

How they stack up

The NDP speak out on university issues...

by Peter Block

Three area NDP candidates appeared at SUB Theatre last Wednesday, Oct. 20, to outline their policy platforms and to take turns criticizing the Conservative government on issues ranging from University funding to the shape of the Alberta economy.

Whitemud candidate Dr. Leslie Bella, Parkallen candidate Dr. Jim Russell and Strathcona candidate Gordon Wright all appeared alongside NDP leader Grant Notley for the noon hour forum.

Bella, speaking first, focussed on proposals for equality of opportunity

and access at universities. Criticizing the Tory "Scattergun award program that hits some and misses others," Bella wants to see a support program which is based on student need.

Bella pointed out five groups which may be at a disadvantage and proposed affirmative action to rectify the situation. The areas specifically addressed were: the economically disadvantaged; the low proportion of native students; the problem of adjustment faced by many rural students; the under-representation of women in the natural sciences and graduate studies; and the psychological and financial problems which may be encountered by mature

students.

Departing immediately for a rare all party forum, Bella was followed by her colleague running in Edmonton Parkallen, Dr. Jim Russell. Russell, a member of the General Faculties Council executive, used his time to focus on the relationship between the university and the wider community.

"The economy is in a mess," proclaimed Russell, and the Alberta N.D.P. "would get Alberta back to work."

His plan for accomplishing this would not be similar to the Conservative scheme of giving the large oil companies back their royalties of \$4.5 billion. Some of the pump-priming

activities proposed by Russell include "getting on with construction of LRT," work on converting natural gas into gasoline, and over the long run, ensuring the diversification of the Alberta economy. This would be accomplished by intervening in the economy when it is necessary, unlike the Tories who are relying solely on the market.

The U of A campus also figured in Russell's speech. The newly completed W.C.M. Health Sciences Centre was labelled "a fraud" for containing neither science space nor laboratory space.

What it is, Russell claims, is nothing more than the "new South Edmonton General Hospital."

As for Peter Loughheed's goal of establishing a 'brain centre,' Russell claims the Premier is "creating a brain centre without a head."

The parking lot adjacent to the Jubilee Auditorium should be used for the construction of a children's hospital says Russell.

"Unlike the Tories, we don't feel that only children in Calgary get sick." In addition, the lot would be large enough to also house a new performing arts centre. Finally, the entire site would be integrated into a main LRT station.

The final local candidate to speak was Gordon Wright from the Strathcona riding. His speech focused on relevant student issues as this riding includes the entire campus including all of the students it houses.

"It is the basic right of all Canadians to be educated to the extent they are qualified, what is so radical about this?" Wright asked to an applauding audience.

Further to this he asked, "What

is the point of a university education if when you get out there's no job?" To this, Wright highlights part of an NDP economic resurgence plan as opposed to the Tory plan "for the re-election of Tories."

Saying the government should steer away from mega-projects, Wright believes there is a time when it is necessary for government intervention in the economy. Reiterating the Party's previously announced mortgage interest sheltering, as well as similar aid to farmers and small business, the NDP renter assistance plan was also restated. Aid would be forthcoming to all those whose rent exceeds 25% of their total income.

Wright also took time to explain the dispute he was involved in regarding the 1979 election. Contrary to the Election Act, Wright explained how students housed in University accommodation (i.e. HUB and Lister Hall) were not enumerated. The final result which saw Wright lose to Tory Julian Koziak by some 660 votes was petitioned because of the ignoring of those non-enumerated students. Koziak, Wright claims, opposed such a petition, even though it included some 2000 students.

To conclude, Wright criticized Koziak who became Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, for overseeing the abolition of rent controls. Not only would these be reinstated under the NDP, explained Wright, but a tenant's bill of rights would be created.

The fate of these three candidates lies with Edmontonians in Whitemud, Parkallen and Strathcona, and by all accounts, should prove to be a close race.

SU sponsors own nuke week

by Wes Oginski

As the spectre of nuclear arms falls over Alberta with the approaching Cruise missile test, the U of A prepares for Nuclear Disarmament Week.

According to Teresa Gonzalez, SU vp external, the External Affairs Board has helped organize a week of information "to help students focus and learn a little bit more about nuclear disarmament."

The week of activities runs from November 1 - 7, a week after the United Nations Nuclear Disarmament Week (October 25 - 31). Gonzalez says the time difference occurs in consideration of midterm week falling on the week declared by the U.N.

"We're trying to get things organized on campus more (than last year's Disarmament Week) towards students," she says.

Last year, Nuclear Disarmament Week was organized into evening seminars. This year the events are scheduled for afternoon and evening seminars, lectures and films.

Bruce Billingley of the External Affairs Board organized this year's campus events. Some of the highlights include:

- The Peace Council is sponsoring Nino Pasti, a former NATO general, and presently an independent member of the Italian parliament. Gonzalez says, "It's interesting to find that many NATO generals are anti-nuclear."
- Anne McGrath of Edmonton

Calgary, Edmonton, Lloydminster, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge and Stettler.

- A British dramatization of the effects of a direct nuclear hit on a major population center in Peter Watkins 1964 production of *The War Game*.

Gonzalez stresses that Nuclear Disarmament Week is a group effort even though the SU has supplied all the financing.

"We're working with people all over," she says listing: Project Ploughshares, the Peace Council, the Campus Group for Nuclear Disarmament, and Alberta Conference United Church.

Members of the government were asked to attend, but Gonzalez says the advent of the provincial election forestalled those plans.

"We want to raise concern with what our governments are going to be doing (about the nuclear issue)," she adds "I think it is important to the politics of this province."

"I encourage students to come out to this (week of Nuclear Disarmament)," Gonzalez stresses.

She also says to watch for posters on campus to find out the locations, times and details of events.



Working Women will address "The Economic and Social Costs of Maintaining the Arms Race."

- Workshops on Nuclear power and disarmament will take place in

...the PC's say

by Peter Block

It has frequently been said that while Rome burned, Nero fiddled.

After hearing Julian Koziak, the PC candidate for Strathcona address students in the law centre last Thursday, it appears his fiddle is finely tuned.

The university is suffering from overcrowding and underfunding: Julian Koziak spoke of outdated laws in Nebraska. However, the universities did arise in Koziak's speech. He said the government looks to the universities for leadership "which will direct and lead all society." That shouldn't be much of a problem as most classes have a large proportion of society in them.

As for university funding (or lack of it), Koziak emphasized that the Tories have made "significant commitments." In fact, these commitments have been so significant that tuition only went up 20 percent last year. Thanks for the generosity.

When questioned, the former Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs stated that if the U of A makes out a case, funding will be increased. Where, preytell, was Mr. Koziak last March when students marched to the Legislature (with the university's blessing)?

Koziak emphasized the need for available jobs after students graduate. He went on to boast of the 450,000 jobs created in the province over the 11 year Tory term. At least his figure is a little more in the ballpark as compared with his boss's claim. Earlier in the election campaign, Peter Loughheed stated the figure at 500,000 jobs. Maybe, if we listen closely, they'll count again and announce a new figure. After all, Koziak was only 73,000 over the mark set out by Statistics Canada.

But then the actual number is meaningless; the bottom line is that unemployment is up.

Quite a memorable speech was dished up for the noonhour forum by Mr. Koziak. Digesting the references to Adam Smith was a little tough, but all of the approximate 65 people present heard how wonderful the Tories are (and will be) as well as how great Albertans are. Imagine such lines as "with your wisdom the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund was set up." Or, how about, "leadership is something that requires self-discipline." Delicious stuff! But the entree came during the question period.

Would a Tory government in-



Tory incumbent for Strathcona, Julian Koziak

roduce a freedom of information bill? was one question. "OH, SORRY, only time for one question per person," interrupted the 'moderator', "and that's part two for you. Next."

Why won't Loughheed debate the other candidates? "Oh," answered Julian, "I'm not aware of what's scheduled in Calgary West (Loughheed's constituency). As you can see, the fiddling is picking up, but there's more."

When questioned about the shape of the Social Services Department, Koziak replied, "we wish the problems didn't exist." Bravo, bravo. Personally speaking, the problem that I wish didn't exist is that department's Minister, Bob Bogle.

But, before the fun was over, everyone present was treated to a real heartwarming story. It appears that a third-year Law student, way back when she was president of her Lethbridge high school students' union, had a little problem and contacted Julie (who was Education Minister at the time). It seems there was no cafeteria in this school. Well, within one week, there was an official from Julian's department to investigate the problem. Now, this may not seem like all that much, Miss Law student said, but it just goes to prove that (Julian and co.) respond to our problems. Isn't that swell? She just wanted to say thank you. We won't worry about why it took this sweet student 6 years to thank Koziak, because we all feel so warm inside.

After the enjoyable lunchhour with Julian, I can only conclude with what Grant Notley said last week, "I think Alberta public life can stand the loss of the Julian Koziaks...."

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