

# Neck and neck in Old Strathcona

by Matt Hays

It all began on July 1, 1986. What started as a tongue in cheek editorial in the *Strathconian* has led to one of the greatest publicity campaigns yet for the Old Strathcona district.

Cameron Smith, editor of the *Strathconian*, is a separatist. He states that downtown rule over Strathcona has gone on long enough, and that Strathcona must have its own mayor.

Smith and the *Strathconian* decided to lay down the rules for a mayoralty race for Strathcona, which has not had its own mayor since its annexation in 1912 by the City of Edmonton. Anyone who wished to run for Honorary Lord/-Lady Mayor of Strathcona had to declare their candidacy through the *Strathconian* by Labour Day, this year. The only prerequisite for candidates was that they live or work in greater Strathcona.

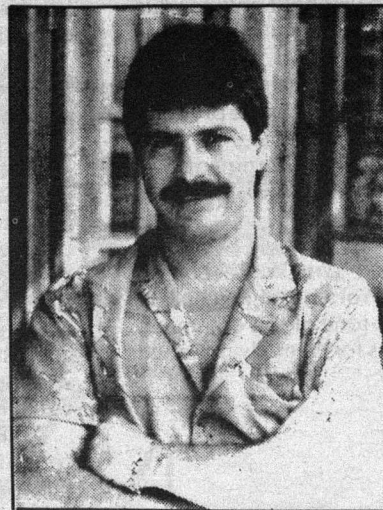
The mayoralty race began slowly. Gordon Greenwood announced his candidacy. Susan Morrow, director of the Princess Theatre, followed. Yiannis Psalios, popular restaurateur, also decided to run. The list grew, and it now rests at six candidates, including Elvis Aaron Presley, reportedly living in seclusion in Garneau.

Voting takes place this week. Ballots are in the *Strathconian* and voters are required to live or work south of the North Saskatchewan River and north of 63rd Avenue.

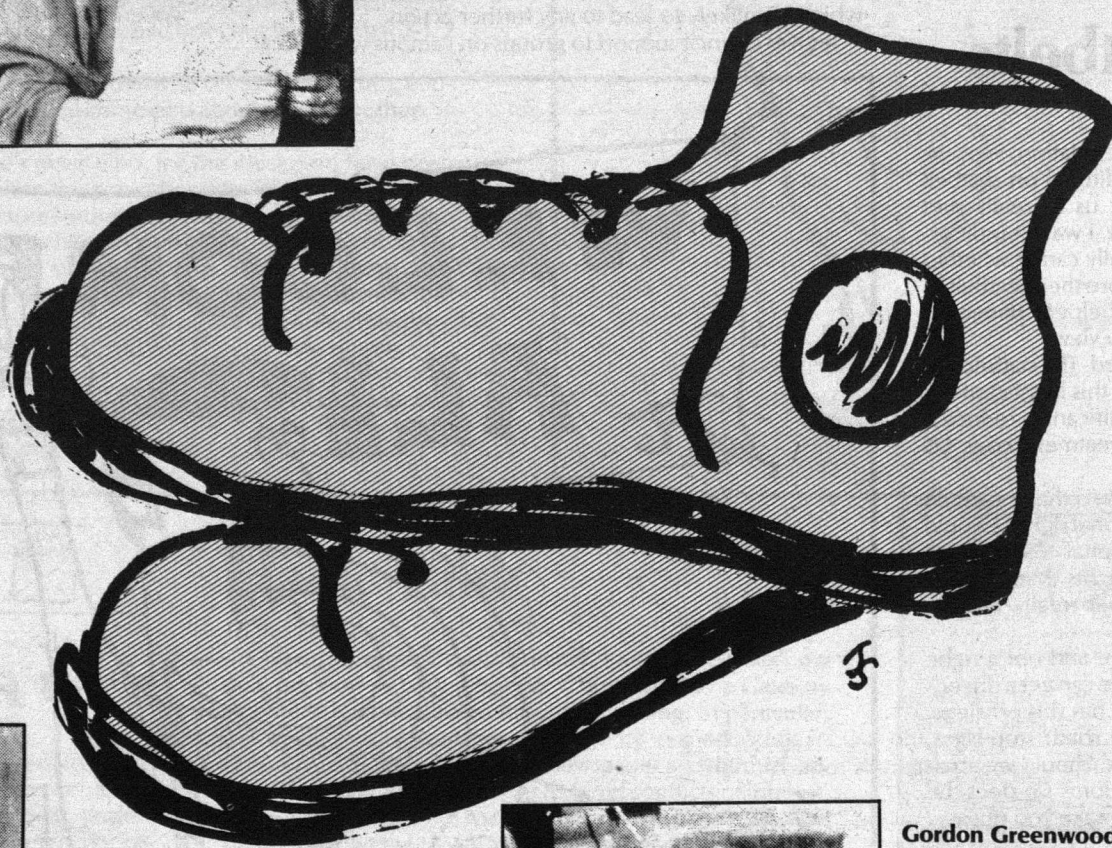
Here are summaries of the candidates' platforms:



**Susan Morrow:** On a scale of seriousness, Morrow places herself somewhere between candidates Greenwood and Presley. Morrow is the director of the successful Princess Theatre, a job she's had since 1979. Morrow has dubbed the Mayoralty an 'ambassadorial position', but also hopes to see real change come about through the role of the mayor. Morrow's platform includes the installment of more bike racks, two hour parking meters, and a 'Scona-wide neighbourhood watch'.



**Yiannis Psalios:** In 1975, Psalios immigrated to Canada from Cyprus. In 1982, he opened his popular restaurant on Whyte. This candidate believes that not enough happens during the winter months in Strathcona. Psalios proposes a winter Mardi Gras for Whyte Ave.



**Bruce Bowie:** Formerly of CHED radio, this disc jockey now works at KING-FM, which is located in Strathcona. Bowie has a long list of proposals, some of which are: declaring Strathcona a mosquito free zone, renaming Calgary Trail "Leduc Trail", and closing Whitemud Freeway (to block access to West Edmonton Mall).

**Elvis Aaron Presley:** Contrary to popular belief, Elvis is not dead. He is alive and well, and living in Garneau in semi-seclusion. This news comes to us from the *Cry-baby Killer Theatre*, who received critical acclaim in the *Globe and Mail* for their Fringe the Fifth production. Elvis wishes to see a juke box on every corner of Strathcona and proposes adopting "Serious Minds" as an official anthem. Mr. Presley was unavailable for comment.

Remember — Voting closes October 4. Get your ballot in the *Strathconian*.



**Judy Berghoffer:** Berghoffer is one of the founding members of the Old Strathcona Foundation, the group largely responsible for the rejuvenation of the area. She proposes an 'Old Strathcona Convention Centre' be built in the vacant Mill Creek Gainers' meat packing plant along Mill Creek Ravine. Berghoffer would demand sovereignty for Old Strathcona, and would attempt to rename the *Edmonton Oilers* the 'Old Strathcona Oilers.'



**Gordon Greenwood:** Contrary to what one might think, this man is not the founder of Greenwood's Bookstore (his children are). However, he is the chairman of the board. Greenwood has proposed a hot-air supported dome over Strathcona, which, he argues, is technically feasible. He wants to negotiate with city council for "a \$20,000 per year tax free expense allowance to cover costs of entertainment, coffee meetings, travel, office clothes allowance, etc."

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The Strathconian



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