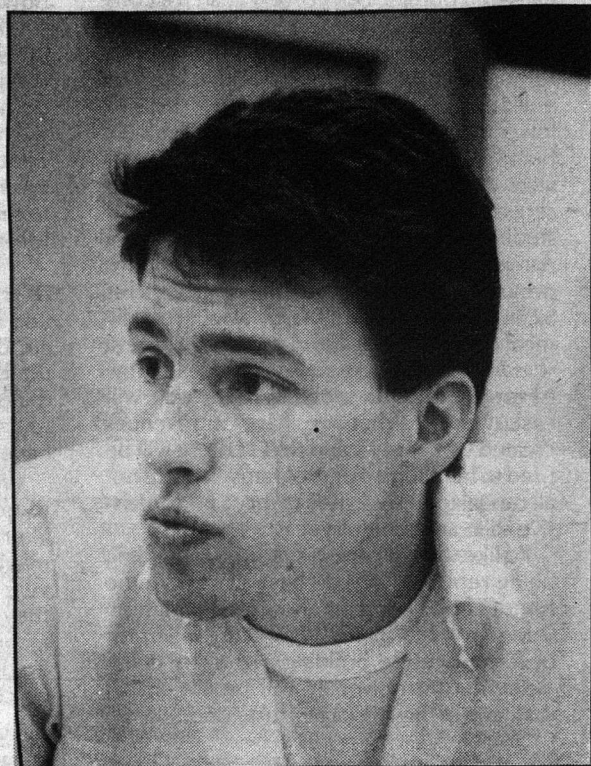


Union President I promise...



Peter Sesek



Jayson Woodbridge

facing students right now comes down to one thing — funding, and funding in two areas. I think the first area that's a problem is that the university does not receive enough funding for technology and research...I think when we're looking at private or public sector funding, we're looking at adding to the capital expenditure of the research facilities, your equipment, all the stuff we need on campus to be competitive in the industry. Basically, the problem students are running into is that they are in classes, they are studying and they are learning concepts and on equipment that is outdated. As a result, they get their degree, they go into the work world and they do not have the latest idea of what is going on in the industry.

Also I think the second greatest problem is in terms of student loans. Students are coming out with student loans, and they're having to start paying off the loan and paying high interest rates, and they are just getting killed. I don't think that should happen.

DO: I think the most important problem facing students here is not knowing if they will get a job. This makes them concerned about how good their education is and what kind of programs we have on campus. Two things directly affect their main concern about jobs. I think the job search program presently being streamlined in the Canada Employment Centre has to be a priority of the SU and the government to set up a program on campus to look for jobs on campus for our own graduates to see our

own graduates across Canada...We're one of the leading institutions in North America right now and we have to be able to maintain this quality. I think this comes directly from from them. So we have to try to hit our alumni more, and try and hit the oil companies. We could be able to increase our deduction (funding) and maintain the level we have now so when our graduates do graduate they will get jobs because they will be the best in Alberta.

MF: We feel the students here at the U of A are basically lacking in respectability outside the campus. That's because we really lack hitting power. We don't seem to make much of an impression on the rest of the world. That's why we feel by accumulating our own nuclear arsenal people will listen. Being students we feel we are the future leaders of society. We (should) be able to dictate the terms in a way that reflects that kind of potential...We want to apply to a position of strength with which to deal, this way we can solve all the problems facing students...we also feel we can provide jobs for our own students here by building and maintaining nuclear weapons and choosing targets. We'll be able to provide people who graduate from our institution an opportunity to remain at the institution and work for us.

SM: I think that the greatest problem facing students is the perception that individuals outside university have of our institution. They tend to view us as a group of rather

inaccessible people. I think there's not enough respectability among the community surrounding the university provincially or even federally. We have difficulty getting the funding but I think that it all ends up relating to the perception that people have of this institution. If we can get out into the community and show them that we are a worthwhile institution then we'll increase our funding.

PS: I think that students are being affected right now by three different problems. The first problem is with their financing of their education right now. With 70 percent of students on campus receiving loans from the Student Finance Board...it's very difficult for a student to continue his education if he doesn't have the financial support behind him. A lot of students need assistance and they aren't getting it. After they graduate they have massive loans they have to repay (and) if there isn't a job they are faced with a serious problem.

The second problem is not enough job experience. Not enough of the courses they take lead them into an occupation... We should be helping the students with some kind of job experience program. It prepares them for when they graduate to have a job.

Thirdly there's a problem with poor professors at this university... We need some kind of system whereby we can check up on poor professors. A professor/course evaluation guide will direct students away from the poor professors. The deans, the academic staff will realize that and try to replace those poor professors.

What plans do you have for balancing the wishes of the many diverse groups on campus?

DO: Balancing the different groups on campus is difficult because each group has its own needs. I guess the best we can do is to look at what different groups on campus want, look at which ones give us the most reasonable request and which ones will affect the greater majority for the students. We must (also) remember that some of the smaller groups on campus may have a request that is of a higher priority.

So hopefully we'll be able to see which needs affect the majority of the students, and secondly see which ones are more significant.

MF: Bringing to this election the freshness and innocence that we do, we will approach all the groups on campus with the same degree of aloofness and disdain. One group we do admit to having a bias towards are the survivalists because at least they're prepared. However we feel that once we get our program underway, many of the diverse groups on campus, will probably find some kind of satisfactory solution in our solution. We also have methods of working with these groups that we cannot divulge at the moment but we can always deal with all the groups from a position of secure, honest trust.

SM: First of all I'd like to see an expansion of diverse groups on campus. I'd like to encourage people to find a way of promoting their thoughts and ideas on campus, because my perception of university is it is a forum where a whole great range of people of diversified opinions...will be able to discuss things objectively and hopefully find solutions to areas where they have trouble with one another.

I believe everybody deserves equal consideration, so I personally would not want to fund one group (more) than I would give to another group. I would like to find a way of increasing the funding...because the diversification of groups and people on this campus is beneficial to our growth.

PS: I think the most important way the Students' Union can understand the differences between individuals is to get out there and listen to them, to hold strict office hours so individuals can come and talk to you in your office, to go out and reach the students. Possibly on a monthly basis we suggest setting up a booth in CAB or in HUB and let the students come and talk to you.

I believe it is the Students' Union executive's duty to relay these opinions to the council chambers. When a group comes in and asks for some financial assistance we'll have a feeling of what the students really want and (in which direction) students want

their Students' Union fees going.

JW: To balance the needs of the many diverse groups I think we have to look at the purpose of the Students' Union. The purpose of the Students' Union is to represent the wishes of the students to government and the University. One of the ways the executive of the Students' Union and the Students' Council can avoid missing the opinion of the small groups is via public opinion polling. That way you get a feeling of what the majority on campus wants. At the same time many small and diverse groups on campus are represented through clubs. The Woodbridge Slate intends to increase club funding because these diverse groups join these clubs because they want to voice their interests.

Secondly, we have to protect the opinion of the smaller groups but at the same time the smaller groups should not dictate through high vocal activity the direction of the majority of students. We have to be able to judge what the majority of students on campus want that's the direction the Students' Union will go.

Many of the campaign promises (such as a flat remission rate, professor/course evaluation guide, or renovating Dinwoodies) have been initiated or, at least discussed by previous executives, yet some slates are claiming them as original ideas. In fact, in most cases there doesn't seem to be any really significant differentiation in policies. Why?

MF: I hardly think that anyone's come across offering the students of the U of A their own nuclear arsenal with which to deal with the problem.

We have projects like the Rocky Mountain Plains Project which will level the mountains and create a huge inland sea with Edmonton as the sole surviving coastal port. We'll dome it all and develop a Mediterranean-style climate...with the best beach-front property going to the students in what we'd like to call the Cote de Glow.

Financial institutions will be more than willing to deal with us on an equitable basis of course, but giving us incredibility good returns.

We also feel our make work projects both in the Rocky Mountain Plains project and the dome project will provide students with the kind of work experience that no other student from any other institution is going to be able to have.

Therefore I don't think it's very fair to say we're like any other slates. We're not.

SM: One of the reasons why (a lot of) things are still coming out as issues is because although there is a concern...the SU has found themselves unable within the parameters of their jurisdiction to possibly do something about it.

But I do feel we have offered something a little different for students, for example, the idea of direct funding for student enterprise proposals. Basically what we propose is that students would come forward to us to present a proposal. The criteria would be that it would have to be economically feasible as well as to have 100 per cent student employment, and would also be in a common wealth structure like the Scott-Bader commonwealth in England. We feel the reasons why this is a viable proposal is that if it is economically feasible then a percentage of the profits would end up coming back to the Students' Union thus creating a source of revenue for the SU. Something else that's unique about the company is that the students working for this company would receive a base wage rate but they would also be receiving a percentage of the profits in the end.

PS: It may be the case with the other two slates but I do not believe that's true with us. For instance, in the suggestion of flat remissions scheme, STUDENTS WORKING FOR STUDENTS, although we like the idea of a flat remission scheme, we'd like a 50 per cent flat remissions scheme...However we don't see it as a feasible thing, we don't see it within our control. We can rally the government and try to help the students a little bit more but I don't think we could honestly make a promise such as that to the students, because too many times you promise things like that and they don't come through.

Concerning the expansion of SUB...they