

POSTER SLAM 2008

In a time of political strife and historically inaccurate Hollywood epics, it can be difficult to keep up with the maelstrom of democracy on campus. Students' senses are assaulted from all angles by a plethora of colourful slogans and unnatural smiles during SU election campaign season.

But fear not, dear readers. The Gateway brings you the only guide you'll ever need to understanding the questionable design tastes of your electoral candidates. This year's Poster Slam is brought to you by **SCOTT LILWALL** and **CONAL PIERSE**—the two smarmiest Irishmen we could find this side of the Blarney Stone—along with their wisecracking handler, **MIKE KENDRICK**. Join us in a visceral journey through the soul-wrenching underworld of SU Election Posters.

TITLE ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE KENDRICK

Mike: Let's kick this thing off with the presidential candidates. First on the chopping block is **Janelle Morin**.

Conal: I think that the major problem with this is that even Janelle looks bored with her poster. Either bored or drunk.

Scott: I would say hungover.

Conal: It looks like she's groaning, "Oh man, it's time to campaign. Why did I have so many mai tais last night?"

Mike: You're right. It's a bit hard to read all this stuff on the side. I imagine this is probably what her handwriting would look like when she's drunk.

Conal: It's also a nice puke green. Like really biley morning-after vomit.

Scott: I believe that green actually signifies intensive liver damage.

Conal: Or that she was drinking mojitos. Or mint juleps. I don't know what colour those are.

Mike: They're not green.

Conal: I'm more of a whiskey man, myself.

Mike: Obviously not.

Conal: Well, her hand on her hip is definitely saying, "If I don't hold myself up, I'm gonna fall over."

Scott: I think we might have caught her halfway through a conga line, actually. There's probably 20 people behind her, all holding strawberry daquiris.

Mike: And they're all three feet tall.

Conal: It's a perspective shot. You wouldn't know it from seeing her in person, but she's actually, like, 30 feet tall.

Scott: Maybe we should focus on the poster's content.

Conal: I like how she ensures transparency, and she backs that up by having this transparent green bar.

Scott: Making it very hard to see exactly what she's planning to ensure.

Conal: She's standing next to a brick wall, so she's letting you know that if you don't vote for her, you will be the first against the wall. And I think that having the first word of each of her points in bold caps, it seems like she's just yelling at you. REFORM! STRENGTH!

Scott: I thought that was just a time-saving measure. We're busy students; we're apparently a part of all these student groups, so I don't need to read the entire sentence. That's all I need. It's got strength right in there.

Conal: She's pretty much the He-Man of campaigning.

Mike: Maybe it's referring to the strength of resolve in the 20 Lilliputian villagers forming the conga line behind her.

Mike: Well, on to something a little more exciting with our next candidate, **Dustin Miller**.

Conal: That's not the word I'd use for it. The word I'd use would be "red."

Scott: Isn't this what a rattlesnake sees?

Conal: This is kind of like the creature-vision you would see in a cheap *Lake Placid* ripoff.

Scott: I think that it's taken from a Predator's point of view.

Conal: Dustin Miller is being hunted. He does look like the first to die. You know, the kind of whiny guy who's off in the woods by himself when his flashlight suddenly dies, and then a cougar eats him, and then a python eats that cougar, and finally, a Predator cleans up.

Mike: I feel sorry for the Predator that has to grind through all that hair gel to get to the trophy skull beneath.

Conal: That is a good defence mechanism against large snakes. They can't bite down directly on your head if you have a very sharp mohawk. I like how if you cut him off at the eyebrows, he's like someone that you can take home for Christmas, but above that, it's the guy your dad's going to hate.

Scott: But he claims he's going to unite our student body.

Conal: And coordinate student activism. But a buttoned-down activism, like the kind you can write home about without having been pepper-sprayed. Also, he has more bricks, so he's apparently winning. In the choice between him and Janelle, choose more bricks. Choose leadership.

Scott: It's a *strong* campaign. A structural campaign.

Conal: And whereas Janelle's poster is what it looks like when you're hung over in the morning, Dustin's is what it looks like when you've been punched in the eye and every blood vessel has burst.

Mike: Speaking of posters you're not even supposed to see, let's take a look at **Bobby Samuel**.

Conal: I don't even know why DIE Board went to so much trouble. These are so bad, they

