

It's almost that time of year again when we choose the people who will occupy those cosy little offices on second floor SUB. Yes, brothers and sisters, it's just about that time of politicking and wild promises known to one and all as ELECTION TIME. However, before we get caught up in the flurry of this year's election campaigns let's take a look at the results of last year's election. Reprinted at left is an excerpt from the March 2, 1971 edition of The Gateway stating the platform of the Don McKenzie Slate. A lot of promises were made but the question is—Were they fulfilled?

What they SAID they'd do

Don McKenzie slate

PRESIDENT:
DON MCKENZIE
V.P. ACADEMIC:
DAVE BILTEK
V.P. EXTERNAL:
IAN McDONELL
SECRETARY:
VERA RADIO
TREASURER:
FRANS SLATTER
CO-ORDINATOR:
DOUG BLACK

The real issue in this election is the need for a new direction in the students' union, for a students' union which is responsive, creative, and innovative in its approach to student concerns. Here are the issues as we see them:

• GFC

Strong leadership will be needed by the SU executive to ensure that student representation becomes an effective vehicle for reform of the university structure.

—seminars and briefings by the SU to fully prepare student reps on GFC.

—pressure on the university to develop Canadian and Indian studies programs.

—Study of long term employment opportunities of university graduates.

• Housing

One of the primary concerns of the students' union should be provision of adequate housing for its members.

—students' union should investigate the possibility of buying houses in Garneau and leasing them to groups of students on a non-profit basis.

—publication of a "Housing Guide" which would rate housing facilities in the university area.

• Summer employment

While recognizing that the real decisions concerning employment will be made in Ottawa, the students' union should nevertheless be doing its best to alleviate the problem.

—establishment of a Summer Employment Service which would serve as a clearing house which might be able to keep some students employed in a series of short-term jobs for the summer.

—active consideration of breaking down the university year into three four-month terms so that not everyone goes looking for a job at the same time.

• Students' assistance

For those who can't get a summer job, an adequate Students' Assistance program is essential.

—pressure on the provincial government to repeal the new no-grant system.

—careful study of the Educational Opportunity Bank concept. Under this plan, students would receive their tuition plus a living allowance of perhaps \$150 per month while they attend university. They would pay back into the scheme by adding a one per cent increment onto their income tax. The advantage of this scheme would be that you

would pay back the most into the plan when you are most able to afford it (i.e. when you are earning the most).

• Parking and Transportation

For those who have to spend three-quarters of an hour looking for a parking space every morning, this is clearly an important issue.

—pressure on the university administration to accelerate its program of parkade construction.

—Creation of a student-run bus system so that you don't have to bring your car.

• Undergraduate societies

In order to personalize the university, the students' union should decentralize some of its functions to organizations which are more responsive to student needs.

—per capita rebates to undergraduate societies to enable them to more effectively serve student needs at the faculty and departmental level.

—field workers to assist undergraduate societies in achieving effective representation on faculty and departmental committees.

• Community involvement

The students' union should be actively involved in making the community as well as the university a better place to live, perhaps through the creation of a Community Involvement Board which could be involved in projects like Medical and Legal Aid on Boyle Street, Indian Tutoring, etc.

• Free university

Non-credit courses on a whole range of student interests, perhaps including courses on the Role of Women, Household Mechanics (i.e. how to fix your toaster), Mysticism, etc.

• Day-care centres

Pressure on university administration to provide space for day-care centres which would be run on a co-operative basis by the participants (meaning the parents, not the kids!).

• SUB expansion

Action on SUB Expansion, particularly on a Pub in SUB. Also, investigation of the possibility of taking over Athabasca Hall on a short-term basis to provide lounge and office space for students and student organizations.

• Communication

Regular reports by the executive in The Gateway.

—better Gateway coverage of campus news.

We think that the approach we have taken on these issues is a creative one—one which is responsive to student concerns. It is also backed up by experience. (For those of you who want to find out more about the nuts and bolts of our experience, please look at our pamphlet.)

The students' union can be a viable and innovative force for change in this university—but only if you give a damn.

**GIVE A DAMN—VOTE
MARCH 4**

What they DID

analysis by Grant Hurlbert

GFC

The council executive proposed the establishment of a secretariat and information-gathering service through the Vice-president (Academic)'s office. After one such session, many of the GFC reps became convinced that it was merely a device for making them representatives of the students' union rather than the students themselves and refused to make use of the facilities. This of course, still doesn't solve the problem that the University administration will virtually only accept a student proposal if there is a statement from God Himself supporting it.

They held a forum on Indian problem studies but this couldn't really be termed a success. Pressure was applied to the university administration for a program of Native studies but to no avail.

The executive has tried to talk the provincial government into making a study on long-term employment prospects for graduates. Whether the government will do anything is unknown and unlikely.

Housing

The students' union not only did not buy any houses in Garneau, they didn't even support the students in the fight with the university over the plan for parking space in the back lanes. While they can be perhaps excused for not buying the houses if it was uneconomical, they should have at least supported the students already living there.

They did publish the Housing Guide which at least showed the students where to get ripped off on the rent and, considering that it was a first effort, it could be counted at least a minor success.

Summer Employment

While they hardly caused any great excitement by creating a summer employment agency, they did at least carry on the one started under Tim Christian.

As for the trimester system; it was proposed in GFC and is now lost somewhere in the fog of one of GFC's innumerable committees.

Students' Assistance

When the students' union asked the provincial government to repeal the no-grant system they were told very bluntly—No. The idea of the Educational Opportunity Bank met a similar fate.

They do deserve some credit, though, for having the residency requirements changed from staying in the province for ten years after graduation to being resident in the province for three years before application for loans.

Parking and Transportation

On this issue the students' union made a very commendable effort. The student-run bus system was not found to be feasible and was dropped. However, the SU in the person of our inimitable treasurer, Frans Slatter, is pressing the city for rapid transit and improved bus service to the campus, most notably from the north-east area

of the city.

The proposed Carpark 3 which would solve most of the present parking mess has been relegated to a state of limbo by the Board of Governors. While it is rumored that the reason is their inability to agree on picky little details, the bright big official reason is the dropping enrollment. Mr. Slatter is somewhat disgusted with the administration's attitude with this issue.

Undergraduate Societies

The executive started out with an impressive plan for increasing the role of the undergrad societies but most of the existing undergrad societies didn't care and the Arts and Science students weren't even interested in forming societies.

The executive tried once again in their planned reorganization of council to give more power to the undergrad societies by making their presidents the faculty representatives on students' council. The councillors vetoed that plan immediately.

Community Involvement

Various social assistance agencies already working in Boyle Street and other areas, when approached by the students' union, blanched at the prospect of hordes of university students descending on the areas en masse and the idea was dropped. These agencies preferred to have students join existing organizations rather than create a new organization. The students' union then decided merely to support existing organizations such as Student Legal Services and other token measures.

Free University

A course was offered during the first term but it was pretty much a failure. It was poorly organized and most students were too busy to bother with it.

The course on the Role of Women organized by Vera Radio, however, does appear to be a success. It is the one bright spot in what is obviously a very poor effort in a low priority area.

Day-care Centres

The idea of co-operatively run day-care centres was found to be

impractical so the SU went ahead on its own initiative—providing a day-care centre in HUB that, while professionally run, will be based on priority of need rather than ability to pay. Of course this will cost money and while the Students' Union is trying to get funding from government, if they don't come through, guess who pays for it.

SUB Expansion

This is one area where the union has not been very successful. A brief to the provincial government asking that a pub be established in SUB is not no doubt lying in some office in the Legislative Building gathering dust. Until the government gets their asses in gear and finally makes a decision on the pub, we'll have to reserve judgement, but let us hope that

the result is more favourable than that achieved in other areas of SUB expansion. (Of course when you do ver little you can expect a very little result.)

Communications

This is a very arguable point—not how good a job did they do but who is responsible for the resulting mess. The blame rests partly on the shoulders of both the Gateway staff and those of the executive.

The executive has trouble realizing that one of the functions of a newspaper is to criticize as well as report the news and Gateway staffers are occasionally overzealous in criticizing executive policies. Of course the platform was not fulfilled...

OTHER ACTION CUPE

Some of the other things that the council and executive have done did not appear in their election platform.

The dispute with the Students' Union employees regarding affiliation with CUPE was badly mismanaged—partly as a result of a split in the executive. The handling of that issue was hardly one of the bright spots in the "McKenzie Administration".

Reorganization Plan

The present executive should be commended in that as well as coming up with a plan (the fifth such plan in five years), they are also going to try to implement it. The way in which they are doing this, unfortunately, doesn't deserve quite the same praise.

While the proposed reshuffle of the executive positions, partially abolishing the obviously unpalatable slate system (a strong decisive compromise between the election promise of complete abolition and the easier route of inaction) is definitely a good thing, the executive could have shown more respect for council in the way it was implemented.

The other proposed changes in the constitution (regarding distribution of powers between council and executive and executive board and committees) cannot be viewed in the same favorable light. As the plan presently stands it takes numerous powers away from the council that should not be removed. While the powers of day to day and week to week administration can and should be left to the executive and various boards the functions of policy making should remain only in the hands of council and to a certain degree the executive. The so-called Bilttek Proposal is in great danger of trading democracy for expediency.

Tenure

The executive has taken a great step forward in its firm decision to strongly advocate the abolition of professorial tenure which is up for discussion and review later this year. If they are successful (don't get your hopes up too high yet) it could be the most progressive thing this Students' administration has done all year.