



editorial

U of C prez racist

Students at the University of Calgary have decisively rejected an ill-advised proposal by their student union president to boost tuition fees for foreign students by up to \$1900.

The proposal, presented early this fall by president David Wolf and his twin brother Paul, was based on their belief that foreign students are a burden on the Alberta taxpayer and could well afford to pay the full cost of their university education. They call the provincial educational subsidy "a form of foreign assistance", and apparently wanted to eliminate it in favor of scholarships to a few select needy international students.

The Wolf brothers further claimed their proposal was not racist, but motivated only by a desire to force the rich foreign students to pay for the education of the poor internationals.

The potential results of such a proposal, had it passed through their SU and gone on to a university-sponsored task force which is currently studying the whole question of foreign students, would have been damaging to the current trend towards unity of purpose among students.

A group of U of C students under the name of the Common Front to Oppose Student Tuition Fee Increases (composed of both Canadian and international students) pointed out the dangers in a paper circulated on campus:

"With current trends in government financing of post secondary institutions, a fee increase for international students this year could become an increase for out-of-province students next year, and an increase for Albertan students the year after.

"At a time when a strong student union is necessary to fight government cutbacks in education funding, the fee increase proposal has split students instead of uniting them. This has weakened the Students' Union."

Their predictions proved quite accurate, as President Wolf admitted later that he had no plans to oppose an expected tuition increase of \$300 for all U of C students.

It should be a basic assumption that education is a fundamental right of all people, and that no particular nationality should be barred from this right because of financial discrimination. It is frightening that at the University of Calgary this right is still in question and even more frightening that elected representatives of all the students are the ones fostering the discrimination.

Even aside from the large implications, the Wolf proposal was asinine and poorly thought out. The first brief presented by the Wolf brothers stated that most of the foreign students on the Calgary campus were well off and could easily afford a tuition increase, but they later admitted there were no facts available to back up such a statement: it was just a "feeling."

And a quick refresher course in basic economic theory would show that the "subsidy" to foreign students through provincial grants to the university is no burden on the Alberta taxpayer at all. Internationals on student visas are not permitted to work while in Canada, so all their expenses (room, board, tuition, books, clothing, transportation, etc.) must be paid by money imported from their home countries. This amounts to about \$3000 annually, injected into the Canadian (Albertan) economy, and as all fresh know, the multiplier effect increases that \$3000 many times over, more than compensating for the grants.

Since it is the case that foreign students do not in any way detract or inhibit the growth and development of Alberta's economy, I suggest our executive draft a letter expressing that the brothers Wolf are no less than trouble makers and deceivers of the students they claim to represent, and they have not the support of this institution. In fact we should be prepared to lobby against their proposal.

by Eileen Eckert

No equality at U of A

I and two other women, Tamara and Wendee, actively protested the presentation of Miss Playmate of the Month, Miss December. We maintained a firm hold on our signs stating: "W.P.C. protests the objectification of women's bodies"; "The exploiter is the exploited"; and "One to one is beautiful; one to hundred is vulgarity", despite several attempts by unsympathetic others to rip them away from us. The response of the passersby, and those who were purchasing Playboy magazines from Varsity Drugs varied. Some of the men heckled us with: "When did they let the kennels open?" to "You can be the centerfold for next month's issue of Popular Mechanics."

So, I understand, this attitude is reflective of a number of individuals (i.e. men) who attend the University of Alberta. A university, which, quote, claims to be an "equal opportunities university" so much so that the idea of the freedom of private enterprise is so cherished that the manager of a drugstore in a student owned housing unit can openly violate something which is directly antithetical to the Bill of Human Rights, i.e. the direct exploitation of a woman to sell his product (which happens to be in this case a \$1.75 issue of Playboy magazine).

Why, as some (again mean-

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ing men) of you have questioned do we become so excited about something so insignificant? After all, you suggest, if we were offered \$5,000.00 wouldn't we pose for a centerfold? And, you further state, it's her free choice. (Some of you qualify the latter statement by adding that she's a "mindless broad" anyway - and, some of you "moo").

To many women, the idea of woman as object is repulsive. We are not chattel; something to be owned and petted. We are not playmates; nor playthings. Further a society which acquires a rake-off from the sale of cigarettes, the sale of liquor and the sale of over one-half of humanity's population is a sick society. We are not equatable with booze and tobacco.

It would be a difficult, if not an insurmountable endeavor to evoke a change in attitude for the total society but in an institution where liberal, idealistic and intelligent individuals exist, one would hope women would be recognized on an equal basis with their male counterparts.

The University of Alberta is

not an equal opportunities university. What its advocates espouse is hypocrisy. The courses relating to women have been severely cut back on this year, inadequate counselling is still a problem. Large percentages of women are still streamlined into Arts and Education and the helping professions. There is an unconfirmed rumor presently that there is an invisible quota on women in Law; ten percent comprise the dental faculty; twenty-one percent were accepted into medicine.

Day care facilities require enlargement. No support has been forwarded re: a rape crisis center.

It can therefore be ascertained that women are considered of secondary importance on this campus. Some people suggest we stop bitching. Our energies should be directed in other areas. Who knows, then, perhaps our upcoming sisters will have the choice of a course of study Exercise Physiology for the Development of the Mammary Glands or in other words how to whittle your waist, reduce your hips and increase the size of your boobs so that perhaps one day you will achieve the envied (?) status of Playboy's Playmate of the month.

Hang in there, sisters.

Margaret Oseen
Women's Program Centre

letters

Bus passed off

The student associations of NAIT, Grant MacEwan Community College and the University of Alberta are most dissatisfied with the manner in which our request for an adjustment in the four month bus pass fares was disposed of.

We have, to this date, never been informed officially as to Council's decision with respect to this matter. (See entirety of communication sent and received on this matter attached). In addition we have never received any formal or informal communication as to the reasons and rationale behind the defeat of our proposal. We recognize that how this was handled is now water under the bridge. However, we feel completely justified in making our request again in light of new information.

We will not go over the arguments presented in our letter of July 14th, 1975, except to explain the loss of usable bus pass time due to breaks in the academic year.

The University of Alberta has the greatest amount of time lost during the January 1 to April 30th period of the three student associations presenting this request. Approximately 24% of usable pass time in the second semester students are not on campus. This is calculated with a January 5th start-up; mid-term break February 21st to 29th; a one week break between the last day of classes and the first day of exams; Easter long-weekend and approximately five school days off during a two week exam period (the majority of students have five exams spread over 10

school days). The amount of usable time lost to Grant MacEwan Community College and NAIT students is only slightly less, with similar breaks at the approximate time in the academic year.

Subsequently our request is that the four month bus passes be reduced from \$36.00 to \$30.00.

Another facet to be considered in your deliberations is the cost incurred to our own organizations in the distribution of these passes. At the University of Alberta, the Students' Union must hire two additional staff persons in our box office to handle the traffic.

In other words the Students' Union subsidizes our students the cost of the staff people. This subsidization becomes more obvious when it is recognized that the Students' Union does not receive the normal 5% commission on sales of bus passes as it does for all other ticket sales. (The 5% commission on tickets is a normal box office practice to cover overhead). At a very minimum we request City Council reduce the price of the passes by 5% (\$1.80) to reflect our subsidization of the passes.

This could be done in two ways. One, would be to simply reduce the price of the pass and our student associations will absorb the administrative costs. The other way would be to leave the price of the passes stationary and give a 5% commission to the distributors, which we in turn could pass on to our students.

At the present time the Students' Union University of Alberta is not prepared to sell these passes and have already instructed their staff of such. In September, 1975 the Students' Union sold 3,039 of these passes for a revenue of \$109,404 to the Edmonton Transit System. This is approximately 80% of the total sales of these passes. We are not prepared to sell these passes for the January, 1976 to April, 1976

period unless our recommendations are implemented.

Grant MacEwan Community College and NAIT have also agreed to do all that is within their control to stop sales of these passes, until a realistic price can be established for the passes.

We request that we be informed of and included in deliberations on this subject.

We anticipate your response.

Graeme Leadbeater
President

Keep the provost

We are indeed in a sad state when we feel our present security threatened by entities arbitrarily labelled as "outdated", "outmoded", or "unfulfilled". I refer specifically to the article in Tuesday, December second's Gateway headed, "The Father Removed".

A university, by an often neglected definition, is meant to be an institution dedicated to the proliferation and preservation of knowledge. Commensurate with these exigencies is the necessity for a modicum of tradition to be upheld; and for this tradition, like monarchy, to be divorced from the mundane aspects of the institution's daily administration. Above all, I believe, its presence is the measure of a university's establishment, and whether or not this presence is respected determines the university's credibility.

The proposals to eliminate the Provost and the Deans of Men and Women, are, I feel, an insult to this tradition. The further goals of amalgamating the responsibilities of the former of these officers into a newly fabricated authority to be known simply as "Associate