

Potential presidents gather for Pres

Robert: Right.
Mungo: It came up with this FAS (Federation of Alberta Students) thing at the last Students' Council meeting. Don Millar said that students didn't bother to get involved. Well if you don't know what's going on, this is what happens and this is what killed FAS. This is what's going to kill Robert's computer thing. How, in a little room, are 22,000 students supposed to be able to get access to it? How are the people supposed to get access to the computer accounts? A first-year students obviously cannot go out. Number one, he doesn't have a computer account; number two, he doesn't know how to use the computer. Even then you've got to expect some things from the students but you can't go out and make these things that much harder for them to get at. They just don't know. Why not simply print a Gateway-style course guide thing at the beginning of the year?

Robert: What we've found is effective for the Housing Registry is posting the materials. To publish the course guide in a newspaper format is perhaps a very good idea. We could probably receive advertising to do that and thereby make it break even. That in no way would conflict with what we're proposing. I think it would compliment it.

Bev: This computer information centre thing overlooks the fact that there are already a lot of problems in trying to get time on the computer terminals and sometimes even when there are free terminals, they can't be accessed because of administrative and academic use. I see that as a big problem. Number one priority for a computer terminal on campus should be academic use. As for your course guide and the compilation of it, we think it's a good idea but we found that it's just not feasible. GFC (General Faculties Council) looked at this. They found it not to be feasible. Course changes and prof changes just make this idea a waste of time.

Mungo: Bev, this is the whole problem with student politics. Why give up? Who says all of a sudden it's not possible? You know you've got to think of a better way to do it.

Bev: But you've got to be realistic.

Mungo: You do have to be realistic but let's ask ourselves what exactly is the Students' Union there for? It's there to serve the students and this is the thing that is so off-base about the Students' Union in general. It's turning into a little private club. It's like University Night, the other night. Who was there? One University student and the rest were all councillors.

Robert: Hmhmhm

Mungo: And a few members of the Gateway. And the reason is that it wasn't advertised. I'm not insinuating that it was meant to be a little private club type thing, but nothing is published and none of the students know. As far as your information centre goes, you've got to look at working with the University to come up with the

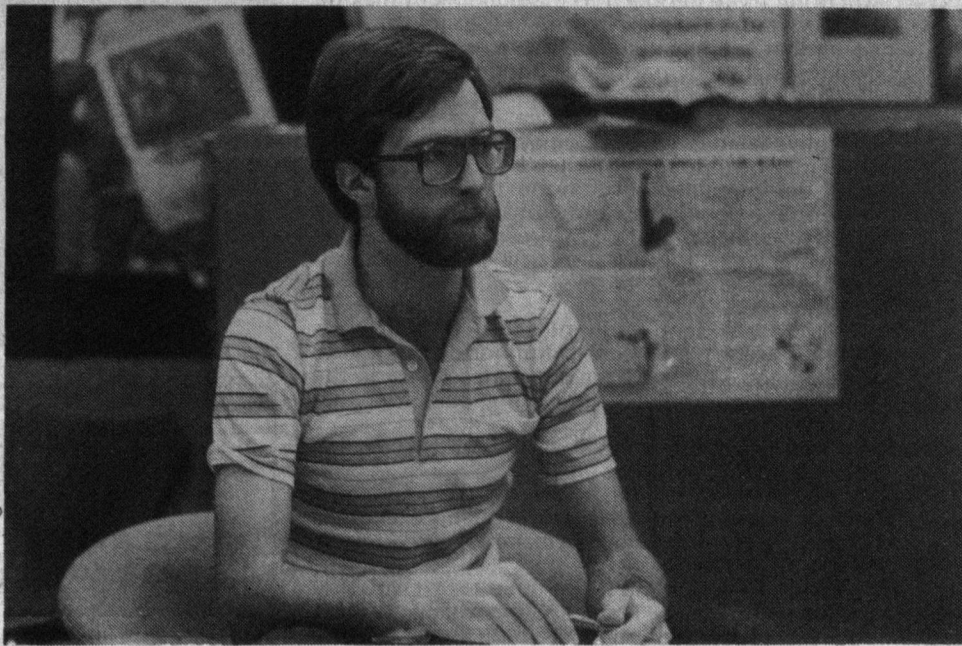


photo Bill Ingles

Robert Greenmill

thing because there's a lot of things to come up with the University that have nothing to do with the Students' Union and vice versa. Maybe the Students' Union and the University should cooperate to form an information centre, and we've got to have this idea of working together.

Robert: I agree with that. I think what the information centre is designed to do is to try to counter the financial problems of setting up the course guide. I think we've managed to conquer those problems.

Bev: How are you going to work with the University if even GFC has rejected it?

Robert: (Paying no attention) I think the information centre would be more flexible than if it was simply printed. By having this idea of an electronic billboard essentially we should be able to work more effectively with the administration that way. At the same time, we will be able to implement the two student Advocates and we will be able to have a full-time person whose job it is to compile information for students and we're able to do all that for around \$20,000 and by the way with no renovations to SUB or very marginal renovations to Room 270.

Mungo: This is the other question on your information centre. This is another one of our proposals for the sake of the clubs and staff. We would like to see a one-page ad in the Gateway and basically this ad space would be donated to the clubs for them to give their information because there is so much going on that I don't think you can get it all out in a weekend. Rather, why not give the clubs full autonomy as to what they want to print within reason, editing for English and stuff.

Gateway: There has been space made available to the clubs in the past and it was not used.

Robert: If I could just comment

generally on the information centre. I don't think it'll solve all the problems of communication but I'm hopeful that it'll solve some of the problems. I think it'll be just a first step, not a last step. I have spent time talking with students about it and quite frankly most students seem to think it's a very good idea.

Bev: I think it's pie in the sky. You're counting on revenue that's coming in. Our plans on the other hand are contingent on plans that we know are there. They may not be grandiose plans - they're small peanuts in comparison to yours - but they're realistic. We know they can be done.

Robert: Yes. Well ours are realistic and we know they can be done. You might notice that this year, at the same time as we were turning the finances around, renovating RATT, bringing Java Jive and Mmmarvelous Muffins into SUB and doing major renovations to the building, we did manage to be financially responsible.

Bev: It's easy to expand when you've cut a huge number of services at the beginning of the year. I think Roger Merkosky, the VP Finance this year, deserves the most credit for it though, I also think that increased enrollment plus the CPI adjustment which did go through this year, accounts for quite a bit of that surplus that the Students' Union is running.

Robert: I would say that the best method we adopted to deal with finances this year is to avoid having one person deal with finances. We set up something called Finance Committee. We adopted a mechanism where the President, VP Finance, VP Internal, and the finance and business managers meet as equals and discuss finances. Therefore it is impossible to put credit on one person, not myself, not anybody.

Another comment I would like to

make is about the fallacious statement that the turnaround is due to the increased revenue from fees...

Bev: I didn't say so. I didn't say so.

Robert: Certainly the increase was partly due to the increase in fees. But last year it was initially estimated that we would have a 1.3 million dollar deficit over the summer and we managed to hold it to \$500,000. We managed to do that without a single nickel of extra student fees coming in. We managed to do it through effective management and through reducing staff.

Mungo: Robert, let's get back to this idea of cutting services that Bev was talking about.

Robert: What services have been cut? The Art Gallery.

Mungo: Yes, the Art Gallery. Now just why was the Art Gallery cut? Wasn't the salary for the person running the thing around \$29,000?

Robert: The cost of the Art Gallery to the Students' Union was about \$70,000 a year. What we were hoping to do and it is something which we presented to Council, was a plan where there would be a special two dollar per student levy which would go directly to the Art Gallery. It would have gone to a referendum this year and would either be discontinued or carried on. Perhaps, Bev, you would like to comment on why you, in council, didn't support the idea.

Bev: Yes I could Robert. I didn't support the idea because of the way it was presented to Council. I should also mention, Robert, that I found it very difficult to get accurate information during the summer. I almost felt like I was being led around and any questions I asked were brushed off, but that's neither here nor there. I didn't think it was fair for students to be charged a levy and not get a chance to vote against it in a referendum until after they had already paid.

Mungo: Okay, first of all, another question. How much is it costing for all these referendums? I mean, every time the Students' Union wants to get something done, they go to referendum.

Secondly, the Art Gallery. How come nobody could take an innovative look at the situation and say, well we've got these costs, let's try to figure out a way to run it cheaper.

Why didn't you get the Fine Arts students involved with the running and administration of it?

Robert: Because we thought of that last year and considered running it with volunteer work and we couldn't get around our labour contract with CUPE (the Canadian Union of Public Employees).

Mungo: But you didn't need CUPE to do the administration.

Robert: We tried to get the money without going to a fee referendum to see whether or not people wanted to keep it - we couldn't. Third, we asked the University if they were willing to operate it as an Art Gallery but they weren't prepared to do that. We examined all the possibilities and only then did we recommend to Council it



U of A Bears Ski Club presents

Friday, February 11, 8 pm.

Special Guest: The Thieves

David Raven & the Escorts

CABARETS

DINWOODIE

2nd Floor SUB.

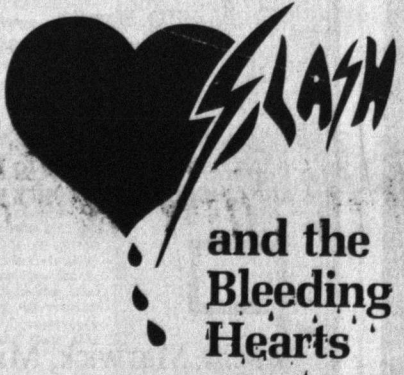
Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members.

NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.

Absolutely no minors admitted.

U of A Recreation Students present

Saturday, February 12;



and the Bleeding Hearts

Phi Delta Theta presents

Footloose

Friday, February 18; 8 pm.