



## editorial

### We need fighters

Of all those students who believe the recent 25% tuition increase proposal was justified, I'd like one or more to come forward and defend Advanced Education and Manpower minister Bert Hohol on his latest edict - that tuitions will be reviewed every year. According to some scale related to the cost of running the university, students will probably be paying more each year for their degrees.

And the university will become less and less accessible to the poor.

Clearly the provincial government does not want its population to become more educated. What education will be available will be more costly, restricted to quotas, and will be a second-rate, watered-down shuffle through our halls, with little room in either classroom or library.

Hohol is quoted as saying increased tuitions will increase students' appreciation of their degrees. He may be right, decrees will certainly become more scarce, more of a money and status symbol, more restricted to the elite from which our governors come. The degree will become more appreciated, but certainly not the education.

Now is the time to speak out. Now is the time university administrators, students, and staff across the province organized to fight the government. We were told insufficient time was available to create a concrete lobby against the 11% ceiling which caused our last proposed tuition increase. Now we have years ahead of us to construct a forceful, coherent outcry against the policies that will not only ruin the quality of education, but will ensure that fewer get any.

The Zoeteman slate told us the Students' Union is going to stay out of politics, "and get back to academics." I feel they should now consider changing their minds. I think leadership should be provided by our executive to create a strong, comprehensive lobby against this latest policy of the advanced education minister, both individually through our own organization, through FAS, with our Board of Governors, GFC and Senate, and with similar bodies in other institutions in Alberta.

Education is a right. We should not allow the government to make education available only to those who can buy their degrees like pills across the counter, or to those lucky enough to be chosen by some quota lottery.

Of all those who felt the first increase was justified, who will come forward and defend it next year, and the year after?

Greg Neiman

## letters

### Attack from the rear

Under the title, "Ross is a Horse's Ass Club," Roger Patterson has responded to my commentary on Suzuki, and Margaret Cook to my article on native land claims in the NWT, *Gateway*, Feb. 17. Here is my rebuttal.

First, Mr. Patterson.

He has said that scientists communicate in words. That is true, though in Physics 200 the results of Lab 163 are summarized by saying that the slope of  $V$  vs  $T^{1/2}$  equals  $1 \frac{1}{2}$ . Mr. Patterson also believes that adequate writing-up or research results is possible only for a man acquainted with the arts - he must be referring to literature, and not to ballet, sculpture or music. He must mean that the popularization of

research results, and of the scientific enterprise generally, can be effective only when literary-critical skills of thought come into play. But surely those skills can be developed only through a process of sustained study and concentration - over a lifetime, in the case of original critics.

I'm afraid I don't understand the subtleties of Mr. Patterson's argument. How is it that I

communicate?" Here is the title of a research paper by David Suzuki: "Temperature-Sensitive Mutations in *Drosophila Melanogaster* I. Relative Frequencies Among Gamma-Ray and Chemically-Induced Sex-Linked Recessive Lethals and Semi-Lethals." Is that a use of language which could be sharpened by a training in the study of literature?

Second, Margaret Cook, who identifies herself as a "token native student." Am I to conclude that your letter is a token letter, then, Ms. Cook? I hope not.

Ms. Cook asks me several questions, which I shall try to answer: "Now, Colin Ross, could you tell me why the

mortality rate for babies is so high among Inuit and Indian of the North..." No, I couldn't, but I believe that the rate is between double and triple the national average, and that prime suspected causes include: malnutrition of mother and child; infections and complications resulting from venereal disease; child neglect; poor housing, which leads to bronchial diseases and pneumonia; insanitary habits of dress, feeding and housekeeping.

"Why does human milk along with that of polar bears and seals have such a high level of lead and mercury?" It doesn't. There is no health problem in the MacKenzie Valley resulting from mercury contamination of the environment. Are you thinking of Ontario, Ms. Cook? There is some concern as to the high concentrations of strontium-90 in arctic lichens, a major food of barren-ground caribou, but that is due to nuclear fallout, and has nothing to do with the issues I discussed in my article.

Now a statement: " - if they (natives of the NWT) had their own land they could demand their own schools and they wouldn't have to ship their children to Yellowknife and Whitehorse for seven months of the year." Ten months, actually, and it's Inuvik, not Whitehorse. All native settlements have their own schools today, most up to grade eight or nine. Do you propose constructing a high school in Fort Franklin to serve a dozen children, Ms. Cook?

Now an apology: "Sorry, Colin Ross, for wearing funny mukluks but they are warmer than \$55.00 boots and they are easy and cheap to make." The boots I wear in January in the NWT cost me \$17.95 five years ago. The mukluks I wear hunting cost me \$20.00 four years ago. Making mukluks is very hard work, Ms. Cook, and a good pair now sells for up to \$60.00 in the North. Don't forget - how could you, you're a native - that mukluks are made of moose hide, which is hunted for many hours with a gun (the gun worth over \$100.00), and these days with a \$1000.00 skidoo. At \$5.00 an hour for skilled hunting labour ... then there is skinning, quartering, soaking the hide, scraping the fat off, collection rotten wood to tan the hide, all this by hand. Finally, we are ready to start making mukluks.

I don't know what more there is to say. Neither correspondent responded to a single specific argument of mine, neither touched on the issues I raised, or made any show of having read the words before them.

How am I to reply?

Colin Ross

### Where credit is doo

I would just like to congratulate the dedicated staff of *The Gateway* on their fine paper this year and add that not many people really noticed that the photo of Marcel Cadieux was really one of Les Benjamin and the one of the Indian fellow wasn't really one of Judd Buchanan.

At the same time, hardly anyone felt it improper that the publicity blurb on the Mixed Chorus incorrectly accused the SU of denying aid to them when they actually got 300 bucks or that the page numbers in the last issue were inked (who missed the typesetting?).

It's heartening that in our time, when rejoinders of mediocrity and imperfection are

being mouthed by all, the *Gateway* shines like a jewel in an Ethiop's ear, casting aside all human foibles and failings, producing perfection each issue.

The St. Jean's Business Retorter

Ed. Note: Well, well - it's true that we've been caught with our dirty linen showing in the last couple of weeks but we don't want people to believe that it will always be like that - sometimes we'll be able to hide it!

### Elite and I like it

In reply to Beth Atkinson's letter appearing in Tuesday's issue re: Engineering to be elite. As an engineering student my vote goes for the proposed quota system. Not because it affects supply and demand in the labour market but because it will improve the quality of educational service offered by the faculty.

I can state, without reservation, that it is damn hard to learn the required material when the student professor ration is seventy to one.

The high student professor ration is the major reason behind the proposal; to lower this ratio more facilities and professors must be acquired or student enrollment lowered. I think the faculty is taking the correct alternative.

D.C. Love  
Mech. Eng. III

### Mobsters' competition

Would you be willing to spend a dime for the opportunity to guess a four digit number if your would receive \$500 for every correct guess? I think you would. Would you rather spend the dime to guess the number than spend three dollars on a lottery ticket? I think you would.

I think the government should scrap its expensive, wasteful lottery ploy and opt for a daily ten-cent provincially-operated numbers game. It would be cheaper to operate. I would estimate that the number of people needed to collect tickets, etc. would constitute less of an overhead than the advertising and high-pressure salesmanship needed to make the lottery make money.

As well, the numbers game would put gambling within the reach of everyone, and would redistribute wealth more equitably.

I'm making assumptions without research here, but I feel the majority of lottery winners come from social strata that could do without the winnings. The very poor, and the destitute do not win lotteries because they can't afford tickets. But a ten cent guess, hardly a drain on even the very poor, would from time to time drop much needed money on those who would otherwise not receive it.

Thus the morality of a numbers game.

But as well, I think the numbers game would make more money. You have the lower overhead, plus you have the daily intake of cash, plus you have a lower number of winners. (This is on the assumption

continued on next page

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