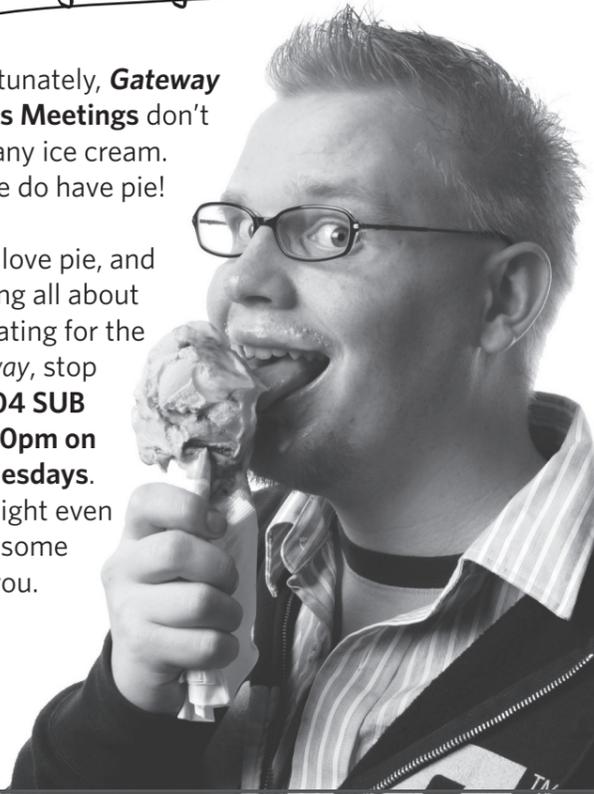


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Debbie's Priorities:

- Affordable housing for students
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- Investments to improve our transportation system -roads, bridges and public transit



Debbie Yeung is a Chartered Accountant and graduate of the University of Alberta. She is married with two young children who attend a French Immersion school.

Debbie Yeung for Councillor WARD 4

Vote on October 15, 2007:

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It's a bird; it's a plane; no, it's the mayor!

The mayoral candidates this year were lackluster, so we dreamt up better ones



OPINION STAFF

Group Commentary

As the municipal elections approach and we attempt to force ourselves to gain enough interest to bother voting, we couldn't help but wonder about our "ideal" mayoral candidates.

Some might wish for a wizard who can magic away the problems, while others see this as the perfect opportunity for half-bear, half-machine gun monstrosities to solve our crime rates—and potentially expand the LRT.

Whatever we dream up, the fact remains that we need something fantastic to dig us out of the mess the city's currently stuck in.

Paul Owen

Everyone likes to cheer for the underdog, which is exactly what happened when thousands jumped onto the Stephen Mandel bandwagon three years ago to get him elected. Of course, now that he's in power, he's not exactly a long-shot, but I still think the best mayor for Edmonton is the plucky little guy with more heart than hair who currently occupies City Hall.

It's not that I agree with Mandel's plan to expand the LRT (I do), or to build a new hockey rink (I don't), or even his assimulative opinions towards the outlying communities (as a resident of Sherwood Park, I definitely don't). And, because of the aforementioned suburban syndrome, I don't hate the guy for spending ridiculous amounts of taxpayer money on things. With no real reason to dislike Mandel, I still only have two reasons I think he should run the City for three more years.

The first is that it would be funny to see a mayor win with 90 per cent of the vote, and with the collection of glorified chimpanzees running against him this October, it may actually come out as that big of a landslide.

More importantly though, I enjoy strolling to the door every Thursday, letting the wind ripple my housecoat, and mooning the neighbours as I bend down to pick up the *Sherwood Park News* before opening it up to watch the latest batch of shit being slung between Even Stephen and Strathcona County mayor Cathy Oleson, who also has a very good shot of being re-elected.

Watching these two go at each other is like watching two junior high schoolers work out their sexual tension by pushing each other off the top of the slide. Really, I want to see Mandel elected on the off chance he'll call Oleson a whore while discussing the progress of the Anthony Henday before the two of them undress and get it on.

Victor Vargas

To those who haven't heard of MacGyver, you should know that he's possibly the most intelligent and brilliant fictional dude ever to have existed. With his trusty Swiss army knife, garbage, and string, MacGyver has been able to build flying machines, bombs, and even a radio. A man with such engineering talents is perfect to fix Edmonton's pressing problems.

Right now, all people hear from current candidates is meaningless rhetoric. MacGyver, on the other hand, will take quick and decisive action. He'll utilize a massive recycling program to triple the size of suburbia, dropping housing prices faster than the American dollar. If annoying people complain or try and slow the progress of the LRT, MacGyver will simply recycle their homes and use it to fill the city's many potholes. These people will then be relocated to the new downtown apartment complexes, built out of old trees, that will bring business to downtown that isn't from MacEwan or the Baccarat.

But engineering feats are only a small part of the problem—there's also the rise in crime. Edmonton's fast becoming the Murder Capital of Canada, as well as a haven for drug-dealing pimps—and MacGyver is the only hero capable of defeating crime in the city.

He would be a perfect fit: he interacts well with inner-city youth, and has shown his ability to utterly decimate any criminal organization that has dared stand in his way. A man who can turn an acorn into a land mine is capable of solving any and all crime.

Kelsey Tanasiuk

There's no pride in our taking the title of Murder Capital of Canada from Winnipeg, and I for one highly doubt anyone here would object to us handing it back. We need someone who can rectify this; someone to show our city the shiny golden ropes of safety. So I'm casting my vote for Bert and Gert, the alert twins.

You may remember these stylish rabbits from their catchy slogan, "Stay Alert, Stay Safe," which was followed by a random lightning noise. Or perhaps it's Gert's fabulous early-'90s outfit that really caught your eye. Either way, when these two anthropomorphic rabbits hit your TV screen, you were ready to sit there and learn about safety. I believe Bert and Gert could really turn our city around from being the Murder Capital of Canada—after all, there's no better crime-fighting method than prevention.

See, if no one gets themselves stabbed on Whyte Avenue in the first place, then there's no murder to solve. Bert and Gert aimed to "streetproof" kids with lessons like "trust your gut," "don't go anywhere with strangers," and "it's harder for someone to pick you up if you squirm on the ground like a worm." That's advice anyone could use; isn't it time we "streetproofed" Edmonton?

Lucas Wagner

When it comes to pure decision-making prowess, there's one inanimate object that millions turn to for advice every day: the Magic 8-Ball. And I for one, believe it would make an excellent mayor for our fair city.

The 8-Ball has many electable qualities: it's accessible to the public (just ask it a question, give it a shake, and you'll get its opinion); it's not afraid to make tough decisions (the 8-Ball knows not this "fear" of which you speak); and it knows its limitations ("Cannot predict now"). To prove how qualified the Magic 8-Ball is, I sat with it down for a quick Q&A session:

8-Ball, how do you see Edmonton 20 years from now under its current leadership? "Outlook not so good."

And with your guidance? "Outlook good."

Would you work to lower housing costs for students? "It is decidedly so."

How about rapid transit initiatives such as a western LRT extension? "You may rely on it."

What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow? "Are you kidding?"

Some people might have you believe that the Magic 8-Ball has limitations—such as the inability to answer non-yes-or-no questions—or that it's biased because there's a two-to-one ratio of "yes" answers to "no" answers. These issues are irrelevant, however, because the Magic 8-Ball is magic.

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