

ALL WE DID WAS ASK QUESTIONS...

Contrary to popular opinion, it is possible for GATEWAY to present an unbiased view of an issue. We can do this by recognizing our natural bias, and guarding against it in our presentation.

With this in mind, we asked ourselves the following questions, which may well be similar to those any concerned student may ask him/herself about the candidates for SU President and Executive Vice-President. We then answered these questions by looking at what each candidate has said at rallies and on their platforms. Then we rated them on a 1 to 10 scale.

Since some questions seemed to be more crucial than others, we then weighted each question by a factor of: (1), marginal; (2), important; and (3) very important. We suggest that you try this yourself -- and VOTE your results.

This is not GATEWAY speaking; we simply asked the questions. The candidates themselves provided the answers. But don't take our word for it; do your own survey, using the questions we have provided if you like.

One more thing; we tried to assign values on the question of "image presented" -- was it issues or personalities. We couldn't really find an answer, but we suggest that we could all check the posters and campaign material to see who relied on a flashy image and who resented clear-cut issues to the student body. If you elect an image, "what you see is what you get."

COMMUNICATION

How ready are the candidates to communicate with students even if it means coming out of Council Executive Offices and seeking us out, rather than us going to them? Weighting factor: 3.

RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

"It is the responsibility of council to go to the students and seek out their ideas." From their campaign platform.

"I see no reason why we shouldn't hold Council meetings in SUB cafeteria if it means involving students." Riskin at the rally Wednesday afternoon.

MCRAE-SHANDRO

"There are many other (platform planks) that must be considered. We are willing at any time to discuss them with you." platform.

PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

"We think that the only way that we are going to overcome all the problems facing us is by working together in mass democratic action... The students' council ought to get out of the office and into mass meetings, rallies and discussions." platform.

BILTEK-BLACK

"It's up to you. Involve us." Campaign slogan. "It's really up to you." platform.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Does the candidate see the university at part of a larger social unit -- the city of Edmonton and the province of Alberta? Weighting factor: 2.

RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

"The purpose of the university is education and students want to hear famous personalities in the Arts and in Politics on campus. These people can be brought in for free by having a sponsored "HOT SEAT" type television show. The possibilities look good." platform.

MCRAE-SHANDRO

They support CKSR going FM to provide a youth oriented alternative to commercial radio in the Edmonton area.

PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

"The university must become a base for social change, researching and promoting

action on the problems facing the majority of people in Canadian society." platform.

BILTEK-BLACK

"Dave organized a mailing program to the Hon. Mr. Chretien from the U of A students on the (Cold Lake Indian Education) issue." From their 10 page campaign booklet.

STUDENT SERVICES

Certain commonly used student services, such as Room At The Top, Student Art Gallery and Music Listening Room operate at a loss. Does the candidate favor continuation or even expansion of these valuable facilities despite this fact? Weighting factor: 3.

RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

Their support on hiring big name entertainers to perform for campus audiences indicates that they are not afraid to spend money to satisfy student desires.

MCRAE-SHANDRO

Their involvement in these things (Soup Kitchen in RATT and CKSR) speaks for itself.

PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

They favor the maintenance and the expansion of these facilities, without consideration of the profit motive.

BLACK-BILTEK

Their past record has been one of attempts to cut back on unprofitable services regardless of their popularity with the student body, e.g. resolutions in council to shut down RATT; suggested "alternative means of financing" for Student Art Gallery and Music Listening Room.

EXPERIENCE

Have the candidates held positions on grassroots organizations on this campus? How well do they relate to us? Weighting factor: 1.

RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

Both have been commerce reps on council. Riskin was a member of Student Legal Services which provides free legal services and advice to all students. Riskin, presently serving as law rep on council, also served on the executive of the commerce undergraduate society and is a past VGW executive. Spraggins is

commerce rep on council and served on the seminar committee.

MCRAE-SHANDRO

McRae has served as science rep in 69-70, is manager of the Soup Kitchen in Room At The Top, as well as being involved and concerned in a number of student-staff organizations.

PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

They are involved in numerous community activities, related but not confined to the university campus. They downplay its importance.

BILTEK-BLACK

Black has served on FIW. Otherwise, they have served almost exclusively on higher level committees which generally tend to lack direct communication with the average student.

UNIVERSITY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Would this candidate be able to provide an effective and realistic lobbying force in our interest with regard to issues in which the provincial and federal governments are involved, i.e. grants versus loans, student housing, transportation, etc.? Weighting factor: 2.

RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

"With a new provincial government, we have an unprecedented opportunity for cooperation. There was strong Conservative support on campus and the government will go to great lengths to maintain that support." platform.

MCRAE-SHANDRO

They answer only in the most general terms. "Student voice being heard. Strong effective representation." platform.

PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

The Young Socialists do not feel that governments will respond to students needs unless they feel threatened by a student body mobilized as a political force.

BLACK-BILTEK

Biltek may have some connections on the federal level as a result of his work in the Hu Harries Liberal campaign; however, Education is controlled by the new Conservative government.

Our analysis

This is not an objective article—it is an editorial. We have tried to be objective about the qualifications of the presidential candidates in another part of this paper.

The following is based on our experience of all the candidates in this election—on our past dealings with them and on their performance in this campaign.

We do not state our preferences here. It is simply our analysis of the candidates qualifications. However, we know many of them well.

We have attempted to state our preferences as fairly as possible but our analysis is obviously not objective because we are intimately involved in the outcome of this election.

FOR PRESIDENT

McRae/Shandro-McRae has previously worked with us as the former Secretary of the Students' Union. We felt she was concerned with our welfare as well as providing maximum service to the students. She has been involved with many other student organizations as well as with the SUB employees and we feel she has real concern for, and is willing to work with, these people.

McRae is not particularly dynamic. While she takes strong stands on issues, she seems to have trouble stating her positions.

Shandro we don't know very well. We hear from our friends at CKSR that he has organized the news and sports departments extremely well and it seems he would make a very competent administrator.

We wonder about their superficial election platform. In fact, we believe they would do far more than is stated there.

Priegert/Bearchell—The Young Socialist candidates provide a credible alternative to all the other candidates.

They have presented us with a strong platform dealing with specific issues of social importance. In fact, they are the only ones who have provided such a strong platform.

If elected, they would undoubtedly change the direction of the Students' Union to a more outwardly concerned, socially conscious organization.

The YS has had success in programs such as the campaign for the repeal of abortion laws and the Amchitka protest.

We feel the YS is a credible alternative if we want to change the direction of our Union.

Riskin/Spraggins—Riskin has served very competently for two years on Students' Council. He has, many times, spoken for issues that are of real student concern.

However, Riskin seems to us to be something of a fence-sitter.

Rob Spraggins is one of the few members of the present council whom we have real respect for.

When we invited the councillors to our offices to learn about the problems we face, Spraggins was one of the few who bothered to show. He lead (with Riskin) the walkout from the Students' Union Finance Board this year after it became apparent that the Board was being too easily over-ruled by the present Executive and that it was not serving the interests of the students.

Biltek/Black—Everyone probably knows that we, as well as other student organizations, have had disagreements with these people all year. We think it sufficient to say that if we were happy with the way the executive performed this year, we should elect them.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Patrick Delaney—Delaney has no experience that we know of, in the Students' Union.

He says he would recommend the replacement of any student representative on General Faculties Council "who are not doing the job for which they were elected." That's fine. Except that the Student GFC reps are elected separately from the Students' Council and have no formal ties with Students' Council. It is absurd to assume that Students' Council has any, or even perhaps should have any, power to replace or remove any elected student member of GFC.

We think Delaney would be an ineffective Vice-President.

Linda Gaboury—We think it unfortunate that Gaboury could not make it to the Election Rally because of illness.

Linda has been active in politics on a provincial level. She is a woman who is concerned with the special problems faced by women in this country, and on other occasions has been a knowledgeable, confident speaker.

Our experience with her has indicated that she is outspoken on many issues which concern students.

She has had wide experience with involvement with issues and we think she would be a strong, competent Vice-President.

Wayne Madden—Madden was a student councillor last year and was very ineffective. But Madden is very honest and completely sincere in his desire to serve the student body, and his motivation in this regard would help him overcome some of his deficiencies, if he was to serve under a strongly "student-oriented" president.

VICE-PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION)

Gary West—Gary West says "my approaches to these and other problems will not be constricted by a political or personal view." We would like to ask him how he is going to achieve this. Does he presume to tell us that he would totally submit himself to the wishes of the students and forget his own experience and motivations. We don't think it possible for anyone to do that.

He has, however served on Students' Council this year but he has not been very vocal.

Don Wiley—Don Wiley, the Young Socialist candidate has strong views about the direction the Union should go, yet he has shown in the past—as an organizer within other campus clubs—that he is flexible enough to work well with those whose views he does not share. While he has had little experience with Council, he is a good administrator in his capacity with YS, and would do an effective job as Vice-President (Administrative).