

# Money's on the mind of VP (Operations & Finance) candidates

WITH A \$9.1 MILLION BUDGET, THE Vice-President (Operations & Finance) has the responsibility of ensuring that the day-to-day operations of the SU's businesses and services run as smoothly as possible. This year, two individuals are vying for the position.

Compiled by Cory Tokay

## 1 What do you think about the denial of funding to programs or services that are popular with students?

**Steven Dollansky:** I think we need to take a careful look at which services are being utilized by the most students and make sure we're funding those services accordingly. I think that there's room for us to improve the visibility of our services in order to engage more students, and specifically with Bear Scat. I think we need to maintain a professional working relationship with the operator of Bear Scat and ensure that it stays online until Bear Tracks meets its functionality.

**Peter Rychlik:** I think now that funding is a two-way street and that sometimes you have to cut what's needed or what's been popular for certain things that are of more immediate importance. But you have to be careful what you cut and what you don't. Just because something's popular doesn't mean it's always right—sometimes it's just got to be curtailed a little.

## 2 Do you think the Students' Union should continue to invest funding into financially draining projects such as the Powerplant?

**Dollansky:** No. We need to stop losing money. The Powerplant is an example of a venue where the University has taken their sweet time on getting to the table with the Students' Union, and we need to put an end to that procrastination. We need to provide a clear vision for the 'Plant that will be profitable and meet the needs of both our services and our business operations that could have a potential home there.

**Rychlik:** No, and here's why: because there's many other venues for things like concerts and stuff on campus that the Powerplant does not need to facilitate. The Powerplant isn't very well built for something like that and other events, and the Powerplant could definitely use being shut down for a little while, reorganized, and re-marketed and re-branded. Because the Powerplant right now also is suffering from the stigma of being a very empty and very draining place. And no one really wants to be there.

## 3 What kind of projects or services would you like to see more of the SU's budget and time being spent on?

**Dollansky:** I think we need to enhance the online components of our services. The future of a lot of what the SU does is going to be conducted online, and I think we need to prepare for that. I think that the Students' Union should invest significant funds into ensuring that we're getting the most out of our building's lower level, and we need to renovate that space in order to make it more visible and inviting a place for students to go.



RYAN HEISE AND PETE YEE

**MO' MONEY, MO' PROBLEMS** Both Peter Rychlik and Steven Dollansky want to be in charge of student dollars.

**Rychlik:** Services such as the Access Fund for students that are definitely in dire need. I had a couple friends of mine who couldn't attend university this year because they didn't have enough money, and the Access Fund couldn't help them out in the end. Also—this is part of my platform—renovating RATT's kitchens. Reducing waiting times, and getting new equipment in there. Some of that equipment pre-dates RATT, and that's another reason you have to wait 50 minutes for fries, and that's ridiculous. It'll pay for itself in a year once it's renovated. So things that students use most often for recreation, studying—those definitely need to be focused on more. Also, maybe getting some new computers into the Students' Union Building would be nice too.

## 4 Is there anything you think the SU is over-funding to the

**point where it is under-funding or harming other projects?**

**Dollansky:** I think that the Powerplant is the obvious answer to a business operation that we continue to sink resources into, and we're not receiving the benefits out of that investment. We need to find a solution to that problem immediately over the summer. Because if September rolls around and we're still putting more money into the Powerplant, that's simply unacceptable. I think there are a number of areas for increased investment. Advocacy is one, and as I mentioned before, increasing the visibility of our services, both online and in our building, would be perhaps a more beneficial usage of Students' Union money.

**Rychlik:** I could definitely see the Van Vliet Centre and physical education getting something more in that sense. Because I go there everyday, and the

showers are horrible. There's about 25 showers and maybe ten working at any one time, and the hot water just doesn't last. So there's a few improvements such as the Phys Ed department which could use a little help. Same with Humanities and just more advocacy for a student-friendly environment, such as wireless in the Humanities, could definitely be worked on.

## 5 How would you survive the Zombie Apocalypse?

**Dollansky:** I would definitely have to recruit an army of robots to fight off the zombies on my behalf.

**Rychlik:** I wouldn't do the whole *Ctrl+Alt+Del* thing and put peanut-butter sandwiches behind my book shelf, but I would definitely have to go with the old shotgun-axe combo and then find a bunker where I can hide.



## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2008/2009 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009 and pays \$1950.51/mo\*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2008/2009 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.\*\* Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager Steve Smith (492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 7 March 2008.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

\* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

\*\* Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsj)