

the Gateway

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1979

SU not hurt by SA boycott

by Alex Tindimnubona

The limited boycott of South African products has not hurt business in Students' Union enterprises on campus.

Shirley Kostamo, director of the Information Desk in SUB says her shop is doing well despite the boycott, which only removed Rothmans tobacco products, including Rothmans and Craven 'A' cigarettes.

"Customers either are not asking for the product, or switch to another brand or else go elsewhere and buy it," she said.

The boycott of Rothmans products was passed by students' council last June, in protest against the company's close links with the racist policies of the South African regime.

But although Carling O'Keefe was shown to be controlled by Rothmans, students' council could not ban its beers and wines from SU pubs. The Liquor Control Board apparently requires a "reasonable" stock of brands from all brewers in Alberta.

"Most people are usually not aware of the source of a particular brand," Kostamo

said. However, once they know, "they will make their own choices."

In this regard, the students' union has done little follow-up publicity and education on the boycott after passing the motions: A pamphlet explaining the boycott got stuck in the External Affairs Board and never reached the public, according to SU president Cheryl Hume.

Meanwhile, Carling O'Keefe projects the image of a good corporate citizen, by supporting sports, the arts and other community events, Hume said. On campus it has supported the fraternities and other groups in their events.



And you thought the elections were over! Liberal leader Nick Taylor dropped by CAB yesterday to shake a few hands, tell some jokes and maybe win some votes.

Response to UPC report approved

Council rejects abortion rights group

Kent Blinston

Students' council decided to endorse the International Campaign for Abortion Rights at their meeting Tuesday evening.

They did approve the Students' Union response to the University Priorities Report and deny several grants.

The abortion rights debate started with an administration board recommendation to endorse ICAR. Wendy Vanderstee, representing the Edmonton Women's Coalition, said the campaign started at the European Feminist conference held in France in 1977. Their actions culminated in an international day of action planned for March 14 this year.

Growing restriction of abortion rights and forced sterilization are real problems around the world, according to Vanderstee. In Canada, abortion is under the criminal code and generally more accessible to healthy women because they do not pay money.

VP academic, Mike Ekelund said students' council should not even be discussing the issue. "On my own religious and moral grounds I cannot support abortion. I do not think students' council has the right to do so," he said. He also read a letter from student advocate Greg Schmidt who compared abortion to capital punishment and said the right to life could not be legislated.

Arts rep Harvey Groberman said there were two issues to debate; whether council supported abortion and whether they had the right to endorse any position. He said the issue was important to students and that council should take a stand on it.

Alan Fenna, another arts rep, added that the campaign was concerned with women's rights in general not just abortion. Vanderstee agreed and said it should not be made into "a moral, ethical issue." She asked Ekelund if he thought a woman's right to control her body was subordinate to the right to life.

"A woman's choice is made before the abortion," was Ekelund's response.

Engineering rep Rhon Rose pressed Vanderstee on the point of subsidizing abortions for the poor. He objected to that saying, "A woman should not have the right to use my money for something I'm very much opposed to." He concluded saying the issue was too emotional for council to decide.

VP internal Kaysi Eastlick and education rep. Robert Patzwald both proposed the issue be reconsidered after consulting the faculty associations. Neither amendment was passed. The motion was defeated on a roll call vote; six for, eight against, seven abstentions.

The response to the University Priorities Report was quick-

ly approved after two additions by science rep Steve Cumming. He asked that research funds be given high priority and that administration cuts be considered when general salary cuts are proposed.

COUNCIL NOTES

During reports, education rep Duncan McGregor said he removed a motion from the agenda of the January 30 council meeting after pressure from president Cheryl Hume and FAS executive officer Brian Mason. He said that on the afternoon before the meeting, Hume and Mason told him they thought his motion, proposing a referendum to raise SU fees for certain faculties now paying less than standard, would hurt the chances of the NUS referendum. Hume

would remove the motion for a NUS referendum from the agenda, according to McGregor, unless he removed his motion.

McGregor said he disagreed and that perhaps Mason had overstepped his bounds.

Hume said Mason was not acting on behalf of FAS but that he was there because of his experience with referenda.

Mason later responded by saying he still felt it would have been a mistake to put two money referenda before the students, and said so.

Wayne Fotty was ratified as the new director of Freshman Orientation Seminars after some discussion of the selection process. Eastlick assured councillors that the ratification was mostly a courtesy, and it passed 10-5.

Aiming for the big leagues

Ekelund off and running

by Tom Barrett

The Vice-President Academic of the Students' Union will be running as a Social Credit candidate in the constituency of Norwood in the upcoming Provincial election.

Mike Ekelund has been a Social Credit member for several years, and in November, 1978 took on the Party Youth Vice-Presidency before tossing his hat in the ring for this election.

Ekelund expressed concern about:

"The centralization of power in the provincial cabinet and the inability of backbenchers to represent their constituencies when it is not in the interest of the premier to do so."

"Government intervention and competition in people's lives and businesses must be decreased," said Ekelund. "It is there to serve the people, not restrict them," he added.

When asked what effect the campaign will have on his ability to carry out his duties as a

member of the council executive, Ekelund replied:

"There will be a change in my office hours. I won't be coming in on Tuesday's, but during the rest of the week I'll be



Mike Ekelund

continuing my regular hours and attending all regular meetings."

"The campaigning will be done in the evenings and most campaign business will be handled on Tuesdays. It looks like I won't get much sleep for the next month. I know some people will jump on this so I'm asking that I not be paid for the upcoming month. After the election I will go to Council, however, and ask for my salary if they are all satisfied I have done a satisfactory job. If even one councillor objects I'll forfeit the money."

"If I spent all my time organizing demonstrations and making demands on the government I would probably be considered a hero of the student movement. But by realistically attempting to change the government by working for the party of my choice, I will probably draw only a negative reaction from certain student leaders," he said.

The election will be held on March 14.

Student groups get last minute reprieve

Most of the student groups scheduled to be evacuated from the sixth floor of SUB this weekend have been given a reprieve.

The university has agreed to allow the clubs occupying rooms 602 to 612 to remain until the end of this term, according to vp internal Kaysi Eastlick. In addition, the organizers of Varsity Weekend will be allowed to stay in room 602A until that weekend takes place next month.

Only room 602, presently occupied by the Outdoors Club and the Wargames Club, will be taken over immediately by the university which owns half of the

sixth floor. The Department of Civil Engineering is scheduled to move into room 602 in the near future.

The Outdoors Clubs has already been allotted space in room 604, according to Eastlick, and new space will likely be found soon for the Wargames people.

Eastlick readily admitted, however, that the SU is no closer to regaining full control of sixth floor space.

"Unless the students' union negotiates and signs a rental agreement or we're willing to make other concessions to compensate for the use of that space, the university will make use of it," she said.