling misleading," said Beebe.

Wright said that in a March 4 meeting concerning financial figures published in THINK literature, with himself, Beebe, Hodgins, and Chief Returning Officer Shelley Chapelski, that Hodgins had admitted as much.

"I replied that he (Hodgins) of all people should be aware that the money that was allocated for reserve funds (\$225,000) was really a cash surplus and that the Students' Union had not blown their surplus as his material had stated," said Wright. He added, "He (Hodgins) then replied that yes, he was aware that the \$9,275 was not a cash deficit and that the money was going into surplus funds, but students did not know that."

Hodgins concurred, stating, "That's basically what it (the conversation) was."

Wright added that he also said to Hodgins, "But if you know that the \$9,275 is not a cash deficit and you are saying that it is in your campaign material, then you are deliberately deceiving students," and that Hodgins replied, "No, you guys are."



Floyd Hodgins, candidate

Hodgins contended that as current VP Finance Tim Boston had called the budget a deficit in a Gateway ad on January 15, 1987, he was also allowed to call the budget a deficit. Chapelski ruled in his favour on this point, despite the fact that no deficit exists.

In an interview Wednesday, Hodgins stated that because the budget was less than what was predicted, he felt it represented "...either a budget deficit, (or) a negative budget."

Hodgins also stated that the budget does not show the total in reserve funds (money in the bank), which he considers deceiving.

Hodgins contends that the SU is being run like a government and not like a business. All the SU managers interviewed disagreed strongly, pointing out that their businesses are returning a profit, despite the SU "cheap beer" policy. This year, the SU expects to return a quarter of a million dollars in profits from



Tom Wright, SU Business Manager

RATT, Dewey's, and L'Express, which help pay for services provided by the SU.

In addition, Hodgins maintained that spending money on renovations, using Dewey's as a particular example, was similar to what a government would do.

Wright maintains the renovations make good business sense. "In '82, Dewey's was run down and profits were \$11,354," said Wright. "I suggested renovations (to council) on a band-aid basis."

After these were carried out, Dewey's profits rose to \$48,000 by 1983. Wright took those figures to council and recommended a wholesale facelift. It was approved, but then the council — headed by Hodgins — insisted it go through council again, according to both Wright and Hodgins.

The renovations were again approved despite Wright's "refusal" to guarantee they would help

continued on p. 7



Mr. Spock failed to find intelligent life in election forum Wednesday.

Forum uneventful

by Brad Johnson

A poorly-attended all-candidates forum was held in the SUB Theatre yesterday, where each election candidate was allowed to give a short speech.

Only about 200 people showed up at the forum, which was essentially a show of student reactions to the slates.

Chief Returning Officer Shelley Chapelski gave a short opening speech and introduced the candidates as their turn to speak came up.

Chapelski and her staff also saw to it that no throwing of things at the candidates took place, as was the case in previous years.

The first candidates to speak were the Board of Governors hopefuls. Dave Oginski, during his speech, was interrupted by the heckle of "better strippers!"

Dr. Spock, the Star Trek slate's VP Academic candidate, promised (to much applause) to send provincial treasurer Dick Johnson on a five-

year mission to deep space.

Danny Beauchamp said in his speech, "I won't talk to the Gateway 'cause they misquote me." Beauchamp is the Think slate's VP Internal candidate.

Although most of the candidates' speeches were confounded by hecklers, Mike Berry, the Think slate VP Finance, managed to carry on his speech and not let the hecklers get a word in edgewise.

The last speeches given were by the Presidential candidates. Floyd Hodgins of Think was greeted with repeated chants of "Seig Heil" and "Manson!"

A question period then followed with fiery debate flying between Think's VP External Dexter Dombro and various people in the audience, including outgoing VP External Michael Hunter.

One anonymous man in the audience even asked Beauchamp the question, "is an avalanche just a mountain getting its rocks off?"

Inside this issue:

Election analysis ... pg 6

Dance weekend ... pg 9

Lifestyle ...pgs 13 & 14

CKST drops final ...pg 15