

gateway

Thursday, November 4, 1982

Conservatives are not necessarily stupid...

but most stupid people are conservatives.
J.S. Mill

Lister Hall students reject Wright

by Richard Watts

The polling station in Lister Hall turned the tide and gave Progressive Conservative Julian Koziak a win.

Koziak won the riding by a total of 6795 votes to New Democrat Gordon Wright's 6532.

The polling station that provided the most decisive lead in votes for Koziak was the polling station in Lister Hall which turned in 304 votes for Koziak to 141 Wright votes.

"Thank God for Lister Hall," cried one celebrating PC campaign worker, during Koziak's victory celebration in his campaign headquarters on 104th Street.

The polling station in HUB provided Wright with 120 votes and 73 votes for Koziak.

"I'm pleased, I'm very pleased," said Koziak.

In an address to his campaign workers a disappointed Wright said, "I'm sorry we didn't win; I'm sorry I couldn't provide you with a win."

Said SU president Robert Greenhill, "I think what really gave Lister Hall to Koziak was that the Conservatives brought the Premier in to Lister Hall around breakfast time without telling anyone in advance."

When asked if he had learned anything from his constituents during his campaign that he might take to the legislature in the future Koziak replied:

"No, I think our party platform and our policies covered everything and I'm prepared to do my best in government to serve the special needs of the riding."

Asked the same question Wright said he was surprised at the number of people who asked about the NDP's policy on abortion.

"I suppose it is because the NDP is the only party in Canada that has a policy on abortion; the only party honest enough to have a policy," said Wright.

Asked whether he was ever concerned about his chances in the election Koziak replied, "No, I'd say I rather enjoyed the thrill of a see-sawing campaign."

Western Canada Concept candidate Randy Coombs picked up 31 votes in Lister Hall and 9 votes in HUB, and a total of 678 in the riding.

Murray Scambler for the Alberta Reform Movement pulled in 8 votes from Lister Hall and 6 votes from HUB, part of a total of 260 votes.

The other polling station on campus in St. Joseph's College yielded 23 votes for Koziak, 4 for Wright, 2 for Scambler and 1 for Coombs.

Running last in the Strathcona riding was Joe Hill for the Communist Party who polled a total of 58 votes, 6 of which came from the University polling stations.



photo by Ray Giguere

Feds jeopardize education?

by Allison Annesley

Controversy surrounds the educational repercussions of the National Training Act.

"The two big problems with the Act are de-skilling and education as training," says FAS President Don Millar. But according to SU VP External Teresa Gonzales, neither problem exists within the context of the university.

The NTA proposes to channel \$108 million worth of federal funds into technical skill programs in high demand that will last no longer than two years, in colleges and technical schools.

The NTA is a federal legislation meant to fill specific job market needs and includes job training, re-training, and apprenticeship programs as part of a plan announced last January by Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Says Gonzales, "The NTA does not apply to universities as much as it will to technical colleges and institutes. No money from the NTA can go towards a four-year degree. It will really only apply to universities through job upgrading and work study."

FAS fieldworker Mike Walker disagrees: "It's a question of institutional autonomy."

The technical institutes that are directly affected, Walker says, will have their programs altered to serve short term industry needs, with broader skills receiving less emphasis.

The major financial concern is that money previously channelled toward general education through Established Programs Financing will now be directed toward specific training for specific "national occupations" as set by the federal government and outlined in the NTA.

Millar is particularly concerned with the "de-skilling" effect he feels such specific training will produce.

He explains:

"As one delegate put it, 'It teaches people how to draw horizontal lines without teaching them how to draw the curves that link them.' The skills just aren't adequate and it's hard for students to compete with that when the Feds launch this multi-million dollar flagship funding operation."

FAS also doubts the accuracy of Employment and Immigration's labour market strategy. "It leaves me cold to think of the federal government being in a position to predict what the job market will demand when I look at how their predictions for the economy have turned out."

The U of A Students' Union is presently considering a student employment proposal as part of the Act, pioneered by the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU). Alberta remains one of the two

provinces still to sign an individual agreement with Axworthy before the Act becomes effective in this province.

Gonzales predicts that if the U of A SU does adopt such a program, it will be modelled after UMSU's. University departments were asked to submit employment needs for U of M students to fill. UMSU then found approximately 500 positions on campus for students averaging five hours a week of work at approximately \$5.50 an hour.

The original proposal was drafted by the UMSU and accepted under the Immediate Employment Stimulus Program section of the NTA.

"What you have to keep in mind most though," warns Gonzales, "is that Winnipeg is Axworthy's own riding."

Education speaker offends academics

TORONTO (CUP)—More than 50 students and faculty delegates walked out of a conference organized by provincial education ministers Oct. 20 in response to a speaker who called for wholesale elimination of university departments and institutes.

Roger Gaudry, former Université de Montreal rector, sparked the walkout when he spoke to about 400 delegates at a Council of Ministers of Education-Canada (CMEC) conference on post-secondary issues.

Each time Gaudry made a remark considered offensive by a group of delegates, they walked out. But more than 300 delegates remaining at the end gave Gaudry a standing ovation.

"It will be necessary to be firm and not to hesitate to close university

sections, departments, institutes or research centres that do not correspond any more to real needs or whose quality is mediocre," said Gaudry.

A contingent of Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) delegates then walked out. CFS chair Brenda Cote said they walked out because Gaudry "spoke in favour of cutbacks, curtailing academic freedom and closing universities."

Gaudry criticized moves to democratize higher education, especially in Quebec, "with admission policies that are often not compatible with what I consider to be the real role of the university."

Members of the Federation of University Professors of Quebec left. Gaudry then said today's students

have an easier time graduating than their predecessors.

He said undergraduates can obtain degrees almost entirely from courses they have chosen. "As a consequence, our universities have delivered and are delivering diplomas to students who have never had to submit themselves to a strict discipline of mind," said Gaudry.

Members of the Rassemblement des Associations Etudiantes Universitaires (RAEU), one of CFS's Quebec counterparts, walked out at this point.

RAEU counsellor Jose Roy said universities would revert to an elitist system if Gaudry's views were implemented.

Gaudry also criticized the tenure system, though he did not advocate

abolishing it.

"Under the pretext of preserving a falsely interpreted academic freedom, many of our institutions have tolerated some activities that are incompatible with an acceptable university ethic," he said.

Ken McGovern, Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) president, joined the professors' walkout. He denied academic freedom is widely abused.

CFS researcher Eileen Dooley said Gaudry as the CMEC's choice for the key speaker is odd, because he is no longer connected with universities.

She said the CMEC probably let Gaudry throw out ideas provincial education ministers favour to see how they will be received.



photo by Bill Ingles

Above: After narrowly winning the election for Edmonton Strathcona Progressive Conservative receives warm congratulations from Peter Loughheed. Below: After losing by 263 votes, New Democrat Gordon Wright commiserates with his campaign workers. "I'm sorry I couldn't provide you with a win."

Last chance! Tonight 7:30, Rm. 282 SUB, Gateway recruitment night.