

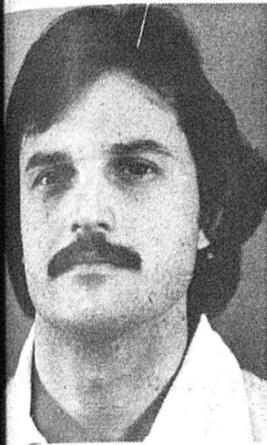
# Presidential forum: 5 on 5

The Gateway asked the presidential candidates in the SU elections to answer these questions last week.

1. What motivated you to run for Students' Union executive?
2. What is the role of the Students' Union?
3. Do you support the U of A students joining NUS? (explain)
4. What is your evaluation of the work of the present executive?
5. What do you see as the three most important issues for next year?

Here are their answers:

**Brian O'Kurley**



3. I give a qualified no to NUS. In its present form it doesn't meet the needs of Alberta students. I would rather see \$20,000 go towards FAS or spent by the SU in lobbying the provincial government. In principle, the concept of a national union of students is good and if the students vote it in, I will work towards reforming it.

4. I believe in many instances the members of the executive have let their political views interfere with the roles as responsible leaders representing the students. More might have been accomplished if the executive had worked out their differences. I would work with the executive to arrive at decisions by consensus.

5. The major concerns will be the Student Loan Program, the impact of the Grantham Report, and the restructuring of student government in Lister Complex. More on the above issues will be forthcoming in the campaign and in election statements.

**Fraternity (Liberal Democrat)**

1. I knew that I was the right man for the job when I was not approached by any members of the present executive to run on their 'puppet' slates.

I do not think qualifications are a suitable criterion for judging a candidate. We should not discriminate against those of us who because of socio-economic deprivation or lack of motivation have not yet had a change to prove their natural abilities. We support this year's executives' affirmative action in hiring the incompetent.



2. The role of the Students' Union is a multi-faceted one. It has the responsibility of protecting students from such terrible eventualities as bubonic plague and venereal disease. At the same time, there are more trivial responsibilities, such as keeping the washroom in SUB stocked with chalk. Basically, the Students' Union must protect the fundamental interests of each and every individual student who has paid his or her full (and outrageous) SU fees. We must

organize without influencing the people's decision making process. In short, the SU must exemplify **Platitudes Without Action**.

3. The issue of joining NUS is a complex one. The *Liberal Democrats* are saddened to find that the ballot contains only two choices — yes and no; obviously complex questions do not have such clear-cut answers. How about letting those who want to join become members? If the U of A students give NUS a 50% yes vote, let's become 50% members, with 1/2 vote at the NUS plenary. If it is the students who join NUS perhaps they should join individually. Make NUS a true democracy.

In a final attempt to answer this question, I polled my slate members, and got the following response: one, yes; one, no; one, don't know; and one, no comment. Personally, I feel we should join, but for the wrong reasons.

4. Last February, 9.8% of eligible voters on this campus voted for Cheryl Hume. 12.1% voted for Kaysi Eastlick. 10.3% voted for Mike Ekelund (although a lower percentage voted for 'Stuntman' one month later). 12.3% voted for Dave Fisher; 11.4% voted for Stephen Kushner. Considering these figures, we can say that the executive served according to their mandates if they did their jobs well enough to be given a grade of about 12%. I think they've fulfilled their mandates, or at least come close.

5. Liberal democracy; we are the people, you and I, and it is time we let the people rule. How dare we presume what three issues we will find relevant? Although throughout history, three has been considered, by general consent, to be an important, even mystical number. The Liberal Democrats will reaffirm the public's view in this and any other important issue.

**Dean Olmstead**

1. My motivation for running for Students' Union executive came out of a concern for the direction that the SU is taking. I would like to play an active role in the management of the Students' Union. My direct experience with university government as a member of Senate and of General Faculties Council, and my active involvement in other areas of student government has given me the necessary background to perform well in the role of president of the Students' Union.

2. The role of the Students' Union is to provide representation for the student body to the university, the government, and the community. It should provide a variety of services for the students and promote their

general welfare. It should also provide direction and leadership in relevant areas and issues involving the students of this university.

3. I agree with the concept of a national union of students, but I question the University of Alberta joining NUS at the present time. Since NUS is considering an internal review and possible restructuring, I feel that to postpone joining NUS until the results of this review are known would be in the best interests of the students of this university. Regardless of what the students decide, I feel confident that we are capable of working well within that decision.



4. Each individual on the present executive has done a competent job in their respective areas. However, because of their inability to work together and reach consensus on numerous important issues, strong executive leadership was often and noticeably lacking. Good leadership can only be provided by a unified executive voice.

5. The most significant issue for the next year will be in the area of university finance and internal priorities. Items such as the Grantham report and its consequences will be of particular concern. The housing and food services available on this campus will also be an important issue; especially in the areas of food outlets, and the problems with the Lister Complex. Furthermore, the possibility of SUB renovation and/or expansion is likely to be of major concern.

**Len Thom**

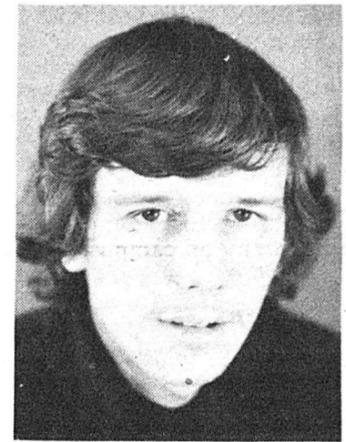
1. I was motivated to seek the office of President of our Students' Union by a desire to see our Students' Union run more effectively in response to the needs of students. As I have not previously served in this Students' Union I have the objectivity to give us a new start and bring in new ideas. I have previously served on students' union in high school and am on the board of the Alberta

Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission, giving me the necessary administrative skills for the job.

2. First and foremost, the Students' Union should deal with the issues that most affect students. Lately, they have been playing a game of non-issues such as five card NUS, South Africa boycott roulette and pin the tail on the FAS. The role of the Students' Union is to create a sense of community within an academic atmosphere on campus. It must also represent students in dealings with the university administration and the provincial government.

3. I, as an individual do not favor arguing over NUS, let alone joining it. However, I will respect the decision of the referendum on this matter. If we do vote yes to join, I will make sure we get our \$20,000 worth out of NUS. If we vote no, that should settle the issue.

4. Since they are not running for re-election, this question is rather unimportant. The next executive should be more in touch with student opinion. Personalities (both on the executive and Students' Council) have too often overshadowed issues.

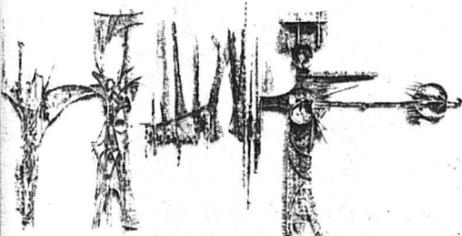


5. The major issue is the growing restrictive nature of this university. Rising tuition costs and entrance quotas on most faculties are making a university education an impossibility for many Albertans. Alberta does not have the facilities to educate the professional people it needs. With the situation in Lister Hall, the need for a comprehensive Student Bill of Rights is apparent. We also must increase the Students' Union's effectiveness and responsiveness.

**Alan Fenna**

1. It is my commitment to certain policies and courses of action which has motivated me to run in this election. I wish to offer the students an alternative which is firmly resolved to speak out for students and which also

Continued page 11



present a reading by  
Canadian Author  
**Michael Ondaatje**

S.U. Special Events  
U of A Dept. of English

Mon. Feb. 5, 4 pm

Humanities Lecture Theatre L3