





Don Millar



Peter Sesek

photos Tim Hellum

Gateway News Editor Neal Watson and staff Writer Kent Cochrane interviewed three of the four candidates for president in the upcoming SU elections Sunday. Present were: Peter Sesek of the Sesek slate, Don Millar of Progressive Alternative and Mike Nickel of Initiatives '85. Murray Ballas of the Ballas slate declined the invitation.

Gateway: If elected, what would be your first move as president to establish the credibility of your executive? Sesek: First of all, the fee issue stands dominant in the Sesek slate. With a \$335,000 plus surplus this year, if you calculate that, it appears the SU collected \$16 more than it needed this year. Last year, they had a surplus of \$455,000. That means they over-collected from each student over \$20. What the Sesek slate would do first, in principle, is to cut SU fees down to \$38.50, which is \$16 dollars under \$54.50. That's the amount where you don't over-collect and you don't under-collect. We would also give an \$11.25 credit to students to pay off this big surplus that they paid for this year. We would use the other \$4.75 to pay for the new services we would implement. Right away, if I'm elected, we would start with professor evaluation guides, and student representation on students' council would be doubled. We have the financial resources to implement new services.

Nickel: Initiatives '85 is no pun on my own name. We want to give students more value for their dollar. We have to get students back into students union, we have to rekindle their interest. We want to incorporate a cross-campus insurance plan. We also want to push for a fast-food franchise. It would provide jobs and revenue and provide competition for Food Services. And, free academic workshops to help stu-

wents. These are things students would use; they are tangible.

Millar: I think the first thing is to sit down with council and the other people on the executive and establish a plan of action. That's something we clearly haven't seen this year. Also, our platform calls for, by June first, having materials to students in high schools describing the English competency exams. Also people will need assistance with student loans. We need to build participation in the SU and I think the way to do that is not to become hamburger salesmen, but to deal with issues. We're suggesting that throughout the year we will be working to actively involve students in addressing those issues.

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Gateway: Don and Mike, what do you think of the rebate idea?

Millar:We don't support a students' union fee cut this year. We want to build up enough resources, so we don't ring up these massive deficits. We have to be in a position where we're financially solvent, where we're not borrowing money from the administration. Nickel: We have a fee cut proposal also, but it's not a drastic reduction. Let's roll the extra money back slowly. We say, we must assess the damage first.

Gateway: Peter, why jeopardize the SU's good financial position?

**Sesek:** We're going to be having a \$400,000 surplus every year. All we're doing is taking it back to a point, \$38.50, where we don't over or under collect fees from students.

Gateway: A lot of people who read the interview with the candidates last year were surprised to learn Andrew Watts had only had 10 courses in four years. Could you all tell us your status as students on campus

Millar: I'm in fourth-year Arts. I'm taking a partial course load and at the end of this year I will have three year's worth of credit.

Sesek: I'm in third-year business and am presently taking six courses.

Nickel: Second-year in Arts with a full-course load.

Gateway: What about government funding and the present government tuition policy, where the U of A is allowed to increase tuition if funding increases.

Millar: We don't support the current tuition policy of tying tuition to government funding because its based on some assumptions that just aren't valid. Tuition does not account for a significant part of the operating budget of this university. We don't support tuition increases. To look at trying to address funding problems through tuition is absurd.

**Nickel:** We don't support the policy either. It's a no-win situation — you get more money, you pay more. We must have a mandate from the students to approach these people (government). We have to get their interest back again, we have to give them something to be interested in.

Millar: Do you really think having an A & W downstairs is going to get students interested in student affairs?

**Nickel:** It will give the students something to use. If they start using students' union, then maybe they will start caring about it.

Millar: I agree with that, but I think the way people are going to start caring about the SU is if they see an organization that will help them with something like writing competence.

Nickel: We're helping them with the academic work-

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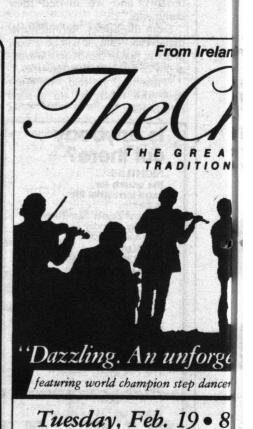
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