

Politics not for academics; objectivity is destroyed

Academics have no special place in politics, said a member of the legislature recently.

"Everyone is included in the field of politics," said Edgar Gerhart, MLA. "The academic will not play a more active part than a truck-driver (or representative of any other lay group).

"The only part the academic plays depends on the stability of mind he brings to the job," he said.

Mr. Gerhart was one of three panelists speaking on academics in

politics. Remaining panelists were Dr. Tom Pocklington, associate professor of the political science department and Peter Boothroyd, graduate student in sociology.

One of the dangers involved with having academics in politics is that they may become too emotionally involved, said Mr. Gerhart.

"If he (the academic) becomes too emotionally involved, his research or work will become too colored," he said.

"When I ask an academic to ad-

vice me I want good sound advice."

Boothroyd challenged Mr. Gerhart's search for honest and unbiased research.

"You will never get it," he said, "because there is no such thing."

Boothroyd suggested politicians ask academics to explicate their values and take these into account when using their research.

"When academic research is financed by a government agency and the government is tied up with some organizations, then the research will be slightly biased," said Boothroyd.

"Academics have to try somehow to find independent sources," he said.

Dr. Pocklington, a member of the New Democratic Party and the Edmonton Committee to End the War in Vietnam, refuted certain claims against having academics in politics.

"I have heard it said participation (in politics) destroys the academic's objectivity.

"But no-one has ever shown that those who are active tend to be less objective than their non-active counterparts," he said.

"It's a mistake to think of objectivity as some sort of personal accomplishment," he said.

"In my view, not only is it not true academics shouldn't be involved in politics, but I would claim they have a special duty to be involved.

"Since academics form one of the most privileged groups in our society they should have a responsibility to those less fortunate," said Dr. Pocklington.

Computers soon to handle circulation for libraries

By MARGARET BOLTON

Are you getting tired of filling out those complicated library cards every time you take out a book?

Next year the circulation departments should be computerized. The student taking a book from the Cameron, Rutherford, or education libraries will be able to present his machine-readable badge and the book's IBM card to any one of eight circulation points, without writing anything.

The information will be transmitted to a central teleprocessing punch in the Cameron library where they will be placed on a single card. These will be taken to the university's main computer in the physics-computing science building to be processed.

"This system will be used for all aspects of circulation," said co-ordinator of systems planning and development N. W. Johnson. "Records of books on loan and those held for borrowers, and overdue, fine, and recall notices will be produced by the computer.

MAYBE, MAYBE NOT

"We hope to get this going by the summer, but there are many problems to be overcome and we may not start until September.

"Simon Fraser, UBC, and UCLA are the only other libraries in

North America to use this system," he said.

"In time we hope to mechanize administrative processes. These include acquisition and cataloguing, management information, and accounting systems. It should take at least five years.

"We later will mechanize the information storage and retrieval. This is a difficult area, for no one has yet developed a workable system for as large and complex library as this one."

Seminars offered for students planning wedlock

The students' union never came through with its proposed seminar on birth control, but the Family Service Association of Edmonton is offering the next best thing.

In co-operation with the Edmonton churches, the association will hold a series of six lectures on "Education for Marriage" beginning Feb. 13 in the students' union building.

Designed primarily for students planning to be married in the near future, the lectures will cover the legal, financial, physical, emotional, spiritual and general aspects of marriage.

All students interested in the program should contact Fred Milnes at 424-4161 for registration forms.

DID YOU KNOW

That there are 60 headlines in this issue of the Gateway?

Married student rents to rise twenty dollars

Director of food and housing Derek Bone informed students' council Monday of an impending increase in rents for married student housing.

The increase from \$110 to \$130.73 for a two-bedroom apartment will go into effect in the fall.

Mr. Bone said the main reason for the hike is the university's insistence that the Michener Park complex be operated as a break-even business with residents paying for the mortgage and contributing to a reserve fund for repairs.

At least two of the married students on students' council stated they are paying rents lower than \$130 for apartments which offer more convenience and advantages than the Michener Park complex.

"If you compare the rates down there to some of the rates across town, you have to start wondering what's going on down there to make the rents so high," said co-ordinator of student activities Glenn Sinclair.

"Considering that the whole purpose of building married student housing was to provide reasonable housing, this increase is a little hard to take," he said.

Mr. Bone said he is sure the amount of floor space per apartment at Michener Park is greater than that in any other apartment in the same or a lower price range and from his understanding of the current housing crisis in the city, anyone who is renting a two-bedroom apartment for less than \$130 is just "one of the lucky few".

He gave council the following cost projection for the 299 rented units in the complex, outlining the exact breakdown of the \$130.73 fee:

	COMPLEX		RENTED UNIT	
	Per Year	Per Month	Per Year	Per Month
Mortgage Payment	\$276,480.00	\$23,040.00	\$ 924.68	\$ 77.05
Administration	10,000.00	833.33	33.44	2.78
Maintenance (Systems)	9,600.00	800.00	32.10	2.76
Depreciation (Systems)	16,666.66	1,388.88	55.74	4.64
Maintenance (Equipment)	7,200.00	600.00	24.08	2.00
Depreciation (Equipment)	33,333.33	2,777.77	111.48	9.29
Maintenance (Grounds)	9,600.00	800.00	32.10	2.67
Decorating	11,960.00	996.66	40.00	3.33
Window Cleaning	2,000.00	166.66	6.68	.55
Garbage Removal	5,000.00	416.66	16.72	1.39
Janitor Service	5,000.00	416.66	16.72	1.39
Fuel	30,000.00	2,500.00	100.33	8.36
Electricity & Water	24,000.00	2,000.00	80.26	6.68
Insurance	3,600.00	300.00	12.04	1.00
General Supplies	1,500.00	125.00	5.01	.41
Contingencies	7,000.00	583.33	23.41	1.95
TOTAL	\$452,939.99	\$37,744.95	\$1,514.79	\$126.16
University Payment	16,430.00	1,369.16	54.94	4.57
TOTAL	\$469,369.99	\$39,114.11	\$1,569.73	\$130.73

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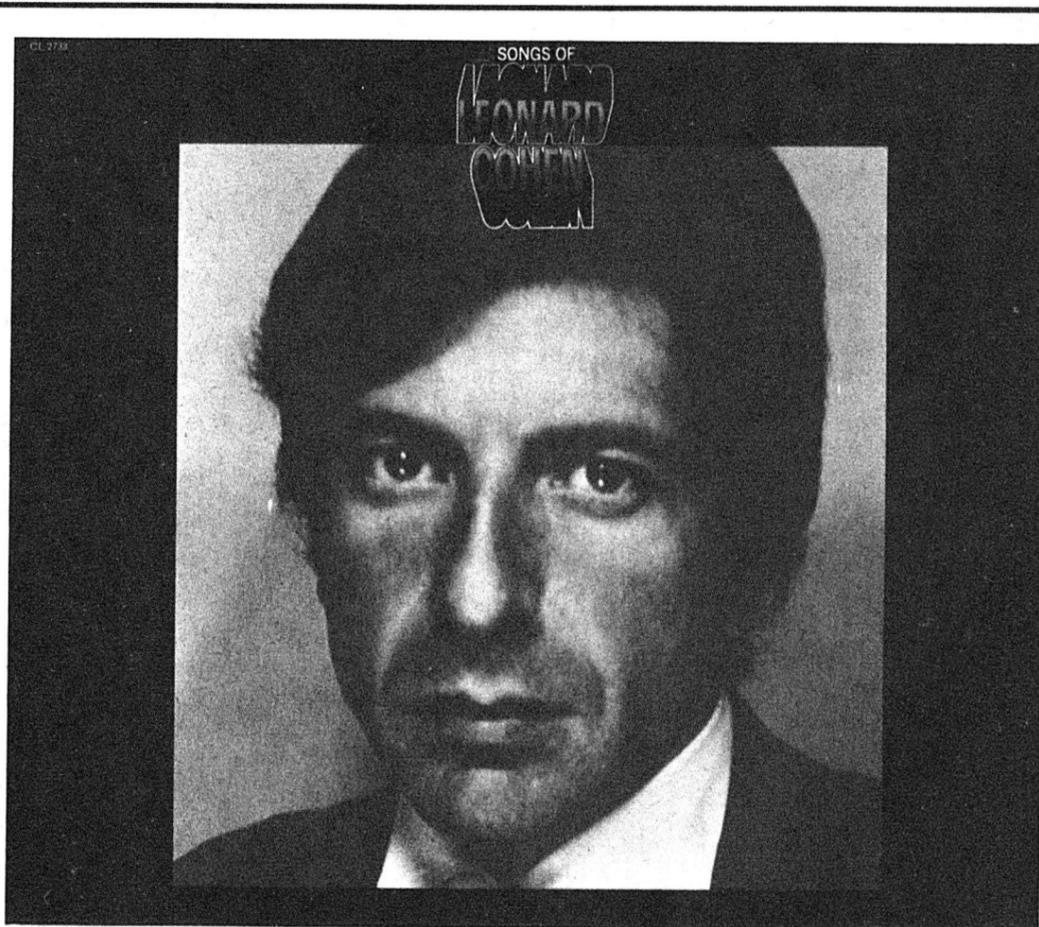
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