

SU vp David Tupper on condom keychains: "They will create an awareness of the importance of safe sexual practices..."

The Gateway

"...and make students think twice before jumping into anything."

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The key to safe sex

by Jeff Cowley

"Have condom, will travel" could be the name of the latest Students' Union safe sex campaign.

Key chains with a secret condom carrying case are being distributed to promote safe sex and boost the SU image, said SU vp internal Wendy Olson.

About 100 of the key chains, which are affixed with a black condom locket and monogrammed with the SU logo, are on order for Students' Union councillors.

"The response has been fantastic," said Olson. "Usually this is something that people are quite shy about, but the response has been very open. Students crave them." Olson may offer them to the rest of the campus if sales go well.

The condom lockets, which retail for \$3.95, are a "good way to promote safe sex," said Olson. The keychains "will create an awareness of the importance of safe sexual practices and make students think twice before jumping into anything," said vp external David Tupper.

Monogrammed condom key chains will also help out with public relations. "I think it will

make people talk about the Students' Union."

Olson originally considered investing in condom carrying purses and even belt buckles, "but this way it gets around."

Asked if the SU was expecting any protests over its promotion of safe sexual activity, Olson replied, "I don't expect everyone to like them, but if people don't like the condoms they can always use the case for carrying money."

"We already have condom machines in the bathrooms," added Tupper. "The SU is recognized as a body endorsing the practice of safe sex."

Under the "Pursuit of Happiness motion" passed by Students' Council, condom vending machines were installed in the bathrooms of the Students' Union Building in 1987.

Condom sales are booming, said SU business manager Todd Phillips. About 5,200 condoms have been sold since the machines were installed.

Currently, the SU has "no plans for going into the key chain business," said Tupper. "At the moment, we're quite happy to let the key chains ring out their own sales."



Yes there really will be new lounge space in HUB mall as promised. Patrick Beacon, Delmar Steel employee, works on a structural expansion of a lounge at HUB's south end.

SU election schedule problematic

by Jeff Cowley

A calendar change to this year's SU election has left some professors grumbling, but the schedule shift solves more problems than it creates, said election returning officer Michael Hunter.

The original date, penned in for February 16 and 17, would have competed with midterms exams, said Hunter. The new dates have been set for March 9 and 10.

Hunter is hoping the post-exam date will generate more interest in the election by giving candidates more time to campaign and students more time to cast their ballots.

"We are trying to get more feedback from students who normally don't get a chance to vote," he said, adding that election officers will be going from class to class to brief students on some of the election issues.

There are a number of refer-

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Early stumping for Scona candidate

by Shannon Taylor

Alberta politicians are preparing for a spring election, Edmonton Strathcona MLA Gordon Wright said Tuesday.

"There will be an early election. It could be as early as February 20, but we're looking more between the end of March and mid-April," the New Democrat MLA noted. The Edmonton Strathcona riding encompasses the University of Alberta and the Old Strathcona area.

Wright said all the signs are pointing to an election in early spring. "With over half a dozen cabinet ministers resigning along with a raft of other Tories announcing they are stepping down, and with the purse strings having been loosened, I am certain of a spring election," the MLA said, adding it is unfortunate the government did not loosen the strings in favor of advanced education.

The resignations of these key cabinet ministers within the Getty government, including Advanced Education Minister Dave Russell's retirement, are signals

of a barebones budget next year, Wright said.

The local MLA has identified the budget squeeze on Alberta universities as the main election issue for this riding. "As a responsible person I have to concede that any government would have had to tighten their belts (over the past three years) but the priorities of this government have been wrong," Wright noted.

The provincial government has continued to pump funds into the oil industry while cutting back on education funding, and this is an example of misplaced priorities, Wright said.

If the Alberta government stopped spending money to entice oil companies to locate in the province and put funds into an Alberta government owned oil company, additional revenue could be generated for education, Wright said. "We the government and the people should be dealing with the industry first hand, not second hand by trying to persuade others to invest here," he added.

Besides putting more funds into

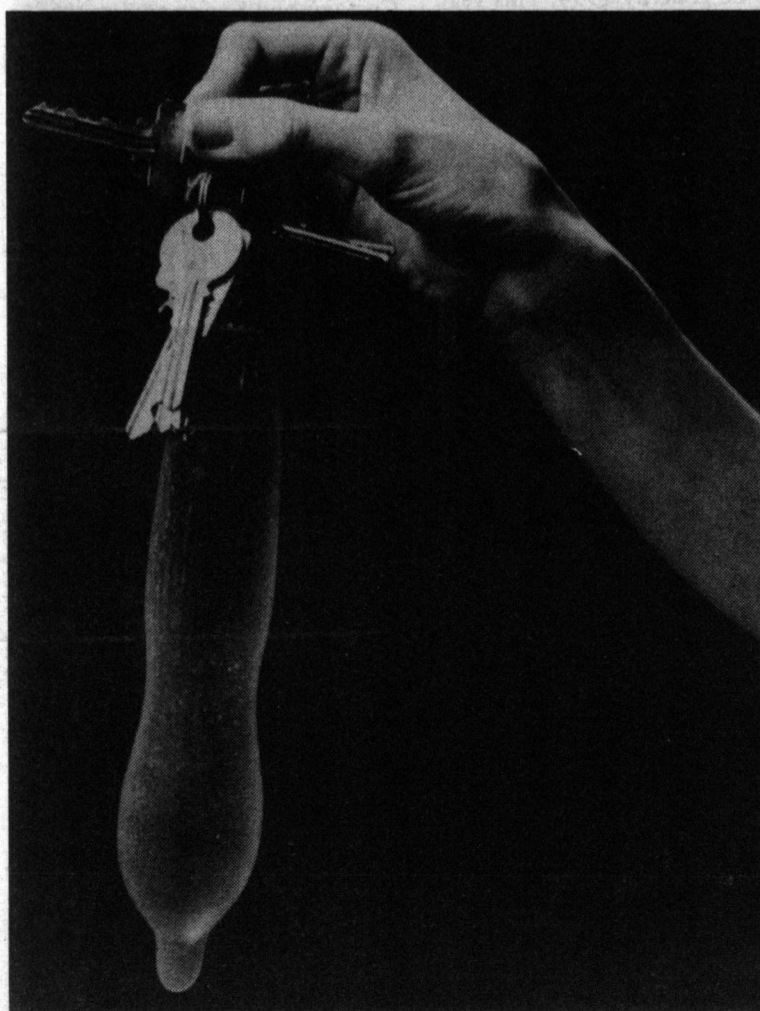
the budget for Alberta post-secondary institutions, additional cash should be allocated for student loans, Wright notes, adding the remission portion of the loans should also be increased. "No man or woman should be denied higher education simply because they cannot afford it, but that is happening," he said.

Controversy over the fate of the Strathcona bus barns, the traffic problem in the Lister Hall area, and taxation will be other election issues, Wright noted.

Wright hopes to represent the New Democrats in the Strathcona riding for another term. The date for the nomination meeting will be set at the ND Edmonton Strathcona annual meeting Thursday, January 19.

Edmonton Strathcona Progressive Conservatives are also preparing for a spring election. Three men have announced intentions to run for the candidacy at a nomination meeting Monday, January 30. Vying for the position

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Condoms are the key to safe sex say Students' Union officials. About 100 condom keychains have been ordered to boost the SU's image.

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