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MORE LETTERS

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Point

This letter should not be perceived as part of a "No Campaign" against Peter Seseke, but rather as a statement of self-defense against the personal attack Mr. Seseke is waging against me and a defense against the financial demise of the Students' Union.

I would like to address two points that appear on the Seseke Campaign poster, the first of which is the "\$27.50 fee cut," a whopping saving of \$3.44 per month per student. Mr. Seseke is proposing that the Students' Union can operate on almost \$600,000 less next year because we will show almost that amount in inventory and cash surplus this year. (Does Mr. Seseke intend that we clear all of our inventory and close our businesses?) The truth is that I have never denied that we will have a substantial surplus at the end of this year. What I have said and will continue to say is that the Students' Union needs a substantial cash surplus (\$500,000 to \$700,000) to provide the following:

1. Long term financial security.
2. Capital funds for renovations of present businesses (\$250,000 proposed for the next 3 years).
3. Improvement and renovation of present service areas (\$200,000).
4. Summer cash flow \$220,000-\$300,000 yearly.
5. Building reserve fund (expansion, a new building someday, major repairs, new elevators, etc.) \$70,000 per annum required by the Students' Union constitution.
6. Financial autonomy from the University.
7. Protection against foolish campaign promises.

I have enclosed a copy of November Council report, (available in the Gateway office) authored by myself, "Why the Students' Union Needs \$700,000 in Cash to Stay Financially Healthy and Retain Its Autonomy." Please feel free to quote it in part or in whole.

Let me also give you and your readers some facts about where the Students' Union will be financially at fiscal year end, March 31, 1985. We will have \$500,000 plus going into this summer, of which \$100,000 is invested in a three year term deposit, \$200,000-\$300,000 will be used to subsidize business and service operations throughout the summer (they do not produce enough revenue in the summer to sustain themselves), and the other \$100,000 is a safety net to cover realistic campaign promises. In other words, we will be very close to having the cash reserves that I have been recommending ever since I took the position of Business Manager, but we will not yet have enough to provide the capital expenditures necessary for the business or service areas mentioned earlier, or enough for the building reserve fund.

The question is — Do you want to save \$3.44 per month or have "the best" student services on the continent? In my opinion, Mr. Seseke is attempting to buy votes and the potential result is reduced services or even the demise of the Students' Union. Any major reduction in fees now can only translate into major fee increases later — a legacy that I would not want to be responsible for (and obviously will not have to be if Mr. Seseke has any say in the matter).

The second point that I would like to address in this letter is Mr. Seseke's reference to my salary. He quotes a report that I submitted to Council in November of 1983, that states "My combined income will be \$80,000." This quote was taken completely out of context and is purposely misleading. What Mr. Seseke failed to point out is that only \$24,000 of my income at that time was for Business Manager of the Students' Union and the balance was commissions for the sale of advertising in Students' Union publications (i.e. Gateway, Handbook, Telephone Directory, etc.) which I have been responsible for in the past 10 years.

He also fails to tell you, because he has not done his homework, that my average monthly salary over the last three years for Business Manager of the Students' Union, has been \$2,139. Do you think that \$25,688 per

year is too much to pay for an Executive who has provided leadership to recover from a summer debt of \$1,144,000 in 1981 to a surplus of \$500,000 by March of 1985?

If it is Mr. Seseke's intention to become president of this organization, I suggest he start with honesty and integrity, not with deceit and half-truths that prove damaging to me and the Students' Union.

The following is a statement of my salaries and a close approximation of commissions to March 31, 1985.

Business Manager—Students' Union (3/4 of normal Business Manager's salary, determined by Executive Committee)	\$37,800.
Business Manager—Gateway	\$ 5,000.
Publication Commissions	\$34,000.
	TOTAL \$76,800.

I have invited Mr. Seseke to discuss all of the information provided herein previously, and he has rudely declined. I now extend that invitation again not only to him but to any student requiring more information.

Tom Wright
Business Manager
259 SUB

Counterpoint

A copy of Mr. Wright's letter came into my possession from a source other than the Gateway. This is my response to it.

Peter Seseke

Mr. Wright has for some time known of one promise that I haven't until now made public. It is promise No. 13 (see Seseke election article):

Mr. Wright's annual contract will not be renewed if I am elected. Why? Four reasons:

1. No SU employee deserves to make more than all five SU executives and the editor of the Gateway combined. (He made \$80,000 plus last year and will make about \$75,000 this year — that's \$3.75 per student this year).
2. Mr. Wright, even if he thinks it, is not the reason SU is out of the red. Excessive overcollections of SU fees have been the real reason. Last year it was a surplus of over \$415,000 (20.00 a student) and this year it is a surplus of \$335,000 (\$16.00 a student).
3. Mr. Wright is a very mistaken individual. He has never asked me to talk with him, nor vice-versa. On November 13, 1984, when I proposed to Council that we return back to the students their surplus money, he told council that we needed \$350,000 plus to survive the summer. But when Gilbert Bouchard and I talked to Mr. Beebe (Financial Manager) and asked how much we really needed, he said only \$200,000.
4. Mr. Wright has this strange idea that our SU needs a \$700,000 surplus. There is no reason in the world we will ever need that kind of money until we start thinking of building a new Students' Union building. I maintain that a \$400,000 surplus is adequate.

The Seseke slate will lower fees next year to \$38.50, the amount where we don't overcollect nor undercollect SU fees. Then we will give all students a \$11.25 credit, for giving way too much this year. Next years SU fee will be then \$27.25, and the following years, a more reasonable \$38.50. We will always maintain a \$400,000 overall surplus in the bank and in inventory. Thank you, for letting me have my say.

Peter Seseke

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