

editorial

Let's not be coy. Varisty Guest Weekend, as a low-budget SU public relation project, should be scrapped. OK. The second annual born-again VGW had its high points last weekend and was, no doubt more successful than the original 1978 disaster. But it wasn't enough. VGW '79 didn't revive the spirit of the old days, it didn't draw the crowds (8500? Come on!), it didn't capture the essence of university life. It certainly didn't make the clear case for more government funding that some had hoped it would. I'm not even sure it boosted sales in the campus retail outlets.

The point is VGW didn't accomplish anything because it was too grand a project launched with too few resources. And after two years of trying it should be obvious that VGW as we want to remember it won't be resurrected without some pretty elaborate planning. And bucks.

How many of us can honestly recall VGW? All that remains is its reputation as a great public - university get together. The memories aren't specific. Lots of people came to see what a university was all about because VGW was tradition. This significantly aided the organization and promotion of the event both on and off campus.

But eight or nine years later the tradition is too far removed to help the recent attempts. We have mostly forgotten VGW and more importantly in the late seventies our attitudes have changed. It's difficult to imagine a viable VGW right now under any circumstances.

Opening up the university community to the general public is still a pretty good idea and it could work again in time. VGW can't be operated on a shoe string budget, or organized by a skeleton, untrained staff that's given new goals each year. And the responsibility shouldn't rest entirely with the SU. It must be a cooperative, well coordinated effort involving all levels of the University community. VGW must be executed with skill and care, or not at all.

Until everyone can agree to common goals a schedule and adequate funding let's keep VGW as a fond memory.

Or one more revival along the lines of last weekend could sour the whole concept for a very long time.

There's not much left to be said about the provincial election. Everyone knows it's tomorrow. You probably know the university poll is at Garneau School and that you can register yourself as a voter simply by signing an affidavit declaring your eligibility.

Of course, you know you can't get a beer anywhere until after the polls close at 8pm.

You should know that Strathcona is a crucial riding — one of the few in the province boasting a credible opposition candidate. You know how all the candidates feel about all the issues.

You know what the Tory government has done. If you don't agree with Alberta's one-party system you know you can send the Tories a message.

And you ought to know that if you don't cast a ballot tomorrow, you will have voted for the status quo.

What else can I say?

Loreen Lennon

the Gateway

VOL. LXIX NO. 42
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1979
TWENTY PAGES

If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a circulation of 18,500, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Fridays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB. Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.
Newsroom 432-5168
Advertising 432-3423

First and FOREMOST — Veronica Uzielli, Cheryl Knott, Jimm Connell, Shaune "Jonesy" Impey, Deb Rye, John Younie, Russ Sampson, Mike McNeil, Bonnie Bobryk (the only person who doesn't have to be paid to work with frat-boy), Rick Dembicki and Thom Pyncheon, Hollis Brown, Dave "Grshner" Samuel, Gary McGowan, Linda Lovelace...er Wagner, Eugene Plawiuk, take one more look at page 12 eh?, Julie Green, Alison Thomson, Margaret Donovan, Amanda Le Rougetel, Adam Singer (who doesn't appreciate comments after his name), Len Thom, Tony Odenbach, Marilyn Chisholm, Sylvia Betts, Fran Trehearne, let's not forget the junk-food machines downstairs, and thanks to all the little people who make this paper what it is — concise.

SENIOR STAFF
EDITOR—Loreen Lennon
NEWS—Tom Barrett
ASSOCIATE NEWS—Lucinda Chodan
MANAGING—Kent Blinston
ARTS—Gordon Turtle
SPORTS—John Stewart
PHOTO—Shirley Glew
COPY—Tony Higgins
PRODUCTION—Will Stephani
CUP—Keith Krause
ADVERTISING—Tom Wright
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS
Margriet Tilroe-West
CIRCULATION

A NICE STORY WITH NO SMOKING

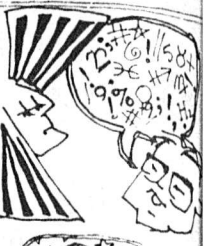
The student newspaper Aggs found was printed on cigar butts. She turned to her horoscope:

The old girl in front of you in the 9-items-or-less-line will have 5095 discount coupons to cash...

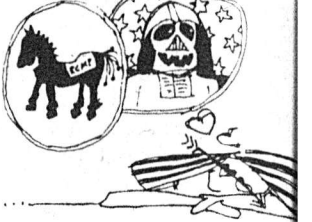


Your new boyfriend assumes he's the Easter Bunny and hides all your eggs, and your rubber bath chicken, and two span-ish omlets...

It wasn't pleasantly vague like a horror-scope in the real world. It read: There will be an excess of punctuation in your life this week...



There was a tall, dark, stranger in your past. Try to guess who he was.



Your parents call to quiz you on the four nutritional groups and to ask them what-the-hell ARE you learning...

"Thank-you" to all the practical people who suggested that this cartoon be double spaced so they could make their corrections easier.

Conservatives have failed us

The executive committee of the Students' Union believes that the Progressive Conservative's policy on post-secondary education should be seriously considered before people vote on Wednesday.

Under the leadership of the Conservatives, the University of Alberta has experienced a marked and steady decline in the amounts by which the operating grants have been increased. In 1975-76, the percentage increase was 15%, in 1978-79, it was 8.25%. This cutback in government funding meant that the University was 6.2 million dollars short of the funds required to meet its proposed 1978-79 budget.

This shortfall of 6.2 million dollars was reflected in a 10% tuition fee hike, the termination and freezing of staff positions, the discontinuation of programs, the deterioration of services, and a general decline in the quality of education provided at the University of Alberta.

In reaction to the severe effects of these cutbacks, the University of Alberta community presented numerous well documented briefs to the Conservative government, in an effort to demonstrate the very real need for increasing funding. After very little consideration by the government, these requests for additional funding were rejected, and no explanations

were given as to why the requests were rejected. This year Conservative government waiting until after the election before it announces what grant will be. Does this mean there will be even more cutbacks?

Another point to be remembered is that Lougheed at the demonstration last March, promised us a review of the student loan program. It has been a year since he made that promise and we still have not heard the results of the review.

A final point to be made is that although the Students' Union has repeatedly invited the Conservative government to participate in open, public discussions of their policy on post-secondary education—they have on every occasion refused.

So it seems, in retrospect that education under the conservative government stagnated. The quality of education has declined and as a result of increased tuition fees compounded by a very poor program, the accessibility of education has also decreased. As far as education in this province is concerned, the Progressive Conservatives have performed most unsatisfactorily.

C. Hume, President
K. Eastlick, VP Inter
M. Ekelund, VP Academic
D. Fisher, VP Finance and Administration
D. Olmstead, President Elect

Len Thom
Arts II

Conservatives have responsible record

It is about time that the students of this university sent the government a message—of support.

Vote on the basis of the facts instead of the false notion that we must have a large opposition of New Democrats at all costs. On the whole, the Progressive Conservatives have provided effective and responsible government with an eye on Alberta's long term future. Even on "student issues" the governments' record is not as bad as the Gateway has pictured.

Consider this, NDP leader Grant Notley has promised funding increases would equal the inflation rate. In 1977 inflation ran at between 8-10% and the university received an 11% increase in the spring of 1978. The facts side with the PCs.

Progressive Conservative policies are not geared to make Alberta absolutely number one in everything. Instead, Peter Lougheed has a goal of long term prosperity for Alberta. Restraint is necessary to insure a secure future for Alberta. The NDP are far too capable of spending away our future now.

Alberta may need opposition, but not THIS opposition. I do not believe you are doing Peter Lougheed a favor by electing Gordon Wright. Wright is an uninspiring public speaker who lacks the forcefulness to be an effective voice in the legislature. Julian Koziak has

been an effective MLA and as a cabinet minister can be an important ally of the university.

The legislature needs the best people capable of constructive input. Examine the governments record, the party platforms and the credentials of the candidates and then make your choice.

The wrong man

Last spring, at the Progressive Conservative nomination meeting for Strathcona, Julian Koziak was contested by Don MacKenzie, a lawyer, former Students' Union President and Rhodes Scholar. MacKenzie lost narrowly to Koziak who captured a large block of ethnic support. The nomination was contested by MacKenzie on the grounds that Strathcona had complex urban problems, such as transportation and housing, that needed to be examined right away and that a comprehensive community development plan be formulated in the near future to ensure Strathcona's development was in harmony with the resident's aims. Koziak campaigned on the governments record and the team approach to solving Alberta's problems. The Lougheed

team may very well be looking after Alberta but the Strathcona riding has received very little attention. We need better representation than what Koziak has to offer us.

Many ranks and members of the Conservative party knew this and sought Don MacKenzie as an alternative member of the community to challenge Koziak. Why should voters of this riding be asked to vote for Koziak when the Conservative themselves acknowledge that he has done very little for the riding and less for the University as a whole? I suggest that voters of Strathcona not vote for a Conservative that other Conservatives don't have faith in.

Scott Thorpe
Arts II