

# gateway

Tuesday, February 28, 1984

Socrates...

...had a drinking problem.

## QUOTAS!

by Mark Roppel

Unless next month's Provincial budget contains a major surprise, 1500 Alberta High School students will be barred from the University of Alberta.

University President Myer Horowitz announced on the Friday before reading week that he intends to impose quotas on first-year students next year.

"As of last week, our enrolment of full-time students exceeded 23,300. In addition, 4,300 people are studying for degrees on a part-time basis. Unless we control our numbers, our best prediction is that we shall have 25,000 full-time students in September 1984," said Horowitz.

The quota on first-year students will be 4500. About 6000 students are expected to apply.

Fewer first year students will be admitted next year than were admitted this year. In the 1983-84 winter session 5335 first-year students were admitted. The quotas will mark a return to the 1982-83 level when 4791 first-year students were admitted.

The Provincial budget will not be handed down until March 27, but Horowitz isn't expecting much of an increase in the base budget of the University: "It won't be enough to accommodate all the people available if we didn't have quotas."

This year the University budget was about 200 million

dollars but Horowitz refuses to speculate on what it will be next year or how much money would be needed before quotas became unnecessary.

Students' Union President Robert Greenhill says the University has "never experienced this level of cutbacks before. Limiting access to university is a public policy and the University shouldn't be made to do it for lack of funds...Horowitz should not have to make policy for a government that doesn't have the guts to do it itself."

In September, the U of A increased its entrance requirement from a high school average of 60 per cent to an average of 65 per cent. With quotas it would take a 72 per cent average to guarantee acceptance, according to projections by the Institutional Research and Planning department.

Students in the 65 to 72 per cent bracket would in effect be put on hold.

"The government is reducing accessibility by reducing funding," says Blair Redlin, senior researcher for the Official Opposition in the Legislature. "The government has a tendency to reduce funding shortly after an election."

"When the House re-opens on March 15, we (the NDP) definitely will raise the issue."

Advanced Education Minister Dick Johnston was unavailable for comment.

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These two people have better things to do than to listen to Nina Blackwell but hopefully RATT's new satellite dish will entertain some customers.

## RATT gets MTV videos

by Mark Roppel

After more than two years of delays, Music Television (MTV) has finally arrived in RATT.

A satellite dish was installed on the roof of the Student's Union Building on Friday, Feb. 17. By last Tuesday, MTV was appearing on the big screen which previously had been reserved for Oiler's hockey games.

"There are 23 channels (available with the satellite dish). There are a couple of news stations, an all-sports station, some movie channels... mostly we will keep it on MTV," says RATT Manager Don Moore. "You don't have to follow it constantly like a movie - you can just glance up now and again and keep chattering with you friends."

"We've been trying to get this thing (satellite dish) since Rick Bishop was manager - that was two years ago," says Moore.

But until last year the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) had a regulation against institutions owning satellite dishes.

After the CRTC regulation was repealed the next obstacle to overcome was the U of A Physical Plant. "The University thought the dish would damage the roof," says Moore.

But after meetings with AVS video, the company that installed the dish, the Physical Plant was persuaded that the dish would not be harmful.

"It only weighs about 200 pounds," says Moore.

Students Union Business Manager Tom Wright says that installed, the dish costs \$6500 but he expects MTV to pay for itself soon.

"This year RATT will make about \$45,000. Next year I would guess it will make \$55,000," says Wright. "I think the dish will make a big difference."

"It's only been here four or five days and that was during Reading Week, so it is kind of difficult to tell but we have been pretty busy during the evenings," says Moore.

One serious problem is that during daylight hours, it is too bright in RATT to properly see the television screen.

Moore says RATT is planning to buy dark curtains.

"It would seem kind of ridiculous if we spent \$6500 and couldn't show it (MTV) until 11:00 at night."

Moore says drapes on the west side should be enough so the view from RATT will not be totally destroyed.

Tom Wright estimates the drapes will cost \$3000.

MTV should provide entertainment for RATT patrons, but Don Moore doesn't think it will make his life any more exciting. "I've seen the same videos three times already. It will get very tedious for the staff. You'll see Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' five times a day. But it's not for us, it's for the customers."

## EDITORIAL

It is now obvious the Provincial Government doesn't care about the future of society.

The decision to prevent 1500 qualified people from entering the University of Alberta was made by the Tories, not by U of A President Myer Horowitz.

Increased enrollment caused by high unemployment in a stagnant economy has not been met with corresponding funding from the Tory government. The University had to make a choice.

Should more professors teach out of textbooks because they don't have time to do their jobs properly? Should research be further neglected because there is no money for either facilities or staff?

Should more students leave the University with a degree that is worth about the same as a piece of toilet paper?

Or should the University impose quotas?

The Conservative government said the Heritage Trust Fund is an "investment in our future." Their policy towards secondary education clearly shows they have no interest in anybody's future.

The numbers speak for themselves.

According to the Statistics Canada, the percentage of the Canadian Gross National Product spent on Education in 1971 was nine percent. In 1981, 7.8 percent of the GNP was spent on Education.

This is provincially allocated money.

Advanced Education Minister Dick Johnston is one of only a few ministers who chose not to have an Executive Assistant. I personally know of at least two dozen instances where Johnston could not be reached during the course of a day.

How's that for accountability?

Johnston keeps his mouth shut for fear of getting his bottom whacked by Peter Lougheed.

Recently, President Horowitz warned that the Universities in Canada are rapidly "becoming more elitist than they were in the 1920s and 1930s."

Apparently, that is what our government wants.

Ken Lenz

## Pre-trial hearings are over for the Gateway

by Brent Jang

Students' Union Business Manager Tom Wright testified last Friday at a pre-trial hearing into the confiscation of the Nov. 19, 1981 issue of the Gateway.

The U of A Students Union filed a civil action suit for damages against the City of Edmonton on November 25, 1981. It named the Fire Department, the Edmonton City Police, and the U of A's Campus Security as defendants.

The alleged wrongful seizure of the Gateway occurred because of the Nov. 19 story on an arson in the Students' Union Building. City officials were afraid of copy-cat fires and believed the story would be detrimental to a Department investigation.

There had been no court orders issued to justify the seizure.

At last Friday's hearing, Wright (who is also the Gateway's advertising manager) was questioned by a City of Edmonton Lawyer.

A number of undertakings will have to be fulfilled before the case goes to trial. The SU's lawyer says a court date has not been set, but figures the claim will not make it to trial until late 1984 or early 1985.

The SU, on behalf of the Gateway is claiming special damages for tangible out-of-pocket expenses (loss of advertising revenues), general damages, and punitive damages.

Friday's pre-trial hearing was the last of three examinations for discovery. The first two were held in May and in June of 1983.

**YES! You've been waiting for it all year! The Gateway starts a speakers series featuring some of Canada's finest writers. Come to the staff meeting this Thursday in Room 282 SUB at 4:00 for the important details.**