



Ron Sears

Grant Mitchell was caught in four different poses as he candidly expressed his liberal views to a minimal crowd of about 40 people last Thursday. Mitchell expounded several points, telling the crowd Don Getty made "the biggest mistake of his career" by becoming a conservative. "Albertans," Mitchell said, "are liberals, they just don't know it yet."

# Liberal plays to empty house

by Martin Levenson and Will Gibson

"To be successful as a political party in Alberta, you gotta be a liberal."

Grant Mitchell, Liberal MLA for Edmonton, made this surprising claim as he addressed a sparse crowd of 40 people on campus Thursday. He suggested as well that the next provincial election would not be won or lost on policy.

"You cannot out-policy the Conservatives. This government has constantly plugged each policy hole as it has arisen."

He went on to highlight the philosophical differences between

the Liberals and Conservatives. "A Liberal believes in business, has a focus on the individual and a sense of other people... they (the Conservatives) do not in fact believe in the individual, they believe in corporate elite politics," citing the disparity of government support between large corporations and small business.

"Don Getty made the biggest mistake of his career — he became a Conservative," said Mitchell. "Albertans are liberals, they just don't know it yet. Peter Lougheed was a liberal in the early days of his government."

The key issues for Mitchell are federal-provincial relations, es-

pecially with the proposed value-added tax and Senate reform, deficit spending to encourage growth in Alberta, the environment, and women's issues.

A University of Alberta alumni, Mitchell spent a great deal of time discussing Senate reform and the Meech Lake Accord. He said that Getty is incapable of dealing with Ottawa because "The government in Ottawa is Conservative."

Mitchell is cautious with this point because he said "Liberal and Conservative are just labels. It doesn't make a difference on how Alberta is treated." He also pointed out that Laurence Decore

has proven experience dealing with opposition governments at a senior level.

Mitchell feels that Getty bungled on supporting Meech Lake, saying "He gave away the initiative on Senate reform... Mr. Getty followed Bourassa's agenda."

"He also suggested that Getty should have backed down on signing Meech Lake after Bourassa

invoked the notwithstanding clause.

Mitchell said the Liberals were prepared to knock off the Tories, and rejected the idea of allying with the NDP. "We're not about to collude with them in some obsession with defeating the Conservatives... We don't have to, it would be wrong, and the ND's are just not that strong".

## 600 students fight for Faculte

by Michelle LaGrange

A petition is being circulated in an effort to save the deteriorating Faculte St. Jean Residence.

David Tupper, SU vp external, says a difficulty for the petition organizers is accessing the main campus. The petition which already has 600 signatures will be available for more signatures in Pembina Hall, Lister Hall and SUB this week.

Dr. Warrack, vp administration, and Tupper, both encouraged the petition. Tupper says the petition will "lend credence" to the general lobbying process of saving the residence.

John Mark Fisher, president of the Faculte St. Jean Residence Association said the petition alone will not save the residence, but he is confident that "something will be done in the future."

Tupper is optimistic that the Federal Government will help with the restoration of the residence. He said that the time is right to lobby the government because Jerry Weimer, the secretary of state, believes strongly in

multiculturalism. He said the government is trying "to recover ground from the Quebec language decision."

The 78 year old residence is the only french residence west of Winnipeg

Warrack, who chairs the Facilities Development Committee, said a proposal for the future of the residence is still in the preliminary stage, and nothing can be done in the near future.

The proposal suggests building a new facility that will be linked to the old facade.

Tupper said the petition is only the first step in the lobbying process. He says there will be a media tour of the residence, historical seminars about the residence, and that Students' Union representatives will discuss the issues with members of parliament.

According to Tupper it will take a few months to get things rolling. He hopes to have an active campaign by March and a commitment from the government next year.

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## EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!!

Gateway news staff meeting  
Thursday, February 9, room 282 (SUB),  
3:30... 4:00 pm...  
sometime in the afternoon...  
— new reporters and writers welcome