

# It is time to wipe the "slate" clean

by Anne Stephen

By(e) Phil, it's election time already!

This year there are three slates and one independent candidate running. The slates are headed by Mike Walker, Bill Cottle, and a one-man slate of Gord Stamp.

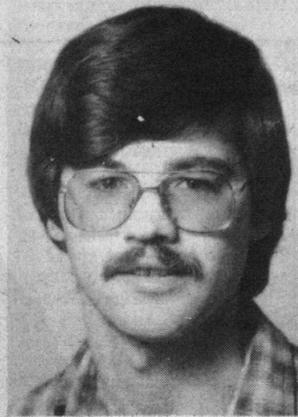
The two serious slates differ greatly in platforms. The Walker Executive aims to improve services and make sure that there is no wasting of SU funds. They are also promising strong representation, and consistent leadership to deal with the university administration and provincial government, says Walker.

The Cottle slate promises to have a hard line with the provincial government in the area of funding. Also, because they are "moderate", they will be "able to work with governments", and realize that they need "respectability" in order for the government to listen to them, says Cottle.

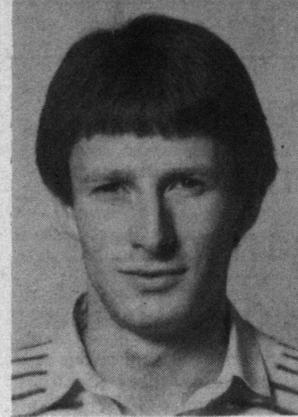
According to Walker, his executive has "extensive



Mike Walker



Gordon Stamp



Bill Gottle

Walker Executive has no candidate for the Board of Governors Representative. Hoye and Noyes have been elected by acclamation, pending a ratification vote.

For the Cottle slate, the candidates are: Teresa Gonzalez (VP - External Affairs), Roger Merkowsky (VP - Finance and Administration), Brian Bechtel (Board of Governors Representative).

The lone independent candidate running is Paul Pierzchalski (Board of Governors Representative). His platform is one of "experience and qualifications". He says he knows the "complexities of the issues" and believes he is "highly competent".

The joke slate, which consists of Gord Stamp, promises "power for the students". He wants to close the Women's Centre, and extend Engineering Week to Engineering Month. He also wants to have strip shows every Friday for "relaxation for the weekend".

knowledge of the SU's internal operations and extensive knowledge of the various services offered and of the financial situation the SU is in."

Funding is a major issue for the Cottle slate. Cottle says they

are going to "try to force (the provincial government) to cough up a bit more." They also promise to continue lobbying the MLA's and Jim Horsthan for adequate funds.

The remaining candidates

for the Walker Executive are: Amanda LeRougetel (Vice-President - External Affairs), David Vincent (VP - Finance and Administration), Mark Hoye (VP - Academic), and Dawn Noyes (VP - Internal Affairs). The

## Students' Council approves objective study.

by Peter Michalyszyn

The Students' Union is hiring a management consulting firm to tell them 'objectively' if and how the position of business manager should fit into the Students' Union organization.

Peat Marwick and Partners will get between \$9-12,000 to help explain why the SU has had to fire two general managers in the past year - last February Bert Best, and recently, George Ivanisko.

In approving funds for the two-week long study, Council emphasized Peat Marwick should have a clear understanding of the purpose of the Students' Union.

"They would understand this is a non-profit organization run by students for students," said SU v.p. finance Elise Gaudet.

There has been ongoing debate whether the \$5 million SU should be run like a profit-making private enterprise or a break-even public administration: traditionally it has been a combination of both.

However, in trying to reduce its massive debt, the SU has had to close down several student services such as SU Music and Tapes

and the SUB curling rink which both cost too much to operate.

As well, there has been confusion about the appropriate role of general managers in the SU organization.

"They have not been willing to take direction from the executive (on behalf of Students'

Council)" said Kris Farkas, Board of Governors rep and a member of the executive that fired Bert Best last year.

George Ivanisko was fired at January 18's closed Council meeting for a number of unspoken reasons that came under the general heading "insubordina-

tion." If Peat Marwick recommends that the position of business manager be re-filled, then Council will be asked to sponsor an executive search for a suitable candidate.

However, there are other

options. The consultants could recommend some form of management committee be struck to deal with day to day business

affairs. In the absence of a full time general manager, this is currently the interim arrangement at the Students' Union.

## "Students lack proper writing skills at U level"

by Wes Oginski

A province-wide english competency exam was held for the first time this winter term in Alberta.

The English Competency Exam is given to students in selected faculties on campus. The exam is given to determine the writing level a student is entering university with.

This year 2200 students participated. They were from the faculties of Business, Dentistry, Home Economics, Pharmacy, Education, Science and Nursing.

"The students lack the kind of skills in writing expected of them in university work," says Dr.

L. McKill, an English professor and head of Reading Remediation.

A pass-fail rate of 50 per cent has occurred in the last two years of the program. Similar results occurred at the University of Calgary, U of Lethbridge and other universities and colleges offering this type of exam.

"The reason we have worked for a common test in Alberta is so that (students) may transfer results to another university," McKill explains.

For those who fail the exam an English Remediation course is offered.

"We are not saying the

students are illiterate," McKill says, "but they are not up to the level of a university student."

"The program is out to help students... diagnose problems and give students the means to write at their highest potential".

A mid-term or final exam situation is simulated by the competency exam. While some may do well on a take home essay, where the student has several days to work on the exam, "this type of examination is closer to the real experience of outside work, he adds.

McKill says many are reluctant to enter the remedial program after failing the exam,

but student evaluations at the end of each term are quite positive.

He adds that many students who do not write the exam request the remedial course.

"Unfortunately we don't have enough room," McKill says. "At this point we can only accommodate those whose faculties are involved."

Next year, exams will be held in the months of April, May and August. McKill says that in this situation students will know their writing ability before they enter university in September.

A report about this year's exam results is due at the General Faculties Council soon.

BAE

by SKEET and Nelsep



## Olivia Butti's Diary

January 26

Dear Diary

"...I'm glad to say, I'm on my way/Won't be back for many a day..."

Oh diary, I'm having such a wonderful time. The plane is just about to land at Kingston airport and the party is still going strong.

When I got up this morning I thought I would have to put up with one of those long tedious city council meetings. But Petey gets a phone call from his friend Dr. Obie Stritishyn. He's been swamped with paper work ever since he started direct billing and wants to know if we want two tickets for a charter to Jamaica. Leaving in three hours.

Well diary I'm a dedicated public servant but even with extra billing times are tough for doctors and Obie can scarcely afford to throw away a week in Jamaica. So Petey bought them and I was off and packing.

On the plane I did feel a twinge of guilt about missing the meeting but I knew city council would probably bicker for hours and never decide anything. And, I told myself, if they do decide something I'll just have to ask for a revote next meeting. I don't think there was anything important on the agenda but I suppose I really

should have looked to check.

But it seems I left all my cares and woes behind on that snow covered runway at Edmonton International as that big bird took off into the clear blue sky (pretty good writing don't you think diary?). Soon the stewardesses were passing out fruit punch in coconut shells with little umbrellas in them.

I don't know what was in those drinks, diary, but the last eight hours have been the most marvellous blur. First they showed us a movie. I don't remember what it was about but it was a musical. At the end a man in the front of the plane said, "You call that dancing, I'll show you dancing," and he and a woman got up and started doing the Charleston while some other folks sang along. Well, as everyone in the St. Edmunds' choir knows I can sing pretty well myself but even I didn't think I could do a Carmen Miranda impression with one of those coconut cups on my head. Petey says I wowed them.

Anyways, the singing hasn't stopped yet although the stewardesses have been very snotty about the dancing. The rest of the city can go freeze their putooties off. I'll see you all next week. Meanwhile, "Day-oh, day-ay-ay-oh, Daylight come but me no wanna go home."