

FORUM chaos!

by Kevin Law

The 1988 All-Candidates Forum, held Wednesday in SUB theatre, was an enthusiastic and good-natured display of heckling and speech making. Candidates included slate members and independents both humorous and serious.

The majority of the forum was given to candidate speeches, which ranged from issues of serious concern to the absurdly comedic. The rest of the forum gave students a chance to ask questions of the candidates.

while most speeches were drowned out by the raucous noise of the audience, several joke slate speeches proved popular because of their humorous content.

The fact that the forum fully belonged to the crowd was seen in the crowd's reaction to various candidate performances. For example, the United Action slate's failure to participate was met with cheers, and candidates that spoke too long were hailed with shouts of "Boring!".

Hecklers and paper projectiles kept the crowd amused during the forum, as did the antics of some of the PTL and Star Trek members who performed the 'wave' while other candidates spoke.

The 'Pay The Leader' slate presented themselves as television evangelists, and were interrupted by a wheel chair bound heckler yelling 'hoax'. The PTL leader, Jimmy Faker, then asked the heckler to come on stage where a

'miraculous' healing occurred — after the heckler was relieved of his wallet because it was "much too big and heavy". Oral Rumpriker, Board of Governors candidate, urged the crowd to "make your ballots not with an 'x', but with a cross!"

Dr. Crusher, running for VP Internal on the Star Trek slate, told the crowd "every male fraternity (would be) given a free computer generated female image" while Space Cadet Wesley, running for VP Finance with Star Trek, promised to set up a pension fund for fourth and fifth year undergraduate students. Board of Governor candidate Dr. Bones McCoy told the crowd he wanted "Lisa Doig to dance the Watusi on my back with stiletto heels."

The Apathy slate, "the only true slate working for campus spirit" was also a crowd pleaser, with VP External candidate Keith Apathy stating, "This year, Students' Union doesn't care, except Tim Boston, who cares about improving his aim with a water gun...now we know who pissed on the floor in Bear Country." Boston had spent most of the forum dousing candidates with a water pistol.

Not all of the forum was humorous. Some serious issues were raised such as the WUSC referendum aimed at giving refugee students money to attend University. Jennifer Hyndman, who supports the "YES" side, pointed out the University of Prince Edward Island has given \$3.00 per student for the last five years. "We're only asking



SU Presidential candidates Paul LaGrange (left) and Paul Pallister (right) amid a storm of paper

Photo: Bruce Gardner

for 50 cents" said Hyndman. Those supporting the NO side of the issue did not present a case, but some audience members shouted "It's my donut!" during Hyndman's speech, referring to the donut symbol used by the "YES" side.

The absence of John Murphy, the VP Internal candidate for the Pallister slate, was greeted with shouts of "We want Murphy" and "We don't want Murphy". It was later explained that Murphy had been in an accident and was receiving stitches at the time of the forum.

Other issues raised by students at the question and answer session included why frivolous trips were made by Student Union represent-

atives and what is being done with money allocated for longer library and Mac lab hours.

Student reactions toward the forum were mixed. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, lamented the fact that money was given to joke slates, "It only adds to the problem of who's a good candidate and who's bad," he said. Carmen Klapstein said, "The question and answer period was the best part; the rest was good if you want to laugh."

An Engineering student stated "I

didn't get to know the candidates at this forum. There was too much rambunctiousness to get to know the issues."

Another student, Doug Plemel, saw it differently. "You've got to see the candidates as themselves to see their point of view. You couldn't get much from their literature so it's better to see their personal responses," Plemel, who is past president of Grande Prairie Regional College, found the forum to be "overall, quite worthwhile and enjoyable to see."

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CORRECTIONS

The March 15 Gateway profile of Together slate candidate Lisa Doig contained two errors.

ordinator for the Engineering Students' Society.

Also, John Murphy, Pallister slate VP Internal candidate, is not the chair of FACRA but is a member of the board.

The Gateway apologizes for any misunderstanding caused by these errors.

First, Doig is vice-president of the Electrical Engineering Club, not the Electoral Club as reported.

Second, she is the Activities Co-

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