

# gateway

Tuesday, February 14, 1984

The unfortunate thing about politics...

...is that everyone can't lose.

## Welcome to Floyd Country

by Mark Roppel

It was Floyd by a landslide in the Students' Union Elections last Friday.

First year education student Floyd Hodgins defeated SU Vice-President External Andrew Watts, the only other candidate for the position of President, with 68 per cent of the popular vote.

Hodgins received 2313 votes; 1093 students voted for Watts. In all, 3631 students, or 15.5 per cent of eligible voters, cast their ballots. (See full election results, page 7).

The results were not official until Saturday at 6 PM. But "the trend was evident by Friday night," said Chief Returning Officer Ninette Gironella (Gironella replaced Glenn Byer as Returning Officer on Thursday. See story page seven).

The upset victory was as much of a surprise to Hodgins as to everyone else.

"I only started two weeks ago... the main thing I hoped to accomplish was to get over my shyness of speaking in public."

Hodgins says he didn't think he had a serious chance of winning until after the all-candidates forum in SUB Theatre on Wednesday.

"The Students' Union has been pretty unresponsive to students," says Hodgins.

Watts' only comment was "congratulations to Floyd. I wish him all the best."

A second surprise in the elections was the defeat of Paul Alpern.

Running on the Watts Slate, Alpern was the only candidate for the position of VP External.

But under the SU Constitution, no one can be acclaimed to an executive position - unopposed candidates are subject to a Yes-No ratification vote.

Richard Stedman ran a No Paul Alpern campaign as a joke, but managed to convince 55 per cent of students that it was better to leave the VP External position vacant for the time being.

A by-election to select a VP External will have to be held, but "it's up to Students' Council to decide when," says Returning Officer Gironella.

"I haven't decided yet," said Alpern when asked if he would run again.

VP Finance and Administration candidate Christine Ens also ran unopposed but she managed to get 1957 voters (59.8 per cent) to vote yes. There were 1314 No votes.

Ens was the only member of the Watts Slate to gain office.

Independent candidate Gord Stamp defeated Watts' Slate member Dave Koch for the position of VP Internal.

Stamp polled 1965 votes (60.8 per cent) and Koch polled 1269 votes (39.2 per cent).

In the race for VP Academic, Donna Kassian won the first ballot with 1508 votes. Rainer Huebl came second with 1039 votes and June Chipman of the Watts Slate trailed with 777 votes.

In the second ballot, Kassian outpolled Huebl 1845 to 1199.

In the closest contest, Jim Shinkaruk emerged as next year's Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Governors.

This year's VP Academic Barb Donaldson was dropped after the first ballot and Shinkaruk went on to defeat Grant Borbridge by a mere 44 votes - 1466 (30.8 per cent) to 1422 (29.2 per cent) - on the second ballot.

With 1195 votes, Mike Payette became President of Men's Athletics. Steve Roth received 841 votes.

Barb Donaldson sees her defeat as part of a broader move to replace established members of the Students Union: "I was lumped in with the Watts Slate."

Successful VP Internal candidate Gord Stamp agrees that students were fed up with the old guard.

"When you have a 70 per cent vote against an SU Executive member (Andrew Watts) the students are extremely upset," says Stamp.

Stamp says the main reason for rejecting the more experienced candidates was the recent 33 per cent increase in Executive salaries.

"Not holding a CFS referendum helped, but I heard people saying in classes - because of the pay increase - 'anybody but Watts'."

"I will bring a motion up next Council meeting (to repeal the salary increase)," says Stamp.

Stamp says that in light of the election results, council will probably pass the motion: "It (the salary increase) is going to be pushed back."

Floyd Hodgins cannot vote at council meetings, but he too campaigned on rolling executive salaries back from \$1200 a month to \$900.

"I will be supportive, (of Stamp's motion)," says Hodgins.

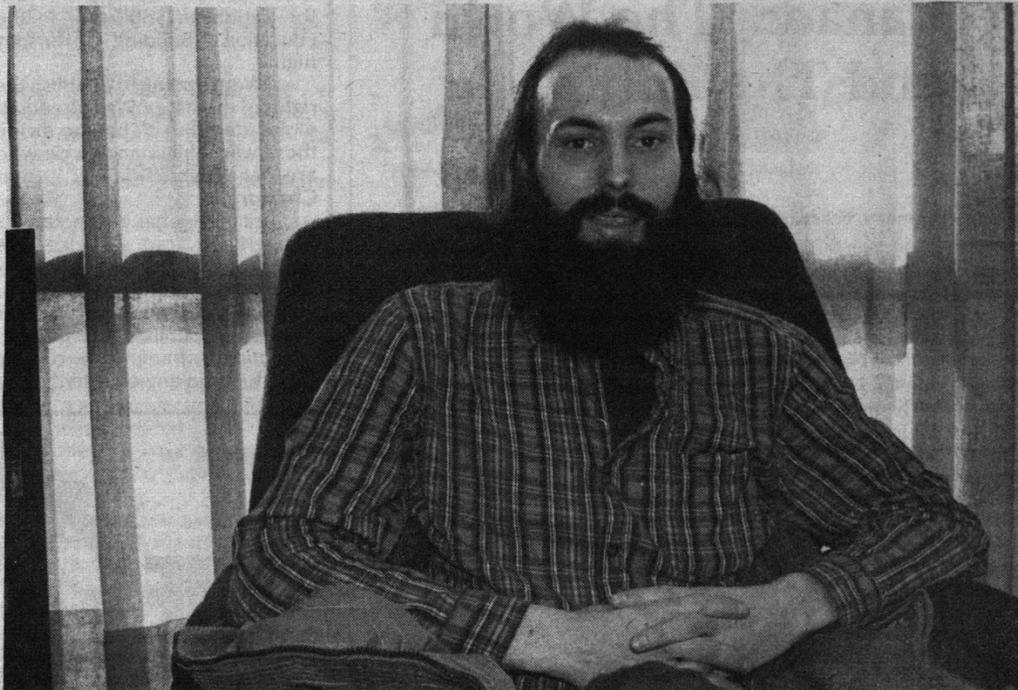
Hodgins and Stamp may also try to hold a new CFS referendum this year.

The 15.5 per cent voter turnout is considerably lower than the 26.6 per cent of students who voted in the SU election last year.

But last year there were five slates, this year there was only one.

"I had originally predicted less than ten per cent voter turnout," says Returning Officer Gironella.

In the 1982 election, 13.5 per cent of students voted, with



Incoming SU President Floyd Hodgins tests out Robert Greenhill's executive chair.

Robert Greenhill getting his first term as President.

But recent years have been a far cry from 1976 when 35 per cent of students voted.

Hodgins' 1220 vote margin over Watts is the largest landslide since 1971. In that year, Don McKenzie polled 1332 more votes than his nearest rival.

Hodgins won every poll ex-

cept for Corbett Hall.

At Corbett Hall, four votes were cast for Watts, and two for Hodgins. Hodgins took CAB North 344 to 146; HUB went 179 to 65 for Hodgins; and in SUB, the margin was 230 to 100.

The election was also notable for the number of spoiled ballots.

There were 356 spoiled ballots for the position of VP Finance.

Records of spoiled ballots were not kept as systematically in the past, so it is difficult to make a comparison. But, in the October CFS referendum, only two of 3281 ballots were spoiled.

A ballot is spoiled for a given position when it is left blank, a name is written in, or a line is drawn through the position.

## Block almost in the black

By Neal Watson

Sunday's forum featuring Michael Manley was a financial success, according to VP Internal Peter Block.

The former Jamaican Prime Minister was the first speaker in the Students' Union sponsored Speaker Series.

Block says that the lecture series is intended to "provide education and entertainment for U of A students."

Approximately 587 tickets were sold for Sunday's lecture. Ticket prices were \$5 for non-students and \$2.50 for students.

Over \$1000 was cleared at the door alone, says Block.

The total cost for the SU - including Manley's fee - was \$4400. When the proceeds from advanced tickets is added to that taken at the door, the cost was well-under the \$3000 budgeted by student council.

The event attracted a large number of people from off-campus. Approximately 400 full-price tickets were sold.

The lecture began at 5:00 instead of the originally scheduled 4:00 because Manley was delayed in Toronto due to poor weather conditions.

A similar forum in Winnipeg was cancelled due to fog.

The forum was divided into two parts. In the first part, Manley addressed the question of American foreign policy and later in the evening met with Jamaicans to discuss Jamaican politics.

The appearance of Manley, a socialist, sparked some protest on

campus from those that felt his left-wing views were not representative of the student population.

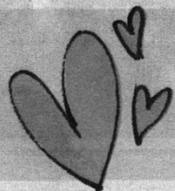
Block emphasized that any students not agreeing with Manley's views were free to voice their opinions at the forum.

The next speaker in the series is as yet unconfirmed.

Block said that he would like to bring in people like *National Review* editor William F. Buckley or former Nixon aide G. Gordon Liddy.

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### Happy Valentine's Day!

