



A. U. REVU

April 1995

ISSUE ONE

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

If you intend to make a vote that makes a difference - let it be an informed one.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ELECTIONS DEBATE, Held Thursday, March 30th

The following article is an impartial (hopefully) report on the debate. I have tried for equal coverage of each candidate in the prepared answers portion. The open-floor debate does not cover all discussion, only noteworthy points. (If you wanted it all, you shoulda bin there!)

The debate began with prepared answers by the candidates to questions addressing major issues of the election:

PRESIDENT CANDIDATES:

i) Student Morale: **Nancy Fata** began by random draw. Making it clear that her platform is based primarily on increasing communication between Students' Council and the student body, accomplished through surveys, info-booths, e-mail notifications, and investigating possibilities regarding the PA system. Other intentions mentioned included improving Frosh Week, attendance at the GLC, and working with the budget. **Joe Gilbert's** platform is built around the theme of leading a new university into the future, in anticipation of impending independence and a new name. He pointed out that he intended no false promises, preferring an intention to work on a pragmatic basis towards a family-like atmosphere. **Stuart McKay** mentioned his management experience, focusing on increasing student participation in activities, proposing an activities calendar and student suggestion box, and encour-

aging students to attend council meetings. He also intends to focus on issues that will arise regarding the new residence and recycling programs.

ii) Maximizing Efficiency: **Nancy Fata** again emphasized her better-communications theme, insisting that listening, understanding and communicating, as well as hard work, would best accomplish the goals she proposed. **Joe Gilbert** chose the theme of improving interaction among members of council, so that each is made fully aware of the duties of their position and thereby live up to them. **Stuart McKay** seeks a balanced leadership whereby he can work with people of different socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds to reach co-operative compromise.

VICE-PRESIDENT CANDIDATES:

i) As Representatives of A.U.C. : **Marlene Massad** introduced herself as having numerous committee experience, many of which she listed and explained. She has formed informal contacts amongst both government and social agencies, and encourages strong council-faculty interaction. **Matt Jackson** spoke of his past year's experience as a CFS representative of Algoma University, and some of the issues he had to deal with as a result of this position that affect Algoma U., also mentioning his various media appearances.

(cont'd)

ii) Improving Participation In Activities:

Marlene Massad immediately pointed out that the heart of the problem is student apathy, stating that lack of participation results from a breakdown in council-student body interaction. She insists that before looking at new ideas, she'll first work at making students more aware of currently existing opportunities. **Matt Jackson** proposed better means of informing students of activities through revisions to the Sentinel student newspaper, making it bimonthly and including more advertising of upcoming events. He also mentioned in passing his plans regarding a yearbook, improving tutorial and book-resale services, and installing a bank machine and mailbox on campus.

EVENTS PROGRAMMER CANDIDATES:

i) On Pub Improvement:

Jay Legault, having had a year's experience as programmer, would review successful pubs and increase that type of entertainment (comedians, special talents). He also proposed monthly or weekly themes, such as Karaoke, Local Talent Night and CD-Dance Night. **Leanne Martineau** also claims experience as an activity organizer, and also proposed theme nights. She then went beyond just pubs as a way to raise funds, mentioning, barbecues, Sno-Madness teams, bingo, cruises, etc., until she ran out of time. A small argument arose between the candidates as to what was and wasn't within the duties of programmer, ending in a draw.

ii) On Cost Recovery: **Jay Legault** stated that to operate pubs on a cost recovery basis would be foolish; students already fund the council - why should they be asked to pay twice? Furthermore, entrance to pubs would have to rise to a \$15 fee before a profit could be shown. **Leanne Martineau** proposed a method of obtaining food for free and selling for profit. She went on to re-iterate her previous points, arguing that there were ways to raise money besides just the pubs.

OPEN FLOOR DEBATE:

Personal participation of council members in activities as models for students became an issue. **Stuart McKay** showed an intention to do so, and suggested placing photographs of council members in the T-Bird Lounge so that students could more easily identify them. The impending change of Algoma U.'s name to 'Shingwauk' came up; it appears that only **Nancy Fata** questions the change, although **Matt Jackson** proposed a student survey. **Jay Legault** incriminated that it was in order to acquire government funding, but **Marlene Massad** pointed out the historical significance. Interaction amongst council members was discussed, presidential candidates welcoming whichever V.P. was elected to work with them, and intentions shown on the part of all to work as a team.

The largest battle of the night arose amongst the candidates for Programmer. **Jay Legault** early on stated that it was Students' Council alone that should make decisions regarding pubs, then retracted the comment following audience bombardment from students claiming experience and ideas of their own to contribute (although no mention was made of where *they've* been hiding over this past year). **Leanne Martineau** pressed the attack further with an accusation that Mr. Legault was not in favour of change or new ideas.

Nancy Fata and **Marlene Massad** fielded questions about the amount of time they could devote to their positions, both insisting that they would not have run if they didn't think they could handle the time and effort that would be required of them.

Uncontested positions are that of **Armando Correia**, our current pres., for Special Events Coordinator, outgoing **Fred Magwan** for Aboriginal Representative, **Nadine Landon** for Recording Secretary, and **Fred McKay** for Obuds- person, a role at which he has already had a year's experience*

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

SENTINEL IN THE LIMELIGHT

Why a publication that barely existed two years ago has suddenly become an important campaign topic.

Arguably the most major theme of this campaign has proven to be communication. Many of the candidates stressed that keeping students informed is an important function of Students' Council. The most obvious way, besides grabbing people by the shirt-collar, is through a student newspaper. Unfortunately, this is not as cut and dry as it sounds.

Currently the Sentinel is a monthly publication, which means articles are collected over a period of approximately thirty days. This means announcements of events must be prepared well in advance of the actual fact. A proposal Matt Jackson suggested to make the paper bimonthly would be a step towards a solution. He had several ideas for the newspaper in fact: to introduce regular columns, increase the number of articles, attain more advertising, interact with the publications of other universities, and set up a news stand in the lounge.

Students' Council, according to the latest version of their constitution, has an obligation to keep the Sentinel operating. Does this mean that, failing to have eight pages of student content, council members should be writing the articles? My point is, it has always seemed wiser to me, as volunteer editor (which, incidentally, does NOT mean I am a Council member, although I intend dropping the suggestion to make it an elected position), to rely on student input. Students want to see what other students are thinking - not plow their way through eight pages of Council's propaganda. What I *would* appreciate - and I think readers as well - is announcements on events which Council plans, etc.; but let's leave column writing to volunteers, hmm? (although if said volunteer *happens* to be member of Council, no complaints here).

As to Matt's other suggestions: I agree about the advertising so let's talk, I'm already in contact with Sudbury's LAMDA and Nippissing's HIBOU, and if someone had TOLD me that people have been wandering around asking how to get a copy of the latest issue, we would have had a newstand *months* ago!

-Chris Crowder, Editor

CANADIANS ARE NOTHING BUT SLOTHING IDIOTS!

This article, in view of the debate's preoccupation with student apathy, has been borrowed from LAMBDA (Vol. 33, Issue 16), Laurentian's student publication.

"Well, I'll be. I think I've just about seen it all. I always had a sense that Canadians were a bit off the beam and we kinda had our priorities out of whack, but what I've noticed takes the cake.

"We, as Canadians, are a spoiled lot. And, basically, dumb too. The government will tax the shit out of us - will we do anything? No. And we'll watch our citizens live and die in poverty - will we do anything? Yes, we'll send millions of \$ to some foreign country. We'll let the government pass new young offender legislation that will only serve to enhance their already frigged-up lives - will we do anything? No, we'll sit back and watch as the government passes ridiculous gun laws - what do we do in response? Nothing. We'll watch as a third of our country threatens to leave us - our response? Nothing. We'll sit on our asses and watch as the government slowly starts taking away our pensions, health care, etc. - what do we do? Not a damn thing . . . We'll preach anti-violence against women - do we wear a white ribbon - NO, that would be too sissy.

"And the list goes on. The rest of the world must see Canada as a huge doormat because we are continually walked all over, and we hide in our passive shells not doing a damn thing.

"Whoa! but WAIT, you can do all those things to me that may very well have disastrous results on my future, and I won't do anything, but *don't*, and I mean *don't* mess with my cable T.V. Because if you do I, along with my other uncultured Canadian brothers, will stand and be counted, we will revolt, we will take to the streets, we will sign petitions, we will call our cable TV companies and our MP's. We'll do just about anything to keep our 'quick-fix' idiot box operating at its highest level.

"Canada - I love you. Canadians - you make me sick!!!"

-Chris M. Jackel

Let's be an **exception** - not an **example**. -ed.

If They Were Lucky

(-dedicated to Ladd)

If they were lucky

Someone planned a bed for them and drove in a warm car to bring them home that first time.

And, someone held them through that first long night without mommy until they find their new mommy.

If they were lucky.

And, if they were lucky, they grew strong and became human and had a soul. They never knew a night too cold to sleep. They knew birthdays and Christmas' and hugs and kisses. They looked forward to family coming home and the love that comes with them.

They never knew an empty stomach, or an angry face or fist.

If they were lucky.

And, if they were lucky, they grew very old and died in arms that they were born into.

When someone waits through that first lonely night and prays they are welcomed into Heaven and cries.

If they were lucky, they live forever in pictures, ones taken with their families that are cherished until yellowed by time and tears.

And, if they were lucky, someone loved them and needed them and slept more peacefully because they were beside them.

Someone believed in them...

If they were lucky.

-Julia D. Beyer-Gilbert

SCIENCE FICTION INNUNDATION

From bust to boom - a tidal flood of aliens and futuristic technology is sweeping the airwaves. As though you hadn't noticed...

Totally confused by all the gadgetry, lingo and extra-specially-weird-looking characters that have been showing up more and more often? Want to straighten out what people have been talking about? Here's a quick review:

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

-The third series based on Gene Roddenberry's original storyline finds us on a rough-and-tumble way-station on the edge of Federation space. The plots are alright, but some of the actors just don't cut it (I swear Sisko is an emotionless android in disguise, though I grudgingly admit he's getting better), and it's just not the same without the Enterprise (7/10).

Star Trek: Voyager

-The fourth and latest series. Voyager is the name of the spacecraft around which the story revolves. The twist here is that it's been thrown 75 years away from home in the first episode. The bad news is it's obvious they're never going to get back until this show is finally cancelled. The good news is that's probably a long way off, since it's found the excitement that DS9 left by the wayside, bolstered by the fact that when you're this far out in the unknown, there's gotta be something weird and interesting to see. (8.5/10).

Babylon 5

-Word to the uninformed; the guys at Star Trek have nothing to do with this one. You don't confuse Pepsi and Coca-Cola, do you? This show is the best for visual effects, and boasts the most intricate plots. The good news is you can get really involved in the politics and intrigue (a war has recently started up between two of the five main races that promises to last the rest of the season). The bad news is, if you're just tuning in you have no idea what the hell is going

on. But for those who do follow along, I rate this one tops. (9/10).

Seaqwest DSV

-The producers of this show thought they could make exploring the sea as exciting as exploring the depths of space (famous critic quote - 'Star Trek goes blub-blub'). Aux contraire, mon frere. The storylines are limited by world peace (who're the badguys gonna be?), and importing aliens and mermaids for an episode or two doesn't do much to save it. Worst of all, it has a super-depressing message about where humanity is headed in nearly every episode. (6/10).

That sums up the kingpins, but there's also Tekwar, Robocop, Mantis, VR5, and probably some others I've forgotten. Expect more supply, as long as the demand continues (Did I just hear a sigh?)*

One month I can hardly fill up an issue - the next I can barely print it all; the spectre of student apathy has apparently been defeated! - Editor.

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