

Gateway News Editor Mark Roppel spoke with the two candidates in the upcoming Students' Union election, Floyd Hodgins and Andrew Watts, on Sunday. Andy said "quite frankly" six times. Big Floyd's favourite expression is "Why not?"

Gateway: What is the first thing you would do as president?

Watts: The first thing we would probably do would be to open up Dewey's between eleven and two so students could eat lunch and possibly study there.

Hodgins: I would start pushing for a salary rollback.

Gateway: What about you, Andrew, do you think \$1200 a month is too much for members of the Executive to earn?

Watts: No, because quite frankly we feel that... a \$1000 take home pay is about right.

Hodgins: It (the pay increase) was close to graft.

Watts: No, I disagree... I'm going to use a government statistic or a government figure of \$715. Now that's the figure that the Student's Finance Board uses as a living wage, anything that is savings (Note: Actually, the amount of money the Student Finance Board says a student living away from home each month is \$610). Quite frankly, \$900 was not adequate for the Executive.

Hodgins: What makes the Executive different from anybody else? Do you really think you're so superior? I support my whole family on \$900 a month.

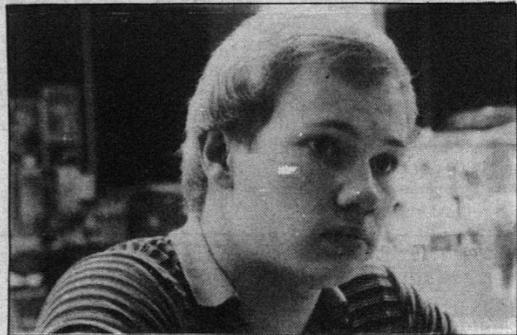
Gateway: Andrew, what's your position on tuition?

Watts: We simply can't call for an increase of six or five per cent... what we'd like to do is get extremely involved in the long range planning that the university is doing right now and try and maximize their resources so that they can relieve pressure on things like tuition.

Gateway: So your policy is a "take what you can get approach"?

Watts: We screamed and yelled for zero per cent increases for years and one year we got whacked with a 22 per cent increase.

Hodgins: What's wrong with pushing for zero per cent increases.



Andrew Watts

SU Presidential Debate

Watts: It's a stagnant policy, Floyd.

Gateway: I take it, Floyd, that you are in favour of no tuition increase?

Hodgins: I think we could even push for decreases... Andrew, I've heard a rumour that you are a member of the Conservative Party, is that true?

Watts: What has that got to do with it?

Hodgins: I'm just curious.

Watts: Yes, it's true, I am a member of the Conservative Party. Any connection with the party, after I slammed (Advanced Education Minister) Dick Johnston for not doing his job... is tenuous.

Floyd: You're lobbying all your friends down there?

Watts: I don't know that that's an issue. The most important aspect of any students' union is to help students.

Hodgins: All by yourself in your three piece suit down at the legislature?

Watts: The approach I took this year is to lobby on a more individual basis. Not to get 3500 people yelling at one person on the steps of the legislature, but rather have one or two people lobby as many people as we can in the caucus.

Hodgins: What do you call lobbying, going down and talking to them?

Watts: Introducing ourselves, so they know who we are.

Hodgins: So you can get in on the Party?

Gateway: Floyd, what do you think the best way to lobby the government is? Do you want to organize big marches or what?

Hodgins: I think it's possible to get some petitions up, get letter writing campaigns organized.... I've been involved in lobbying efforts with private groups in the past. We wrote letters and we got responses. We could organize a march, have a little demonstration. It doesn't hurt to hold up a sign once in a while. What's wrong with sitting in their office with thirty students?

Watts: What does it accomplish, Floyd?

Hodgins: It gives you the publicity you need to pressure on the government. They are not going to respond to a one-on-one meeting in a private restaurant.

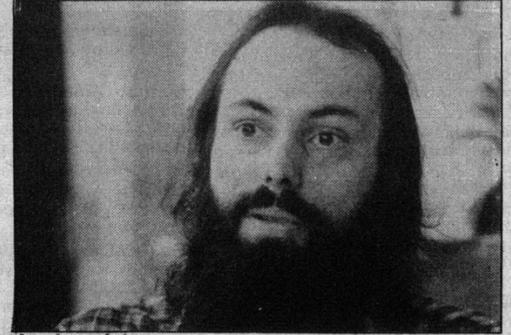
Watts: But they haven't responded to public pressure in the past.

Hodgins: Oh yes they have. In the sixties they were always responding.

Watts: But we're in the eighties, Floyd.

Hodgins: I realize that, but we're not getting anywhere, are we. Our tuition is increasing every year, we've got representatives who don't do anything....

Gateway: I think the conversation is degenerating. Andrew, when you campaigned for VP External last year as a member of the Greenhill Team, you were pretty violently opposed to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS).



Floyd Hodgins

Watts: We weren't violently opposed to CFS and FAS.

Hodgins: Replacement of FAS with a more representative cost-effective organization - that's a quote.

Watts: That's right, that is a quote.

Telephone: RRRRING.

Gateway: Hello, Gateway. Hi Angie, I'm doing an interview, you can talk to Bill.

Bill: Put her on hold, I'll get it in my office.

Gateway: You both want a new CFS referendum next year to clear the air. I want to know whether you will campaign for or against the Federation.

Watts: That's a long time down the road. I couldn't answer that right now.

Hodgins: I'm not sure, I've only heard the pro side of CFS and I would like to hear what the NO side has to say.... The only thing I think that's good about CFS is that it is a national organization.

Gateway: Do you think, Andrew, that your year as VP External makes you more competent to deal with the job of President, or have you just run out of ideas?

Watts: I think my year in office has given me experience to come out with new ideas. I know the ways in which you can represent students in the administration.

Gateway: Floyd, do you think fresh blood is needed?

Hodgins: I don't think experience on this past year's council is anything to brag about. We aren't getting any new ideas. They say things at election time and then nothing happens. It isn't logical to think that an experienced Council person will do anything.

Gateway: Floyd, you mentioned that you think the Student's Union should be more antagonistic to the administration. Do you think that the aims of University President Myer Horowitz and a student aren't the same?

Hodgins: Definitely, the administration has self-preservation as its goal. There's no pressure on him (Horowitz) to do anything for the students because nobody is lobbying him - nobody is pushing him. You get things like the University buying houses in Windsor Park.

Gateway: What do you think, Andrew?

Watts: I disagree with Floyd. I think he is directing his energies towards the wrong people. The administration is having to deal with very small increases from the government. I think we have to work with the University to get more funding from the government.

Hodgins: They (the people in the administration) are businessmen. They're not here for an education; they're here to make money.

Gateway: Do you think it's a good idea for the President of the Students Union to have lunch with Myer Horowitz?

Hodgins: I think that's garbage. That is not the kind of lobbying we need.

Watts: I'm unaware of what the hell you're talking about.

Gateway: Part of SU President Robert Greenhill's justification for the 33 per cent increase in Executive salaries is that he needed to take officials to lunch.

Watts: I think he's wrong.

Gateway: Last Friday there were people lined up outside the elevator to RATT. We went to Dewey's and it was full. Casablanca's was full and so was the Library. We ended up at the Avenue Lounge and that was okay because they have castors on the legs of the chairs, but don't you think the SU should build a new bar on campus? Maybe something could be done with Dinwoodie - convert it into a night club,

Watts: What we've decided to do is refurbish room 142 SUB and make it a meeting place for clubs. Now all the first term we will be asking students that question "do you want a new bar on campus" to try and determine if students want another bar.

Hodgins: I'm not sure if very many students are in favour of more bars on campus. That's something I think would have to be decided by some kind of vote or something.

Gateway: Do you think the Engineering Skit Night and the Med Show are sexist?

Hodgins: It might be sexist, but there are a lot of sexist people around too. It doesn't stop them from being sexist if you don't allow them to put on their show.

Watts: I have a real problem with even defining sexist. From what I heard about Engineering Night it was fairly crude. I personally would not have gone to see it. But if people want to pay money to see it that's fine.

Gateway: Andrew, this is your fourth year at University. How many courses have you completed?

Watts: At the end of this year I will have completed ten courses.

Gateway: So in four years of University you have completed two years of study?

Watts: Yes.

Gateway: Do you think there is a problem with the SU being run by political hacks who take a few courses on the side - rather than students?

Watts: That can be a problem, but I don't think I've sunk into that problem.

Hodgins: Yes. I will be a full time student next year. I will have to take at least three courses next year to stay in my program.

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