

Who will be the opposition

I am glad to see that you, too, are doing your bit in the election by supporting Gordon Wright. With your track record, though, don't you think that's giving him an unfair disadvantage?

It does concern me though that you neglected to mention the other candidates we (of less political insight than our wonderful *Gateway* editors) might have the temerity to want to vote for. Even "Hanlon at Large" stated that it is Social Credit candidate Ernie Charman who is giving Koziak a run for his money — but I guess that we "restless conservatives" (i.e. anyone who isn't NDP) just don't count in the reality of class struggle.

Well, things in the outside world are not always as we student politicians and pundits may wish — even with *Gateway* support. So I suggest (as much as I hate this NDP phrase — because I believe that just maybe the people running are individuals with their own strengths and weaknesses and not simply pawns in a grand strategy of right versus left) that you may be "wasting your vote" by voting Gordon Wright simply to defeat Julian Koziak.

All of the Strathcona candidates have their own merits and personalities, and as University students we have probably had the best training in thinking and evaluating of anyone in this province, so why not make an effort to look at all of the candidates and vote for the one who will do the most good? Let's send more than "a message" — let's send someone who cares.

Mike Ekelund
Arts I
Candidate for Social Credit

Wright wasn't wrong, has numbers to prove it

In your article on the NDP meeting on Monday you said that I did not cite the figures of per pupil expenditure in support of my point, in denial of Mr. Hyndman (and now Mr. Lougheed) that Alberta ranks 1st in elementary-secondary educational expenditure amongst the provinces.

This left the impression I didn't give the evidence for my statement. I certainly did. I cited the Statistics Canada 1978 estimates for per capita expenditures by province as follows:

Quebec	531
Manitoba	495
Ontario	486
Alberta	479

I added that I had been unable to get per-pupil figures on a comparative basis, but the figures will be worse because of the larger proportion of school pupils in Alberta.

The point of course is that when the Conservatives took over we were first, and the Minister of Education is the incumbent in this constituency.

G.S.D. Wright
NDP Strathcona

Letters

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the *Gateway*, Room 282 SUB, Edmonton, or dropped off at our office. Please include your name, student I.D. number (if applicable) and phone number. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. If you wish to write a longer piece, come to see us. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for libel.

Open letter to Lougheed

Throughout the past year and during the present election campaign, the University of Alberta Students' Union has repeatedly asked both you and members of your government to publicly address students on your party's educational policy. On all occasions without exception, you have refused. Your avoidance of any kind of public debate or discussion is inexcusable, particularly during an election.

Students at the University of Alberta are especially concerned about the Student Loan Program. It has been a year since

you promised a review of the loan program and it is still not forthcoming. In view of this, I would like to know, before the election, if you are:

- 1) going to lower the age of independence from 20 to 18?
- 2) going to make financial aid available to part-time students?
- 3) planning to place a ceiling on student loans?
- 4) planning to replace the present remission system with a grant system?

I would also like to know, Mr. Lougheed, why you have not yet announced what the University of Alberta can expect for its

base grant for the 1979-80 financial year? It seems to me that the University community should know this before Election Day. Since we have not heard what the grant will be, I assume you are waiting until after the election in order that you can make even more drastic cut-backs. I do not think this is fair play, much less in the democratic spirit!

Mr. Lougheed, I believe students have a right to know what your policy positions are before 14 March 1979.

Cheryl Hume
SU President

Vote on abortion stance

Looking at most of the issues at hand for the provincial election, I, like so many other voters, consider the differences in parties as relatively small except for the socialist polarization of the NDP. I have finally found an issue which I can bite my teeth into. Petty issues like who annexes what property, or whether to spend more or less taxation money in municipal subsidization concern me not. As far as I'm concerned, a social credit, liberal, or conservative would act very similar. I believe it represents the attitude of

politicians in affluent society. Namely, pay attention to the small issues and sell your party its publicity image, while leaving the life and death issues which confront us. Moral issues are often publicized by the media as fanatical and disturbing and as such are candidly ignored. With the aforesaid in mind I suggest that the solutions of 1) providing an issue worth voting for and 2) choosing a member of parliament who best represents your point of view on life, are available in this issue. The issue is abortion. The last few volumes

of the *Gateway* have given you the ability to make a fairly wise decision on abortion. At the entrance to the chapel in Saint Joe's there is a list of the politicians who endorse or oppose abortion. This issue polarizes people as to their fundamental beliefs of life. I hope you consider this character revealing polarization of the politician infinitely more important than the petty issues in the election.

Konrad Kuzminski
Pharmacy 3

RIFLESCOPE



By Bernie Peters

ON THE HOOK, OFF THE HOOK

I received a real nasty letter from **Edmonton Telephones**. You can tell service is bad when the phone company communicates by letter.

But fear not, improvements are on the way. The phone company has taken a page from **Edmonton Northlands'** book, *Avoiding Lawsuits By Name Changing*, and changed their name to **E.T. & T. (Edmonton Telegraph and Telephones)**.

The biggest innovation will be the **Las Vegas payphone**. E.T. & T. figures getting a call through is a gamble so why not make it interesting. To operate you put your 20¢ in, pull the slot machine lever and a light comes on displaying either the words "win", "place" or "show". "Win" pays off like a slot machine giving you enough dimes to get your call through by sheer numerical probability. "Place" means place your call knowing full well that some incompetent downtown is accidentally going to connect you to the **KGB in Minsk**. If the word "show" appears a tiny screen slips up and you see a two minute quickie flick from **Tijuana**.

Apparently the show is the next best thing to being there.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT

Spring has sprung and everyone is happy except the late **Harry Gunning**. The warm weather is causing Harry to rot. That's not the only change coming over the ex-U of A President. Harry has changed his opinion on abortion and is now in favour of it. Harry says, "Being dead has given me a different view of the **pro-lifers** and what they stand for."

Gunning hasn't lost his sense of humour, either. Last Friday Harry showed up for the **reading of his will**. He left his whole estate to himself and named himself sole executor. According to Harry, if he can't take it with him then **he isn't leaving**.

OUT IN LEFT FIELD

Ever wonder what would happen if **Moonie deprogrammers** turned to politics. No, huh. Well, a group called **Left-Wing Deprogramming, Inc.** has opened shop. Their method employs subjecting the misguided left-winger to **John Diefenbaker** speeches, **John Wayne** movies, and video tapes of the **1972 Canada-Russia hockey series**.

Treatment grad **Mike Ekelund** used to quote Mao, attend PSA meetings and ate only cottage cheese before he discovered the true light of free-enterprising capitalism. Graduate and *Gateway* news editor **Tom Barrett** is a haircut away from right-wing perfection. On the other hand, **Grant Notley** got the haircut but not the politics.

The deprogrammers were going to go to work on *Gateway* editor **Loreen Lennon**. But, after seeing the pink front page on the women's supplement, not to mention the wetsuit ad, they realized that Lennon was probably an **undercover agent** for the political right trying to subliminally subvert the left.

TRUE GRIT

Tomorrow is election day and the bars will be closed. That's bad news for **Taylor's Albertans** who were hoping that the entire province would get **pissed to the gills** and vote them into office. Nick Taylor's campaign manager **Harvey Groberman** has been running around campus in his toga passing out wine, grapes and women while yelling "eat, drink and be merry, tomorrow you shall die."

Don't get me wrong, the Grits have a purpose in this election. If it weren't for them, **Eddie Keehn** would have nobody to be compared favourably to.

SHOW UP AND VOTE

Anyone with the good sense to read this column deserves **Lougheed, Notley, Clark and Taylor**.

\$ The Gateway 1979/80 Staff requires: \$



- News editor
- Associate news editor
- Arts editor
- Sports editor
- Production editor
- Photo editor
- CUP editor

No experience necessary

All interested persons should enquire at the Gateway office by **FRIDAY, MARCH 23**