

Campaign budget given 10% monetary boost

by Allison Annesley

A motion raised by Speaker Mike Ford at Tuesday's Council meeting led to a ten percent increase for this year's election campaign budgets.

Due to what he termed a "conflict of interest," Ford withdrew from leading discussion on the motion. Discussion of the campaign expense limits was led

by Dentistry Council rep, Randy Headley.

Last year's campaign budgets stood at \$650, \$560, \$470, and \$380 respectively for slates running five to two candidates. Independent candidates were allocated \$275 each to run their own campaign.

Chief Returning Officer, Glen Byer, has run a check on current printing expenses and quoted

\$711 as his estimate of what costs would be incurred by a five-person slate.

Councillors then reached general agreement that raising expense budgets 10% each so that a five-person slate would have \$715, four candidates \$610, three-\$520, and two-\$420. \$350 was agreed upon as an "equity" figure for independent candidates (a \$75 raise). This, because pamphlet, poster, and button printing expenses are more easily divided by a slate as most fixed printing costs don't vary. This last condition was

described by External Commissioner Tony Brouwer as an effort on council's part to "bring democracy" to the process.

Problems with the budget raises may arise due to this year's unusually large number of "potential" candidates for executive positions (or so goes the scuttlebutt). Headley believes this election will probably require a large number of extra staff to count the election ballots, costing an extra \$4,000.

Council established that all slates would have the use of

Gateway printing services for their own campaign literature and posters as well as free use of the Students' Union offset printer. Arts rep Cheryl Davies then expressed concern that "certain people" would have better access to Gateway printing facilities. (A number of Gateway staffers are

running for executive positions in this election.) No preferential treatment, however, will be given to any of the candidates concerning access to campaign facilities.

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U of Toronto grads out of luck

TORONTO (CUP) — In the mind of the University of Toronto's job placement centre director, the employment situation for students in 1982/83 "is the worst year that any of us remember."

Statistics Canada announced Jan. 7 that the national unemployment rate hit 12.8 per cent and according to U of T's Rivi Frankle, the unemployment rate for grads is even higher than the national average.

The most significant indicator of student employment at the U of T is the On Campus Recruitment Program, administered by the

national University and College Placement Association (UCPA).

According to UCPA's executive director Pat Werner, "graduate employment figures are down across the country." In an October poll of their 119 member companies, it was revealed that arts and science faculty graduates continue to be the hardest hit.

"Over the past few years, the companies have become more selective and have tended to recruit specialists rather than generalists," said Frankle.

Job opportunities are down between 20 and 25 per cent for commerce graduates and between 30 and 35 per cent for those in computer science.

Engineering graduates are experiencing a whopping 55 per cent downturn. Werner said he attributes this large decrease to the fact that "engineering is one of the disciplines where large numbers of graduates get jobs through On Campus recruitment."

But Frankle said: "Although we are getting no indication at all that things are turning around, we are being very optimistic." Her office is "really laying it on thick in seeking out jobs for post-graduates" and hopes that the companies polled in October may have overreacted to the shaky business climate.

"The combination of our increased efforts and the overreaction of the companies in the fall will, we hope, increase opportunities in the spring."

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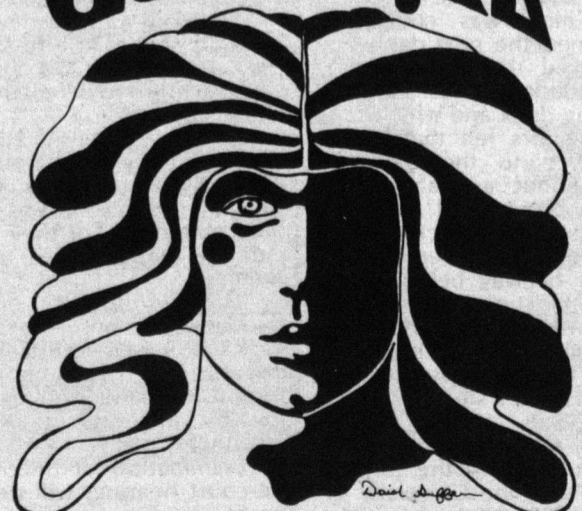
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