

Environmentalist...

Van Stolk seeking Liberal nomination

Mary Van Stolk, who is well-known around the U of A campus and the city of Edmonton for her work with STOP (Save Tomorrow - Oppose Pollution), has announced that she will attempt to secure the nomination of the Liberal Party of Canada to represent the party in the Edmonton Center riding for the next Federal election.

Ms Van Stolk has been a resident of Edmonton for the past fourteen years. She came to this city from the US in 1958, and since that time has been involved with a number of Canadian organizations. She was founder of the Committee for Control of Radiation Hazards, which was the forerunner of the Canadian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and was National Executive Secretary of the latter from 1960 to 1964.

In 1968, she published *Man and Woman* (MacClelland & Stewart, Toronto), in which she attempted to examine what she describes as the "myth" of "man the aggressive animal". *Man and Woman* is, she says "definitely an anti-war book". She has been commissioned by the same publisher to write another book on "the child as citizen", an examination of the reasons behind the alarming incidence of child mistreatment in this country. This book, which grew out of Ms Van Stolk's efforts to have federal legislation on the rights of children strengthened, will be released in March of this year.

In 1969 she founded, along with Richard Gregory, the Save Tomorrow Oppose Pollution group, which has been nationally recognized as one of the best organized and most effective anti-pollution groups in this



country. In addition to her work with STOP and her occupation as a writer of books, she has also edited films and worked in television writing.

Ms Van Stolk feels that the problems facing Canadians today, such as the need for stricter pollution controls, abortion law reform, the overpopulation and unemployment crisis are likely to increase in the future; thus she sees a need for involvement in the present political system on the part of ordinary citizens like herself. The riding of Edmonton Centre is currently held by ex-football player Steve Paproski, a Conservative. Ms Van Stolk believes that should she win the nomination, and the riding, she will make a logical advancement of the principles she has fought for during her years in Edmonton, and that she will also strengthen what she refers to as the "true liberal" wing of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Government co-opts radicals

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"We are producing a generation of professional grants-men, kinds from universities with long training in how to deal with this era of public grant-giving."

Mr. Martin said the Local Initiatives Program aimed at adult unemployed had found many unable to handle it.

"There was a lag in applications. These people just weren't practised in deciding on a new idea they'd like to work on themselves."

For many, filling out the 15-page application form may have been a dissuading factor, he said.

Young people who are not so well versed in radical etiquette can always try political pressure to get their projects approved, says Mr. Martin.

Applicants who know someone with pull in the government are more likely to get approval than those who let their applications stand on their own.

"When you have 20,000 applications to deal with and some MP keeps phoning you about one, wanting to know why it was rejected, offering to improve it, and so on, you remember it. The ones you keep picking up are the ones you notice and the ones printed in red ink on green paper."

The program is shifting its emphasis this year, he said, moving from selfish projects such as travelling and drama

groups, to projects aimed at community development.

But most of these projects are doomed to fail. "It's like 1965 and the Company of Young Canadians all over again. If the projects work they embarrass the government and it has to cut them off." But Mr. Martin doesn't think there's much risk of them succeeding.

His one experience with the company before the government "purge" three years ago leads him to believe that sending middle class kids to organize the poor will not work.

Most attempts over the past 15 years at using middle class youth as organizers have failed. "They either get booted out or drop out in frustration."

Mr. Martin considers himself typical of many of the OFY staff -- middle class kids who turned radical during college and went off to work for the CYC. Many OFY staffers are former members of the Company of Young Canadians who were forced out because they were too radical.

He cheerfully admits to having been co-opted by the government. "I have no pretention to altruism." But he suspects some of his peers "may have pretensions of subversion" in mind for OFY this summer.

The government seems to be having similiar thoughts about its crew of young radicals.

"They ran security checks or all of us," said Mr. Martin.

YS editor declares...

Longterm unemployment will cause political instability

The recent cutbacks in educational funds are not restricted to Alberta but are nation-wide, Richard Thompson *Young Socialist* editor told a YS educational conference last weekend.

They affect not only university students but even high school students as witnessed by the recent layoff of 2000 Toronto teachers and subsequent increases in class size.

At the University of Toronto, the book stacks of the new library have been made inaccessible to the undergraduate body. At McMaster, the wages and working conditions of graduate students have been deteriorating, as have research grants. On top of all that, the federal government has started taxing grad students and their research grant incomes, and cutting back on student loans.

Thompson said that the cutbacks prevent an excess overproduction of skilled technical people. "The corporations who run our society like to have some unemployment. They like to be able to pick and choose their personnel, and use the competition for jobs as an instrument to drive wages down. But what is developing is a crisis of expectation. People have been told all their lives to get an education at all costs; it's the way to climb the ladder of success, to make it big.

"But the stark reality is the reality of the welfare level existence of the unemployed for an increasingly higher proportion of graduates. The bitterness which this reality is producing in people who have

middle class aspirations is a bitterness which could prove extremely dangerous in the long

run for the political stability of the countries in which the corporations want to operate," Thompson said.

The gap between what trained people expect out of life, and what capitalism can provide for them, is growing wider and wider, as the lie of the direct relationship between social mobility and education is becoming transparently obvious.

"The pressure is now on to end the university expansion. Kids are being told in high school not to bother going to university, because there are no jobs for graduates. But there really isn't much alternative, because there are no jobs for young non-graduates either."

A combination of unemployed youth, which the government admits is now a permanent feature of the Canadian economy, and the unemployed graduates could prove to be political dynamite. Thompson charged that programs like Opportunities for Youth are an attempt to co-opt unemployed graduates into social thinking - anything to keep their hands and minds busy.

But the effect of the budget cutbacks has been to radicalize

the student bodies to actions such as the strike initiated by grad students at McMaster, in opposition to the cutbacks, and large scale student mobilizations at the U. of T. against the library cutbacks. Generally, he claimed, these have been rendered ineffective by students' councils, which attempt to dissipate the energies of students, and "negotiate" in private sessions over cocktails with administrators. The effect of these "negotiations" have been negligible. Federal priorities remain the expenditure of the odd billion dollars on U.S. war material, and a continued cutback in educational spending.

Thompson felt the problems of youth unemployment and the educational cutbacks could be resolved only through massive, organized political pressure. He felt as well that the only force capable, on a national scale, of integrating and linking the various isolated campus struggles, is the Young Socialists. "They serve as a memory bank of student experience over the past decade, and as an organizing centre for the interlinkage of student struggles on a nationwide level," he concluded.

by Ken Orchard.

Senate concerned about its status

To many staff and students at the U of A the University of Alberta Senate is about as relevant as its federal counterpart.

Senate members at a meeting last Friday expressed concern about this present situation before adopting the report of a senate committee to study the role of the Senate. When implemented the report should give new life to the body.

The report suggests that the Senate can serve an effective role by "discovering the public mind on any matter regarding the University and taking appropriate action and in addition using its investigative power to bring to light the facts about the University and its problems in order to interpret the University to the wider community;

The Senate should in the future promote communication between the University and the community outside by the increased use of the media and the use of public forums on various issues to discover people's views on the subject.

The report goes on to state that in order to be better able to interpret the University to the public the Senate should analyze and evaluate the policies, objectives and guiding philosophies of the University and should take an active role in current controversial issues involving the University

The report also provides for the appointment of a full-time Executive Officer to look after the affairs of the Senate. The Senate presently receives \$15,000 from the Universities Commission for its activities.

The Senate structure will remain the same for the time being, however. At present 25 ex-officio and appointed members and 30 elected members from throughout the province. The bulk of the Senate members are from the Edmonton area though; The

report stated that the Senate should remain aware of the need for wide representation from all sectors of the community." In the average Senate representation from 1966-71 only about one-third of the members were non-university graduates.

At the same meeting a Non-Academic Staff Association request that it be granted an additional member

on the Senate was voted down on the grounds that "it might constrict future representation". In the morning session the Senate

got a head start on at least one controversial issue with the creation of a task force to discover public feeling on the question of tenure for university professors. The task force will use whatever measures and facilities necessary to explain tenure to the public and report to the university and community their findings.

The Senate also approved a task force to study the whole question of admission requirements. This followed a private submission to the Senate which suggested that modern languages be dropped as an entrance requirement for the Faculty of Arts; Bonnie Doon High School principal W.J.

Klufas told the body that the requirement restricted the entrance into the faculty of many students who would benefit from the general education the faculty offered.

A third submission expressed concern over the increasing rates of university "drop-out" and wondered what could be done before the dropped out of university. The submission was discussed but no action was taken. Senate members expressed the belief that a university is no place for a student if he is not there of his own accord.

