Candidates discuss housing, transport, and other issues



"The University of Alberta is the best kept secret in Canada," declared incumbent Mayor Terry Cavanagh.

The solution to the University district's low accommodation level seems to be for people to live further away and commute the distance to campus.

For those that suffer the regular ETS ordeal, Cavanagh concedes that the fares are perhaps too weighty for students to bear. The difference between regular adult bus passes and student packages is inconsequential, Cavanagh realizes, and further proclaims that this is "something the Students' Union should be over here talking to us about."

An integral part of Cavanagh's campaign, of great interest to students, is job creation and available.

Cavanagh sees the redistribution of funds from the Provincial and Federal governments into STEP employment programs as the limit to the City's direct involvement.

Cavanagh emphasizes that University has to get out and do more promoting."

—Jason Darrah



Mayoral candidate Naseer Chaudhary decided to run for mayor because he feels he has "the chemistry to provide a new direction and new ideas for the city. You need new blood for a new direction."

In response to the low vacancy rate around the University, Chaudhary stresses a continued emphasis on housing development in the area "There is quite a bit of space surrounding the university that is owned by the city. I would recommend the construction of apartment blocks containing one room type bachelor suites," said Chaudhary.

-Richard Algajer



Mayoralty candidate, Don Hamilton, who is a lifetime resident of Edmonton has decided to enter the race to be Edmon-

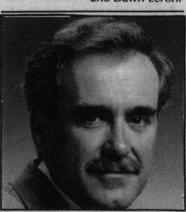
ton's next mayor because rather than "sitting around damning the darkness", he decided to do something about it and run.

In regards to the low vacancy rate in the university area, Hamilton states "I don't know what the city could do."

When questioned about transportation problems to the university area, Hamilton answered "The kind of money being spent on the LRT is going to alleviate the problem."

Hamilton feels that he is the choice for students because "Students are thoughtful. They want to stop this cycle of spending and taxes." Hamilton wants to help students get jobs and be able to remain here after graduation.

-Mitch Panciuk and Dawn Lerohl



Terrance Harding, who is hoping to be elected mayor on October 16, feels the City discriminates against students.

"I think the City actively discriminates against young people. It (the City) doesn't provide enough things young people

want to do." If elected mayor, he would encourage student participation in the City.

When asked about the problems faced by students with regards to housing in the University area Harding said, "It's going to get worse. Trying to create housing is difficult."

In order to solve the problem of transportation to the University, Harding plans to "make a stronger commitment to the LRT"

Harding claims he is "not unfamiliar with student problems." He is "looking for a balance between business opportunities and social concerns."

-Dawn Lerohl



Jan Reimer is running for mayor after serving as an alderman for several years.

Reimer can't see much being done about the Univesity-area housing crisis. "The Garneau area can't be developed more than it is, however, perhaps, working in conjunction with Grant McEwan and the U of A, the warehouse area in western Downtown could be developed.

Reimer said it was difficult for a municipality to set up a job program, such as the governments STEP, but added that Parks and Recreation worked with students to provide jobs. Reimer also felt it was the city's responsibility to access as many of the programs, like STEP and COSUP, as possible.

Reimer said students should vote for her because she believes in "an open and accessible government." She is also an advocate of environmental issues such as a preferential purchasing policy and a waste management policy.

-Tracy Rollins

Mayoral candidate Carl Williams sympathizes with students trying to find an apartment or house close to campus but admits he has no solution to the present housing crunch at the moment.

Lack of parking on campus combined with the expansion of the LRT to include the university make public-transportation with better access to campus a high priority for many students. The issue however, is not as pressing for Williams.

Regarding student jobs, Williams stated, "I do not like contracting out. I think the city should be able to hire more students for summer employment."

Williams decided to run partly out of frustration with the current administration. Said Williams "...city hall is a joke."

—Richard Algajer

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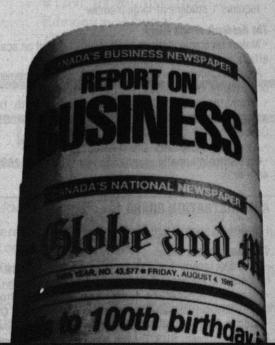
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