

"Anybody but Thorkelson." *The Gateway*, Nov. 1, 1988

The Gateway

"I would also like to thank students of the University of Alberta for their overwhelming support." Scott Thorkelson, *The Gateway*, Nov. 23, 1988

Thursday November 24, 1988

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

Council leans on LaGrange's campaigning

by Jeff Cowley

Federal politicians may have called a cease fire to the mud slinging during the recent election, but a scaled down version of the debate on ethics in government has just begun, say Students' Council officials.

Student Council struck down a motion Tuesday night that would dissolve any connections to candidates in the recent federal election.

An advertisement in which SU president Paul LaGrange endorsed PC Scott Thorkelson, Strathcona MP elect, recently appeared in Thorkelson's campaign literature. SU officials moved to publish an advertisement disclaiming any official SU involvement in the campaign.

"Basically we have a situation where our constitution forbids endorsing any candidate or policy in any official way," said faculty of arts representative Steve Sieker, who is lobbying Students' Council to reconsider the motion.

In the advertisement, a photograph of LaGrange — identified as the University of Alberta SU president — appears along with a quote saying that he was in support of free trade. He does not make a direct reference to Thorkelson or the PC campaign in the ad.

Sieker says a retraction needs to be printed to make it clear to the student body that council is



SU president Paul LaGrange holding MP elect Scott Thorkelson's campaign literature in which the Students' Union executive endorsed the free trade agreement.

"not a political entity."

The disclaimer would say that "at no time has the SU supported Scott Thorkelson or the free trade agreement," he said.

"It is a crucial issue that people can't ignore," he said, disappointed that the motion was defeated. "People of the Students' Union are not given a mandate to go out and use their positions to support candidates."

LaGrange said the advertisement was not out of bounds, however.

"Since I have never supported Thorkelson in any direct way, I don't know why they would want to print a retraction," said LaGrange.

He said Thorkelson printed the advertisement which appeared in campaign flyers around the campus with his permission. But the endorsement came as a student and not as a member of the Students' Union executive, he said.

The motion will be put before council members at their next meeting Sieker said.

International Student Centre.

She described UNICEF's interpretation of sustainable development as "people defining themselves in a way that doesn't infringe upon or limit the potential of other people and future generations."

"We have found that poverty is the biggest pollutant of all, and the alleviation of poverty is a very important concern of UNICEF today."

With funding from governments like Canada, sales of the familiar greeting cards and many volunteers, UNICEF operates in developing countries with "low cost, high impact measures aimed at the poorest people. By integrating the poor into the development process, a country forms a broader base and gets better growth."

The activities of UNICEF include immunization, nutrition,

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Report, SU question teaching at U of A

by Jeff Cowley

It didn't surprise Detmar Tschofen, an assistant professor at the University of Alberta, to learn that teaching techniques at the University are being questioned. And listening to professors describe problems in classes was like *deja vu*.

That's because Tschofen has seen the same kind of communication problems with students in his own classes.

A sociology professor, Tschofen is concerned about the growing distance between students and teachers at the U of A. A regular schedule puts him before upwards of 500 students.

"There are no rewards for good teaching at this university," Tschofen said after listening to fellow colleagues debate the merits of classroom work and lectures at the University.

During a conference Tuesday, about 130 U of A professors gathered to discuss a report on teaching effectiveness at the University. The report, conducted by Dr. Christopher Knapper, director of Teaching Resources at the University of Waterloo, graded the way professors teach students, and the way the University evaluates its professors in return.

The faculty-wide survey was the first in-depth analysis of professors conducted in Canada.

The report presented at the conference indicated that there are rising concerns with teaching skills at the University. Also, the report suggested that academic research and publishing required by most departments often overshadows professors' classroom work.



SU academic commissioner Michelle Kitt is calling for a "teaching competency test."

"It's not so much a question of how well we are teaching students, but what we can do to improve," said vp Academic Dr. Peter Meekison, moderator for the forum.

Reactions to the report were varied, said Meekison, with some professors strongly agreeing with its findings, and others dismissing it altogether. He said that recommendations in the report will have to be dealt with by the individual faculties.

Also at the meeting, SU vp Charles Vethan expressed concern over the quality of teaching at the



Professors largely ignore teaching responsibilities, says SU vp academic Charles Vethan.

U of A.

Vethan said that the main focus of the report was "that there is a perceived view that departments are expecting more research out of professors than professors view as needed."

"This university has gone all the way into ignoring teaching, and over-emphasising research," said Vethan. The University does not require professors to have any instruction in teaching or lecturing before they step into the classroom.

"Students want teachers who can teach," said SU academic commissioner Michelle Kitt, who believes there should be a "teaching competency test."

The Students' Union representatives are pushing for mandatory teaching workshops which would require professors to brush up on their classroom skills every two years.

Vethan and the Students' Union will be putting the issue to the floor at the next General Faculties Council meeting in February.

UNICEF at University

by Jon Romalo

While UNICEF is traditionally known for its work with children in developing countries, the U.N. organization is today very much concerned with women, according

to senior UNICEF advisor Eva Jespersen.

Jespersen was on campus Monday and Tuesday attending the Edmonton Forum on Sustainable Development, held at the U of A

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