

The Gateway

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

News special:
Environmental
Awareness Week Feature

"The experts outnumber the grizzlies 100 to one."—an anonymous wildlife official.



Ron Sears

Giving from the heart

Peter Rosendal, a first-year engineering student, exposed a vein for the Red Cross Wednesday afternoon. A blood donor clinic will be set up in CAB until Friday.

Candidates display concern for environment

by Mitch Panciuk

University of Alberta students were treated to a Ward 5 municipal candidates forum held at the Myer Horowitz Theatre Wednesday. Incumbent Patricia Mackenzie, independent Don McMann, and Clean Slate candidate Marg Durnin addressed the crowd on issues which concerned the student population.

Each of the candidates answered questions which members of the audience raised during the question and answer period.

Clean Slate candidate Durnin was the only one to propose tax increases to correct existing environmental problems.

"What the City must do is insure that development does not damage our environment," Durnin said, explaining that future municipal developments should follow an approach which is environmentally sound. When asked for a price-tag on how much it would cost to clean up the city, Durnin responded that she "had no idea, but the citizens of Edmonton are prepared to spend the money now," and therefore

prevent "increasing the expenses in the future."

Incumbent Mackenzie felt that "stewardship of the environment and taxes are the key points of this election." While she was happy to be able to speak at the University during Environment Awareness Week, she stressed that each and every student must "balance what they can do personally, and what the Municipal government can do." Mackenzie pointed out that "this generation is going to have to make some choices: the choice between using cloth diapers instead of disposable, and the choice of using beige toilet paper in place of bleached-white."

Independent candidate Don McMann stressed the need to stop using the level of disposable products which our city is now using: "Above all, we must stop using plastic, as plastic is reusable but not recyclable." In terms of specific Ward 5 problems, McMann felt that it is imperative to "redesign the surface drainage system to make it less environmentally damaging."

The civic election will take place on Monday, October 16.

Campus recycling pushed

by Gil McGowan

In an effort to promote recycling, the University administration has promised to publish a list outlining the location of recycling bins on campus.

According to Building Services manager Werner Larsen, the list will make it easier for students and staff to participate in the campus' already extensive recycling program.

Since the early seventies, the University has been collecting more than 100,000 lbs. of recyclable wastepaper every month. The amount of paper recycled in an average year would "fill the field at Commonwealth Stadium, end zones included, to a depth of four feet".

Despite these impressive figures, Larsen admits that the existing system is not capable of dealing effectively with student-generated wastepaper.

"The focus has not been on students because, while students do produce wastepaper, the heavy producers are in administration."

Larsen noted, however, that students can make use of some of the campus' 544 recycling bins in many

buildings such as, SUB, HUB, CAB, Ag-Forestry and the libraries.

While the University's administrative orientation may frustrate many environmentally conscious students, Larsen argues that he has allowed the University to lay the groundwork for an effective waste management program.

The U of A's program has been so successful, in fact, that it has been used as a model by many other institutions, including the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge.

Larsen hopes to expand the recycling program to include cans and bottles, but says that such an effort will have to wait until local waste contractors have developed more comprehensive systems for "blue-box" collection.

Laidlaw Waste Systems Ltd., for example, the company which collects "blue boxes" for the city of Edmonton, has not yet been able to adapt its curbside pick-up system to large institutions such as the U of A.

This gap may be filled, however, by blue-boxes distributed by the Students' Union in conjunction with Environmental Awareness

Week. Though there are one hundred and fifty of these boxes on campus, SU organizers hope that their use will encourage the University to expand its waste management system.

"We are issuing a challenge to the University," says SU VP External Wade Deisman.

The SU has also asked University President Paul Davenport to establish a standing committee on environmental issues.

"If we continue on an ad hoc basis, the program will be less effective," says Deisman.

In addition to wastepaper recycling, the University recycles batteries, copper wire, scrap metal, and waste oil from the University Vehicle Pool.

Substances that cannot be easily recycled, such as hazardous chemicals and bio-hazardous wastes, are disposed of by a variety of processes including neutralization, storage and high-temperature incineration.

"The chemical management program is working well. We've had no problems with emissions," says Plant Utilities manager Stan Ostapowich.

Students confront Klein

by Shannon Taylor

Environment Minister Ralph Klein was attacked by University of Alberta students and political opponents during an environmental debate in Myer Horowitz Theatre Monday.

Klein, Alberta Liberal environment critic Grant Mitchell, and New Democrat critic John McInnis debated environmental issues and fielded questions from students. While all questions were directed to Klein, Mitchell and McInnis received the only applause during the debate.

Klein began the debate saying the public is becoming too emotional over the environment issue. "Let's stop yelling, and let's get down to a reasonable well thought out debate. It's time to get rid of emotionalism."

However, the crowd cheered on McInnis when he disagreed with Klein. "People are finally catching up with what scientists have been telling us for years - our planet is dying." "This is not the time to wallow in self congratulations," McInnis added.

Debate during the forum focussed on pulp mills. The Alberta government announced plans for seven mills in the northern end of the province prior to December 1988.

"The mills will be forced to meet whatever standards are deemed the best in the world," Klein said, adding public hearings regarding the pulp mill issue will be held in locations between Athabasca and the North West Territories. Following the hearings, the provincial government will develop new pulp mill standards.

The students, along with Mitchell and McInnis, were not satisfied with the government's plans.

When asked about the limited scope of the public hearings, Klein said the hearings are planned for the areas close to the mills. "When the Old Man River dam project was an issue, people travelled from all over the province to protest.

"I encourage people to do this here - car pooling of course."

Mitchell accused Klein of trivializing the issue with his flip comment. "We laugh about it, when we should be crying about it," he said.

Mitchell said hearings should be held in all areas of the province - especially in Edmonton and Cal-

gary. "Because you're not right next door to a pulp mill, doesn't mean you won't be affected."

"There is wide ranging geographical effects," Mitchell added.

Regarding the government's plans to develop pulp mill standards, one disgruntled student said "The environment doesn't have time to wait."

Mitchell agreed, saying since the government is still formulating an agenda, a moratorium should be put on every pulp mill in the province. "A moratorium is needed until such a time as we do have a model that proves no damage is done to the environment."



Ralph Klein attended the environment debate on Monday.

Jeff Cowley