

The presidential gladiators

For all the candidate interviews in this week's Gem, a list of questions for each position was prepared. The same reporter covered all contenders for each position, and for each position the length of articles was kept equal. Interviews are arranged alphabetically. For further information, call us at 387.



Gordon Cobb

By John Pendergast

Third arts student Gordon Cobb is a contender for the position of Student Union President. The Morell native considers an "open door" to be the basic theme of his campaign.

In his platform he outlined the basic points:

First, he does not want to see the Student Union "operated as a business". In his opinion, "Profit is not the basic motive for a student union".

Secondly, Gordon is against the notion that the Student Union should control the academic and social life of the student population. Instead, "the facilitation of all these activities should be the prime motive for the Student Union". This entails not being afraid to hand out money to worthwhile student organizations. Gordon gave the recent Engineering Society attempt and the Model U.N. incident as examples.

Gordon considers that there are a few structural changes needed in the student union.

The first change deals with the constitution and its rules on acclamation. At pre-

sent anybody can be acclaimed to a position if there are no other candidates running. However, Gordon would like candidates in the future to make a formal presentation of themselves so their position can be argued and debated beforehand.

Another possible change would be a custom of candidates for the positions of student senators and faculty representatives arguing and debating for their positions during election time.

This would not be done in the same manner as the executive speeches, but it would be similar. In speaking of various student issues, Gordon emphasized the cost of living (eg. tuition, residence fees, etc.).

He proposes the establishment of student discounts with local businesses for such items as clothing, food, and transport.

Another pressing issue is jobs. According to Gordon, our students need to have an adequate academic background in order to gain the respect of the community. An efficient Student Union can enhance the university's

reputation by promotion worthwhile causes such as academic improvement, and the establishment of better facilities (he mentioned sports as an example.)

Gordon also wants to address the issue of student alienation. Whether a student is interested in business, sports, or poetry, he or she should be respected by other students. Differences of

opinion need to be respected, and sometimes there will be conflict. This is only natural. However, there should be dialogue among groups in order to reach a consensus.

Gordon considers himself very qualified in the administrative field because of his experience on Senate, the Search Committee for President, and Student Council. He knows many at the upper

level in the university administration.

However, he thinks the relationship between a Student Union and the administration should be "purely business," or there will be a danger of conflict of interest.

Election Issue!

Bob Hanf

Bob Hanf, a third year Arts student majoring in Psychology, is in the running for President of the Student Union.

The theme of Bob's campaign is to improve line of communication and to make the Student Union more active.

He considers better communication to be paramount to his platform. At present, he says there are students who do not know who any of the current executive members of the Student Union are.

The best way is for the future executive to use diplomacy.

Personal experience has taught me that it is much better to talk with people, become informed, and make logical decisions," he says.

He prefers his approach to outright confrontation.

Bob wants to work with the various groups on campus in order to open the lines of communication.

Issues that Bob emphasizes include the raising of tuition fees by the university. Bob wants to lobby the respective seats of government. In his opinion, "a university education should not go only to those who can afford it".

Secondly, Bob discussed the sad condition of this university's sports facilities. This is deplorable for an institution with many top quality sports teams, he says.

Bob promises that he will lobby the government in order to achieve new sports facilities that should have been constructed fifteen years ago.

Other issues Bob feels strongly about concern the funding of university education. Bob considers that both the corporate and govern-

ment avenues should be investigated in this regard.

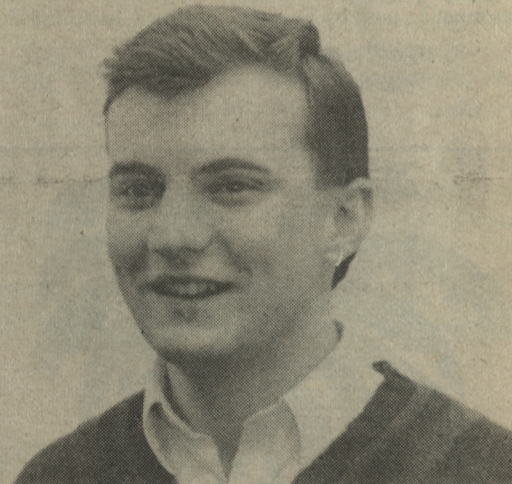
As far as jobs for students are concerned, Bob wants to establish relations with the community at large. This will open the door to opportunity once a student has graduated.

"It is a waste of minds," in Bob's opinion, "if a student cannot return to school in the fall".

Bob has much experience with the U.P.E.I. administration in his present job as resident assistant.

Furthermore, he is Speaker for the Student Union, and a student representative on the department of psychology.

In conclusion, Bob would appreciate being President for the year of 1985-86 and would like to wish his opponents good luck.



Steven Zakem

By John Pendergast

According to Steve Zakem, the Student Union needs to be more efficient and responsive to the needs of students.

This is the main platform of the third year Business student running for the position of Student Union President.

If elected, Steve does not plan any sweeping changes

for the Student Union. He would like to establish more advisory committees. These committees would be used to investigate the needs of students on campus.

In Steve's opinion, the committees for advertising and social events should be improved. The present election, in Steve's opinion, could have benefitted from this, as the acclamation of all

but three executive positions on Council shows a lack of participation on students' part which may have been due to lack of knowledge.

Another change that Steve would make concerns the workings of the Student Council meetings. In his view they are too long and drawn out.

Instead, he proposes that sub-organizations and other groups needing assistance file a request a few weeks in advance. This would give Council plenty of time to discuss the proposal.

The issues that Steve would like to address include the rise in tuition fees and the direction of the university. According to Steve, "It is of great concern to students if university funding is reduced and certain programs are slashed".

As President, Steve would want to work with the administration in order to voice the concerns of students on these issues.

On reflecting on his past experience on the Board of Governors, Steve considers that "the Board of Governors

is very responsible and cares what students think. It is important to let them know how we feel and they will act accordingly."

Steve thinks the only solution to the rising in student fees is to continue the practices of current S.U. president Michelle Dorsey. This entailed lobbying the provincial government for assistance.

Steve also considers student jobs to be an important issue. If he is elected he will lobby for this concern and explore every possible avenue in this area.

In Steve's opinion, the confrontation-conflict tactic is not very effective but should only be used as a last resort.

Steve considers himself very proficient in the field of administration. He is currently a S.U. member on the Board of Governors and has participated in many committees as a result.

In conclusion, Steve wishes his opponents the best of luck and hopes that everyone involved will conduct himself in a "gamely fashion".

Budget reveals increases

The provincial government has approved an increase in funding to UPEI of 4.5 per cent over last year.

This is in line with the increase recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, but falls short of the 5 or 6 per cent the Board of Governors was seeking.

Student Union President Michelle Dorsey says the University will probably have to make cuts in its budget for next year, as inflation is taken into account.

The Board of Governors will now have the task of allocating the funds.

