

Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent many...

The Gateway

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...for appointment by the corrupt few.
G.B. Shaw



The Golden Bears put the boots to NAIT in front of over 10 000 fans Tuesday night in the Coliseum. The Oaks came close, but Sid Cranston (16) sparked the Bears to four straight third period goals with an assist here. Full coverage in Sports, p 12.

photo Leif Stout

Gainers strike: changes ahead

by Susan Winkelaar

If you're sick and tired of hearing about the Gainers dispute, brace yourself. You won't hear the end of it for a long, long time.

Don Aitken, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alberta Federation of Labour said last Wednesday, "It will go down in the history books, very much like the Winnipeg General Strike of 1936." Aitken was speaking at the U of A lunch-hour seminar sponsored by the department of sociology.

"What happened at Gainers was inevitable," Aitken said. "There have been ripples leading up to it for the last 10 years. Unfortunately, not many people seemed to notice."

The 'ripples' Aitken referred to are the legislative measures taken by the Alberta government over the last decade. AFL representatives feel they are regressive.

Since the beginning of this century, labour has been fighting for bargaining rights. Hence the growth of labour unions. But in 1977, the Alberta government brought in Bill 41, an act which clarified that public employees would not have the right to strike.

Through the 70's and 80's, the government began introducing 'back to work' legislation. And in 1983 Bill 110 was passed, allowing companies to set up non-union 'spin-off' companies — that way they could escape their collective agreements.

The AFL is in the middle of a

campaign to change Alberta labour laws. Aitken said that current laws don't provide for collective bargaining as the right of all workers. The AFL wants to change the laws in four key areas:

(1) Improve employment standards for all workers, including hours of work, overtime, day of rest, vacations, etc.

(2) Prohibit hiring of replacement workers during disputes.

(3) Prohibit employers from withdrawing pension funds in labour disputes and plant closures.

(4) End spin-off companies and the use of 24-hour lockouts as union-busting; enforce "good faith bargaining".

Aitken said that the Gainers dispute had a positive effect on the people of Alberta because it forced them to make a choice.

"They started to see Pocklington's values," he said. "It didn't matter how much he was making, he wasn't going to pay his workers any more. People no longer simply showed a preference for fairness to all, but a firm belief in the right of employees to be treated fairly."

According to the AFL, labour laws have to be changed so that workers can bargain for what they think they deserve.

"Our main aim is to ensure that we build an egalitarian society," Aitken said. "We're well on our way to an awareness that was never there before. That's what Pocklington has done."

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FSJ rallies against letter

by Greg Halinda

Students at the French-speaking Faculte St. Jean are hopping mad. In an impromptu rally yesterday afternoon, about 80 Faculte students brainstormed on how to stage an effective reaction to a letter to the editor published in Tuesday's Gateway.

The letter was sent by an Arts student who suggested the university sell the FSJ as a cost-cutting measure, to "raise money from within."

"For example, if they sold the Faculte St. Jean, I'm sure no one would miss it," read the letter, "What do they do there anyway?"

Jean-Daniel Tremblay, one of the persons who organized the meeting, said, "We have to take a position because we've been attacked, in a sense."

Co-organizer Bernard Levasseur said, "There are racist overtones to the letter. I feel sorry for (the letter writer) that he's not better informed."

The Dean of the Faculte, Jean-Antoine Bour, was present while students made suggestions on a response, one that will ensure that students on the U of A campus sit up and take notice of what the FSJ is all about.

The students decided they will write a letter in response to the one slighting their faculty. They are also concerned with the lack of awareness of FSJ on the U of A main campus, and would like to see events like an FSJ open house, a march to the main campus, even a



NOT FOR SALE

Faculte St. Jean students show they're alive and kicking.



Faculte St. Jean kiosk in HUB or SUB.

Dean Bour was not worried about the message of the letter, but agreed with the students' decision to rally.

"It doesn't matter whether the letter was hoaxy or serious. This

(rally) demonstrates the spirit of the Faculte St. Jean," he said.

Students at FSJ are quite united on the stance taken at Tuesday's meeting.

"We feel as if someone's pointing the finger at us," said one. "I think the letter is pretty horrible, I

think the Faculte as an institution is important." "It's an insult..."

Strathcona MLA Gordon Wright happened to be visiting the Faculte at the time of the rally and threw in his support.

"I thought the letter was a joke," Wright said.

photo Greg Halinda