

# The Gateway Special Strike and Election Issue

VOL. LXII, NO. 38, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1972, FOUR PAGES.

## Candidates state case at rally despite heckling

Roughly eight hundred people turned up in the SUB Theatre yesterday, to hear the candidates for Friday's election give their election promises and accusations and then to air a few pertinent questions:

As the Theatre filled, the air of expectancy rose, so that by the time the candidates filed up on stage (twenty minutes late), the pitch of the meeting was rather high. This was manifested in the omnipresent heckling which characterized the rally.

Speaking order was determined by lots drawn last week. The presidential candidates with their running mates, spoke first.

"The most serious things that are facing students are the costs of increasing education and a greater need to rely on student loans. A solution to this is the interaction at all levels with the provincial government. We would work for this," Vice-president candidate Rob Spraggins stated in introducing presidential candidate Gerry Riskin.

Riskin then talked of the need for the Students' Union to provide activities students want to get involved in. "We wonder why students don't get involved but how many people want to work on a committee that studies the color of washrooms in SUB?" he asked. "I'm talking about an atmosphere in which people want to work," he said.

He said that GFC reps are totally ineffective in passing legislation at GFC. They suffer from a lack of organization and a failure of selling their ideas to the faculty members. This is necessary for effective GFC representation.

Rapid transit is a very good idea for solving the parking problems but Students' Council must work to get student representatives on these committees, he said.

Riskin then spoke of entertainment. He suggested the various western Canadian universities block book big name groups like Chicago. He said also that Canadian politicians and the provincial government would be more than happy to come to the campus, and the Students' Union, in co-operation with television stations could sponsor these people.

We're not going to make a lot of dynamic promises because "If we make a lot of dynamic promises and the other candidates make a lot of dynamic promises then we'll end up with an administration like we've seen in the present tenure", explained Saffron Shandro, vice-presidential running mate for the AnnMcRae slate.

Shandro felt that decentralization is one of the major issues today. With the increasing size of our universities then we must spread the power out rather than centralizing it in the hands of a few.

He said that there should be a pub on campus, perhaps in

Athabasca Hall.

In examining the problems of summer employment, Shandro said the public outside the university is very ignorant of the people on campus. He felt that it is up to the Students' Union to educate the employers about how students can benefit them in summer jobs and full-time employment.

Shandro felt strongly about an FM license for CKSR-Radio. He felt that the student access to the public would be invaluable.

Ann McRae explained that she was not going to lay down a specific platform because it was an injustice to students on the basis that "unless the voter can slug through the specific to find the general he will have no idea of what policies the reps will adopt on the innumerable issues which are not covered on a rigid platform."

"I hope you will not consider this divergence a cop-out" she said, "but I am unable to be anything but wholly honest."

She felt that the purpose of the Students' Union is to provide for students the necessities they cannot obtain on their own, not only in the realm of services but in representation as well.

"The Students' Union is now the victim of a credibility gap," she said.

The current lack of interest in the election in proof that the Students' Union is the victim of a credibility gap between themselves and students. It must no prove, beyond doubt, that it is viable. It must now prove, beyond doubt, that it has the best interests of the students in mind at all times.

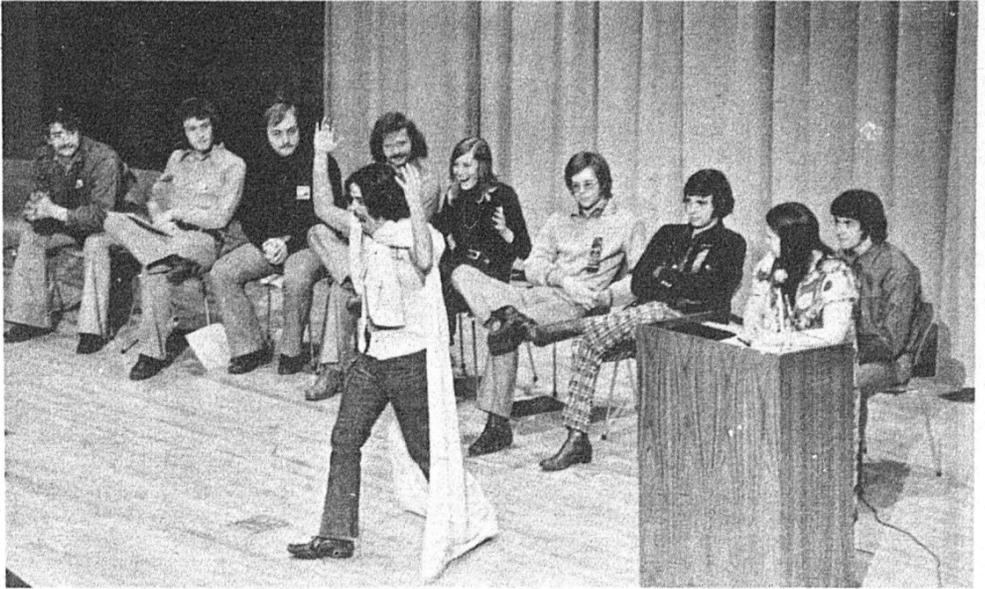
The Gateway issue is one aspect of this she said. Any Students' Council that allows the situation to arise whereby that communication is suppressed does not have in mind the best interests of the students. To push a principle to the point of harm to the students themselves is selfish McRae said.

Doug Black, speaking first for the Black-Biltek slate, said that he and Biltek were very concerned with what has happened over the past week and were concerned with the direction the Gateway is going.

Black stressed the council experience of their slate. Since he and Biltek have served on the Executive they have a firm idea of the SU operates. "We've come a long way and we've started," he said. The groundwork has been laid for next year such as the Academic Affairs office which is now operating smoothly.

Biltek reiterated the fact that a great deal of work has been done this year and that said that they would continue in that direction using it as a base for student concern. He mentioned the support that was given to his second term reading week proposal and as one area where students were really concerned.

Biltek said it was important for the Students' Union to talk to the provincial government; to use its influence and resources



Young Socialists' Chris Bearchell copes with the guerilla theatre of the Silly Slate at yesterday's Election Rally. Disruptions, not only from the Silly Slate, were frequent. Presidential and Executive Vice Presidential candidates looking on are: (from left to right) Mark Priegart Doug Black, Dave Biltek, Saffron Shandro, Ann McRae, Rob Spraggins, Gerry Riskin, and Returning Officer, Paul Brunnen. Is there anything to be learned from the expressions on these faces?

on the civic and provincial governments. He said the provincial government is now prepared to listen to their proposal of an Educational Opportunity Bank in which tuition fees and a living allowance would be paid to the students. He would be able to pay back this when he is best able to afford it.

"We can't do it alone, we have to know what you're thinking and together we can do it", Biltek concluded.

Mark Priegart and Chris Bearchell were the last presidential candidates to be heard from. Priegart said that the Young Socialists, who are running as a slate, are the only candidates with a "clearly stated political platform." He outlined the three basic aims of the Young Socialist candidates—an anti-war university, a women's liberation university and a university with student-faculty-worker control. "We want to change the university from one in which it is a training ground for government bureaucrats to one that is an organizing ground for organizing leadership for student movements around basic social questions."

Chris Bearchell, Priegart's running mate spoke of the need for abortion repeal. She pointed out that none of the other candidates had mentioned it and urged candidates to support the referendum. She urged students to vote in favour saying that it should be every women's right to control her own body. This remark was greeted by various comments from the audience such as "go on the pill" and "keep your legs together."

Bearchell talked about the streaming of women into certain faculties and the discouragement of women into others. She said that a Young Socialist executive would fight against this and would work for credited women study programs and increased day care facilities.

Patrick Delaney and Wayne Madden, and Linda Gaboury were the three vice-president (academic) candidates. Gaboury, however, was unable to appear because of illness. Delaney felt that it was not his duty to interfere with the other positions. He said that as the co-ordinator of student representatives he has seen that the representation has been lousy—from General Faculties Council down to the department level. He felt there

were two reasons for this—the quality of reps and the inadequate back-up from Students' Council. He said that the Academic vice-president must be prepared to go to Students' Council and recommend that students reps who are not doing their jobs properly be replaced. He said also that the secretariat which was set up earlier this year should work to make student representation more effective.

Wayne Madden, the next candidate to speak said that a system of forgivable loans to students should be implemented. Grants to non-treaty Indians and lower income people to allow them to come to university should be made as well.

"If the SU wants autonomy for undergraduate associations then there should be a system of grants set up for them. Council should be willing to cut the cord. Madden said.

Barry McLaren Vice-presidential (services) candidate defined his job as a sort of "Minister of Culture." In this role the person should work with and not against the communications media such as Gateway and CKSR, he said. McLaren said he agreed with the idea of forums and discussions but questioned the relevancy of some of them to university students. He suggested instead a session for first year university students simply to help them find their way around the campus. McLaren felt that the Students' Union should be taking a stronger role in encouraging U of A bachelor of fine arts students in art, music, and drama as well as playing a greater role in the cultural activities of the Edmonton area as a whole.

Larry Panych the Young Socialist candidate stressed the need for the struggle for an anti-war university. The U of A is part of a military-industrial complex and conducts Defense Research Board work on campus. Panych said it is important for students to squeeze money from the provincial government in putting pressure by mass action for the things students cannot buy themselves.

Kirk Mitchell said he would like to see forums which would more effectively reach more students. He felt that rapid transit is not the answer because it won't solve the traffic problems for next year. He suggested instead express buses

from areas of the city such as northeast Edmonton which at present have poor service to campus.

Mitchell added that the students' unions from across Canada should present a proposal to the federal government with the idea of government study on long-term job prospects for university students.

"This campus doesn't have to be ugly", said Beth Kuhnke. She felt that the Students' Union should lobby with the University Planning Commission not to tear against the tearing up of any more green areas on campus such as the quad. The

Kuhnke commented that for forums students should stop thinking of themselves and should set an example in the community. This could mean involving the public in forums subjects such as ecology for instance. She said that even on campus ecology could be a very big thing and students could help the movements in encouraging the recycling of waste products.

Vice-presidential candidate (administration) Gary West, said that he would work to continue the present SU services and perhaps expand them. To do this he felt that the Students' Union would have to apply continual pressure on the provincial government for more money. West also advocated applied pressure to city council for improved bus service to campus.

Don Wiley, the YS candidate stressed the fact that while the university is open to corporations as a training ground for management personnel but not to the trade unions as a place for training shop stewards and union organizers. The YS movement would align itself with the woman's movement, the trade unions, and Red Power. "We would be more than book-keepers and administrators but student leaders who would organize students around important things that affect their lives." summed up Wiley.

**Student council  
reps**

**Elections**

**Fri. (Feb.25)**

**Nominations close**

**Tue. (Feb. 22)**