

"Would yuh like to be a member of the first Texas jury to send an ex-GI to the 'lectric chair for killin' a dirty Communist?"

The Gateway

Tuesday, March 24, 1987

State Prosecutor
at the Jack Ruby trial
in Dallas, Texas



Although the Golden Bears managed a 2-1 overtime win on Friday versus York, a loss to the eventual cup winners from Trois-Rivieres put Alberta out of the running. Full coverage — pages 11-14.

U of C wants funding equity with U of A

by Thomas Olsen

Political pressure from Calgary may result in budget cuts to the University of Alberta.

Pressured into action by joint efforts of the University of Calgary Student Union, the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, and a number of Calgary MLA's, Minister of Advanced Education Dave Russell promised a full scale investigation into the matter of alleged inequities in funding among Alberta's post secondary institutions. The study will be conducted by Dr. J. Stefan Dupré, a noted university administrator, and will be completed prior to the fall of 1987.

If evidence of inequities in funding is uncovered, there may be a shift of funding presently being supplied to Alberta institutions.

Tom McLaren, Executive Assistant to Mr. Russell, wouldn't comment on the possibility of budget cuts, saying that his department has left the study completely in the hands of Dupré.

"If any of the alleged inequities are found to be true, then we will rely on recommendations made by Dr. Dupré to rectify the situation," McLaren said.

He further stated that no budget cut proposals are being considered at the present time.

Calgary Student Union Vice President External Don Kozak says that the Calgary S.U. is disappointed that the U of A isn't more sympathetic towards their battle for equal funding.

"There is a paranoid attitude in Edmonton that we are trying to get more money for ourselves at the expense of the University of Alberta. This is simply not true," said Kozak. "We don't think that any institution is overfunded, we just want to bring ourselves to par with other institutions of similar size and enrollment."

Kozak says that the University of Calgary is caught in a Catch 22 situation when the budget is

announced each year.

"One major criteria that decides what money goes where is the amount of building space on campus," said Kozak, "though our enrollment has increased dramatically over the past ten years, we don't have the resources to erect new buildings, therefore we're not eligible for more money."

U of A Registrar Brian Silzer says that when making comparisons between funding of the two institutions, account has to be taken for the overall costs of running different faculties.

"It is more then just a case of comparing a certain number of dollars to a certain number of dollars," Silzer said, "You have to consider faculties separately, such as Medicine and Agriculture, which because of the nature of their study, have very high overheads."

Budget figures for 1986-87 indicate that Medicine was allocated over \$18 million, while Agriculture was allotted more than \$10 million.

Calgary students, outraged over what they see as a blatant rip-off by the Alberta government, staged a rally and demonstration over the matter last February 11, making the local papers, and causing massive traffic snarlups on a major Calgary thoroughfare.

"We're very upset," said Ursula Wolilforth, Director of Public Affairs for the U of C. "In the 70's we saw no discrepancies between our budget and that of the U of A, but the budget has not changed with the times. This matter is very much in the forefront of all of our minds, and not only here at the University, but all over Calgary."

Calgary's two major newspapers, the *Sun* and the *Herald*, have supported the University's cause through a series of pro-budget change articles in recent issues.

While much noise is being made down South over the issue, it is largely sloughed off by those

involved at the U of A.

"You hear rumblings of this sort all of the time," said R.N. Spillsted, director of budget planning for the University of Alberta. "I personally am not concerned about the study that is

U will test spoken English

by John Watson

Fluency in spoken English should be a requirement for professors, teaching assistants, and students at the U of A says Dave Oginski, President of the Students' Union.

The Test of Spoken English will become an admission requirement for students in the faculty of Medicine starting in the 1987/88 school year.

But according to Oginski, "If they want to establish admission requirements, the professors must also meet that criteria."

University officials and student representatives are clearly divided on that point.

According to Registrar Brian Silzer, professors' and teaching assistants' competence in English is a different issue from that of medical students' speaking ability. "It goes well beyond the scope of this issue," said Silzer.

Student interns in Medicine are making decisions that can immediately affect people's lives and therefore their ability to communicate is very important.

"I can sympathize with a student who is having difficulty with an instructor," said Dr. Amy Zelmer, associate V.P. Academic with the U of A.

Zelmer, too, feels the situation in Medicine is different. "There is no time to clear misunderstandings," she said, "students in a class are in a different situation (than those in a hospital environment)."

"I don't think we want to restrict our hiring," said Zelmer.

Currently there is no formal

mechanism to test prospective professors and teaching assistants for fluency in English.

Neither the faculties of Engineering nor Science have a formal English requirement for staff.

Science Dean Bercov says the faculty has no procedure for testing professors, but that English competency is taken into account during interviews.

Only professors are interviewed before being hired, but TA's are often hired without an interview.

And after being hired, speech problems are generally brought to light only by students' complaints.

"We don't have any independent monitoring," said Bercov, "that is certainly true."

According to Bercov, a lot of the complaints are unjustified. Engineering Dean Otto agrees, "I don't perceive any problems with our staff."

Students often complain about "people who really speak English very, very well, they just speak it with a funny accent," said Bercov.

Oginski admits that even some people whose mother tongue is English can be difficult to understand if they have a thick accent.

The university should be "working towards improving (lecturers') English to a level that is required by students," he said.

Currently, though, neither Science nor Engineering offer any remedial English courses.

"We don't do anything with respect to English skills," said Bercov.

The Test of Spoken English has

presently being conducted, but I am interested in seeing the results.

Michael Hunter, Student Union Vice President External for the U of A says that the U of C has historically been disgruntled by their

budget figures when compared to the U of A, but says that they can't produce concrete evidence to support their allegations of unfair funding.

"Many times we have asked the

continued on p. 3

Inside this
issue:

Swedish prime
minister discusses
Canadian neutrality...
p. 3

Love and *Betrayal* in
Harold Pinter's pas-
sionate play... p. 7

UQTR takes CIAU
hockey champion-
ship... pp 11-14