

# President shuts off discussion on sexism

by Peter Michalyszyn

The issues of pornography and sexism in Engineering Week died on the floor of General Faculties Council (GFC) yesterday.

University president Myer Horowitz was adamant that a question on sexism, introduced by GFC rep Chanchal Bhattacharya, not be debated.

Bhattacharya persisted by avoiding the original issue of pornography in the *Godiva* and called to question the larger issue of sexism at the university.

"To what extent, if any, can we as a university tolerate sexism

on campus to the point where it has a serious impact on the lives of women here?" Bhattacharya asked.

Horowitz said he would not consider putting aside the system that exists to deal with debates such as sexism. He reminded Bhattacharya that the Council of Student Services (COSS), the Equal Opportunities Committee (EOC), and the GFC Executive could all address the issue, but not GFC.

"Our basic system is an excellent one and can be used to advantage," Horowitz said.

"How quickly some people

seem to be prepared to toss all that into the trash can," he said acerbically.

But Bhattacharya was critical of the system.

"On an issue like sexism you're looking at three or four years to produce meaningful results within the system," he said.

The furor over sexism in Engineering Week, Bhattacharya said, aroused public interest in women's issues, and helped Students' Council easily pass a motion supporting a women's centre on campus.

Horowitz, however, said he is a great believer in working from the inside.

"I chose to work with people who can really make the difference," when dealing with the *Godiva* article, Horowitz said; that is, the Dean of Engineering and the Dean of Students.

GFC Student rep Ken Lawson-Williams agreed with Horowitz.

"We have conducted an internal investigation at the Engineering Students' Society (ESS). We don't feel a need to make the individual responsible suffer publicly... he's suffered enough already."

## U of S engineers deny human rights

SASKATOON (CUP) Publishers of the University of Saskatchewan's Engineering newspaper, the *Red Eye*, have been ordered to appear before a provincial board of enquiry in connection with a complaint laid under the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code.

The complaint came from the Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women, which said the *Red Eye* published material which promotes violent and demeaning acts towards women and tends to deny women basic human rights.

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has been unable to conciliate an agreement between the *Red Eye* and the complainants. The matter now goes before a provincial board of enquiry for further investigation.

*Red Eye* editor David Hoffer said the newspaper rejected the Human Rights Commission's conciliation "because we haven't done anything wrong" and any attempt to curb the *Red Eye's* editorial policy would "violate our right to freedom of expression."

Kathy Buswell of the action committee said her group's action is not an attempt to "shut down or strictly censor" the *Red Eye*. Rather, it is an attempt, she said, to prevent further publication of material which violates the basic human rights of women.

Buswell also expressed concern that current *Red Eye* content

creates an atmosphere which discourages women from entering the engineering field.

Currently, only 6 percent of the engineering school at the University of Saskatchewan are women.

Although no date has been set for the enquiry to begin, it is not expected to start until next fall.

by Peter Michalyszyn

Every year the Students' Finance Board (SFB) denies money to students because of a policy that says parents must contribute to the financing of their children's education.

A long-standing criticism of the SFB has been that students over 18 who can vote and go to war are not considered independent of their parents when applying for student loans.

But Mike Demers says students armed with a letter saying their parents are unable or unwilling to contribute can go to the SFB appeals committee and get the loan they asked for in the first place.

Demers, past student president at Grant McEwan Community College, until recently sat on the appeals committee. He says "It

has been my experience" that the committee will break standing SFB policy when it's clear students need money.

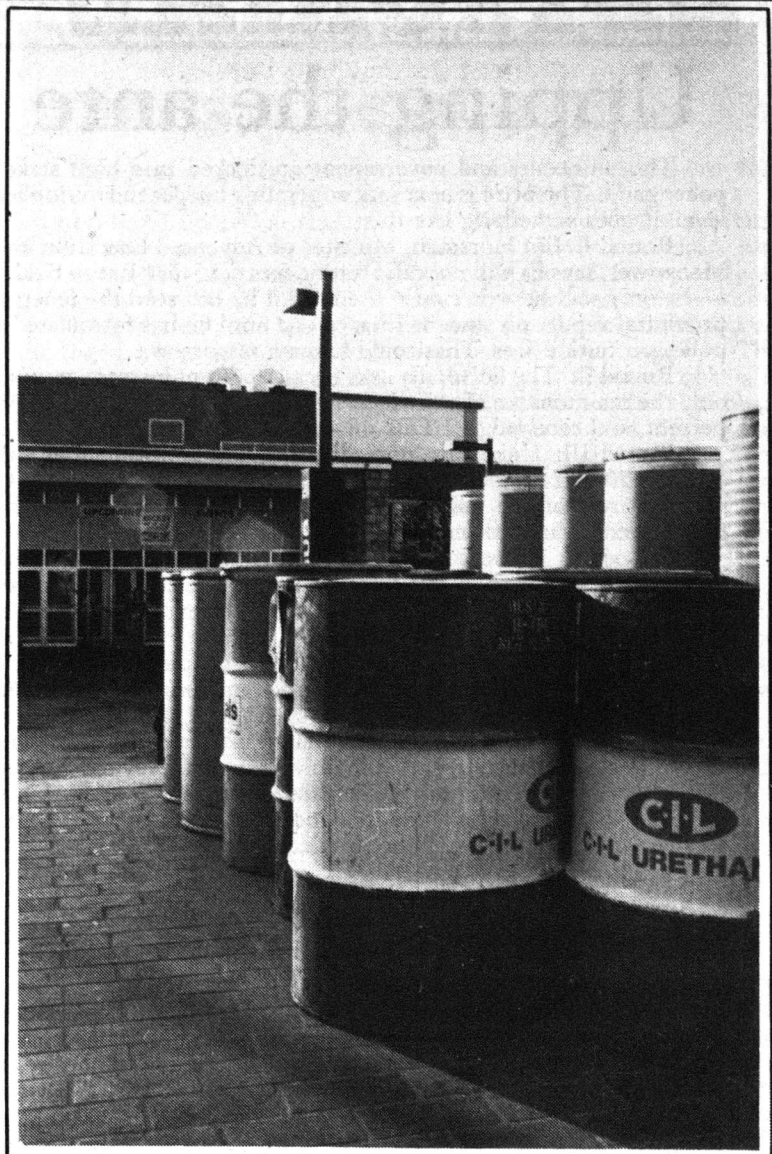
"The appeals committee has the power to set precedents. This is something the SFB can't do. They are no different than any other government board — they're basically a megaphone for decisions made in the legislature," Demers says.

For example, last year a Grant MacEwan student needed a car to do fieldwork. He got money from the appeals committee for it.

"There's no way he would have gotten it just by applying to the SFB through the regular channels," Demers says.

On the other hand, "Too many people look at student loans as a way to get quick money," he says.

## Appeals bypass bureaucracy



The SU bought several hundred pounds of urethane insulation to keep the heat off its back.

One person asked the appeals committee for \$12,000 before telling them he worked part-time at night and was paying a \$1,000 mortgage.

"He would have made money on it — he didn't need the loan," Demers says.

"As far as I'm concerned, he should have been prosecuted and charged with fraud," he says.

Another married couple asked for a loan to help meet payments on a new \$8,000 car.

"The feeling I get from these people is that they shouldn't have to lower their standard of living to

be students," Demers says.

But although some people abuse the system, too many legitimate loan applicants aren't aware that the appeals committee can reverse SFB policy, Demers says.

"There's been more than one meeting this year (of the committee) cancelled because of no students making appeals," he says, adding that a lot of people who should go to the committee do not.

And those who do show up are often woefully unprepared.

"It's appalling to talk to

continued on page 10

## Education time warp

by Mike Walker

The "dinosaur wing" of the Conservative Party is responsible for Alberta's education policy — and there's a problem with it, according to Alberta NDP leader Grant Notley.

Notley, speaking at SUB Theatre Thursday, attacked the provincial government for its differential fee structure and its intervention in university affairs, and called for free tuition for Alberta universities.

"You can't go far in producing a first-rate education system without institutional autonomy," Notley said. The differential fee structure, under which foreign

students pay \$300 per year extra for tuition, is one of the worst examples of government interference in university affairs, he said.

"The differential fees policy is one of the most regressive and narrow policies ever formulated in a province with such wealth," he said. However, "the initiative did not come from the institutions, but from the right wing of the Tory party, the dinosaur wing," he said.

On tuition fees in general, Notley noted that Advanced Education Minister Jim Horsman said earlier this week he won't approve a tuition fee hike this year. Notley said this was not enough, though, and called for abolition of tuition fees altogether.

"The universities of our province cannot become the preserve of the rich," he said.

On the subject of private donations to the universities, Notley said, "We're very concern-

ed about private funding."

He differed with Horsman, who has said increased private funding is desirable since it will make the universities more autonomous from the government.

"The evidence is that corporations don't fund for purely philanthropic reasons," he said. "I think what we would see would be a subtle shift in the priorities of the university."

Instead, he said, "we should tax the corporations adequately enough that we can fund the universities fairly in the first place."

Notley also attacked the government for siphoning off federal funds originally earmarked for education into other uses.

Before 1977, the federal government matched provincial expenditures on health and education. Now, the provinces get a set amount each year from Ottawa for these programs, but are free to spend it as they wish.

## Squibs by Bob Yetagaw

The next time some free-enterprise fanatic sings to you of the immaculate virtues of public-spirited businessmen, and the unspeakable greed of the unions, don't attempt to strangle him or kick him down the stairs. Such tactics, though praiseworthy, only convince him that you are a Marxist, and thus provide further fuel for his persecution complex. Instead, read him this excerpt from Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, which closes chapter 9:

*In reality high profits tend much more to raise the price of work than high wages.... In raising the price of commodities the rise of wages operates in the same manner as simple interest does in the accumulation of debt. The rise of profit operates like compound interest.*

*Our merchants and master-manufacturers complain much of the bad effects of high wages in raising the price, and thereby lessening the sale of their goods both at home and abroad. They say nothing concerning the bad effects of high profits. They are silent with regard to the pernicious effects of their own gains. They complain only of those of other people.*

Smith, incidentally, provides an example to demonstrate his principle. Sceptics and keeners may amuse themselves by reducing this example to simple algebra and plugging in figures to verify Smith's assertion.

## ROOKIE NIGHT

Here's your chance to get an informal introduction to the newspaper, to find out how we operate and how you can contribute, and to get lots of free doughnuts and coffee.

Thursday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.

The Gateway Room 282 SUB

**Baz** by Skeet

Skeet has turned on, tuned in, and dropped out.