



photo Ray Giguere

Incumbent candidates from the Students' Union election size up each other's office as they prepare to take over April 1. They are (left to right) Mark Hoye (academic), Teresa Gonzales (external), Mike Walker (president), Brian Bechtel (Board of Governors), and Roger Marcosky (finance and administration). Here's to best wishes and good luck.

A converted cannibal is one who, on Fridays...

# the Gateway

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...eats only fishermen.

## Wide World of student politics

by Wes Oginski

Candidates from both slates in Friday's SU executive election experienced the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

Mike Walker was elected president of the new SU executive. Mark Hoye, also from the Walker slate, was ratified as the v.p. academic.

Teresa Gonzalez (Cottle Slate) will become v.p. external, and Roger Marcosky (Cottle Slate) will become v.p. Finance and Administration.

The new executive will take office April 1.

Dawn Noyes (Walker Slate) withdrew from the election on Thursday, leaving the v.p. internal position vacant. Present v.p. finance and administration executive member Elise Gaudet says Students' Council must decide whether to have a by-election before the end of March, or appoint someone to fill the position until a by-election can be held next fall.

Brian Bechtel (Cottle Slate) claimed the non-executive position of Board of Governors student representative.

17 percent of the eligible voting students, or 3436, cast their ballots in the election. Candidates found this disappointing as it was a drop from last year's 28 percent poll.

Heaviest voting came from the Central Academic Building.

The closest race was between Walker and Cottle. The third presidential candidate, Gordon Stamp, was a distant third and was dropped from the ballot after the first round, under the preferential system used. Walker captured 50.4 percent (1619 votes) over Cottle's 49.6 percent (1596 votes) in the final round.

Amanda LeRougetel lost the v.p. external race with 45.5 percent (1522 votes), behind Teresa Gonzales' 54.5 percent (1826 votes).

Merkosky defeated Dave Vincent with a 51.2 percent (1695 votes) share. Vincent had 48.8 percent (1613 votes).

In the Board student representative contest Bechtel took a 53.2 percent (1757 votes) to outdistance independent can-

didate, Paul Pierzchalski, who took 47.8 percent (1545 votes).

Cottle has few regrets about losing the election.

"We achieved what we set out to do," he says.

Cottle's purpose was to present an alternative to the Walker Executive. He adds that the new executive will do a good job of representing the students.

Walker expressed some disappointment.

"I was hoping our entire executive would be elected," he says and adds that his slate had done a lot of preliminary work on policies and plans.

"Obviously a lot of that (planning) work will have to be redone with new people. There will have to be some compromise."

"This is the executive. This is what we are working with," Walker adds.

According to Walker, the new executive will have two major focuses.

"One is supplying major services. Second is to provide the students with a strong voice," he says.

Walker says that today's education system stresses the importance of the students having a strong voice and "next year the Students' Union will provide that voice."

## Pros and cons of the slate system

This is not the first year that candidates from different slates have been elected in the SU executive elections.

Candidates have mixed views about the effectiveness of the slate system.

Brian Bechtel, the present SU v.p. internal and incumbent Board of Governors student representative, does not favor the system.

"I never liked the slate system," he says and indicates that this year's election results strengthens his conviction.

Bechtel's main objection to the slates is that they hurt the chances of independent candidates.

"We will continue to see the slate," he says. "If a person runs as an independent, people (the electorate) perceive them as having no friends."

Others disagree with Bechtel.

Bill Cottle, unsuccessful presidential candidate, says he likes the slate system. People run as a slate because they have an idea that they can work well together and the people know what each

other is like, he says.

"It (slates) does hurt you in a way," he adds. If the slate is not a full slate, the voter may see this as a fault of the candidates.

Roger Merkosky, incumbent v.p. finance and administration, views the slate system as a necessity.

"I think the theory behind the slate system, is for expedien-

cy," he says. "It's a good system."

Merkosky adds that people who would be discouraged to run as independents are encouraged when running with others.

Incumbent president Mike Walker says that the use of slates as an expedient factor is an abuse of the system.

"I do think the slate system has a lot going for it," he says. "It

(slates) is only as meaningful as the candidates make it."

Bechtel concedes that the slate theory is sound.

"The slate system may work if they had the organization or the grass roots support (in Students' Council or from other campus groups and associations)," he says. "That doesn't exist yet."

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Gateway staff meeting- Thursday at 4 p.m.