

High abortion and illegitimate birth rates

-by Kim St. Clair

A report released last week by the university's Institute of Law Research and Reform recommends that the general age of consent for health care be fixed at sixteen years rather than eighteen.

The report also recommends that in some cases a person of any age should have the power to take treatment for venereal disease, alcohol and drug abuse, prevention of pregnancy, pregnancy and abortion, without informing their parents of it.

Reasoning behind this, says the Institute, is basic. "In every one of these situations we understand there is a special reluctance to inform parents, and that the minor will be harmed by failure to obtain treatment, or even by delay in obtaining it."

Revision of present legislation was deemed necessary in view of the high numbers of minors who take part in sexual intercourse and drug and alcohol consumption. Research conducted by the Institute

revealed that in 1973 10% (or over 3000) of the births in the province were illegitimate. Of these 1,128 were born to girls between thirteen and eighteen years of age.

Based on these figures, the Institute "strongly supports the provision for giving contraceptives to minors regardless of age."

The principal argument advanced against such a provi-

sion is that it will encourage minors to engage in sexual intercourse. The rebuttal given in the report: "withholding of contraceptive advice is not a deterrent; and granted that minors are engaging in sexual intercourse, it is better for the minor to be able to avoid unwanted pregnancies."

The Institute revealed that nearly every minor who becomes pregnant is un-

married.

While there are no statistics on illegal abortions, the report cites 1974 as having 4,462 therapeutic abortions in Alberta. "Of these, 62 were of persons under fifteen years of age, all single; 1,636 were of persons in the 15-19 age bracket, of whom 1,582 were single."

"In the first six months of 1975, 37 were of persons under fifteen years of age, all

single; 775 were of persons in the 15-19 age bracket, and of these 747 were single."

Some of the opinions received by the Institute regarding girls under sixteen expressed that parental consent to an abortion should be required as well as the girl's own consent. However, "the majority thought not."

The recommendation given concerning drug and alcohol abuse is that any minor who wishes medical care should be able to give his own consent to treatment.

Nothing in the proposed Act permits a minor to consent to surgical sterilization.

The report has been sent to the Dept of Health and Social Development, which originally requested the inquiry.

Legal research officer for the Institute, Gerry Van der Ven, is confident the recommendations will be given due consideration.

"I think that because we were approached to do the report that it should carry some weight. Legislation will be made partly on the basis of our report."

Locks opened on personal student files

by Eve Rose

As of September 1, 1976, University of Alberta students will have the right to see their official files. Members of General Faculties Council passed the amendment Monday.

Originally submitted by the Graduate Students Association on November 24, 1975, the amendment gives students access to all but confidential material contained in their files. Such material is composed of items "solicited or released by the student."

A question was raised as to

whether or not "solicited material" referred *only* to letters of reference. Ms. Atkinson, grad rep, pointed out that "no others (letters) should be in there."

She also explained what was meant by "released material." When items such as psychological profiles are ready to be placed in a student's file, the student signs a document called a "release form," allowing the information to be passed on.

Also endorsed yesterday afternoon was an amendment to GFC policy on the use of

student records for research. Present policy permits their use where the "confidentiality of individual student files" is not violated and only if "the researcher provides mechanisms that will delete student names before data are collected." The new amendment places such research beyond the bounds of the University's administrative operations. Consequently, any questions regarding the use of student records must be brought before the GFC executive.

Profs blasted for patronizing smokers

"We want profs who will tell their classes to put out or get out," said councillor Betty Mellon, to a motion passed twice the same night Monday.

Council passed, reconsidered, and passed again a motion instructing Jane Bothwell vp (academic) to request that GFC enforce its "no smoking" rules in classrooms.

The motion passed at first with little discussion at all, in fact the question was asked for before Bothwell could speak to it.

Thus the reconsideration motion.

Some councillors felt they might have changed their minds on the motion had they known that to enforce the no smoking regulation GFC might consider

enforcing as well the five dollar fine involved as a penalty for smoking, as laid out in the Code of Student Behavior.

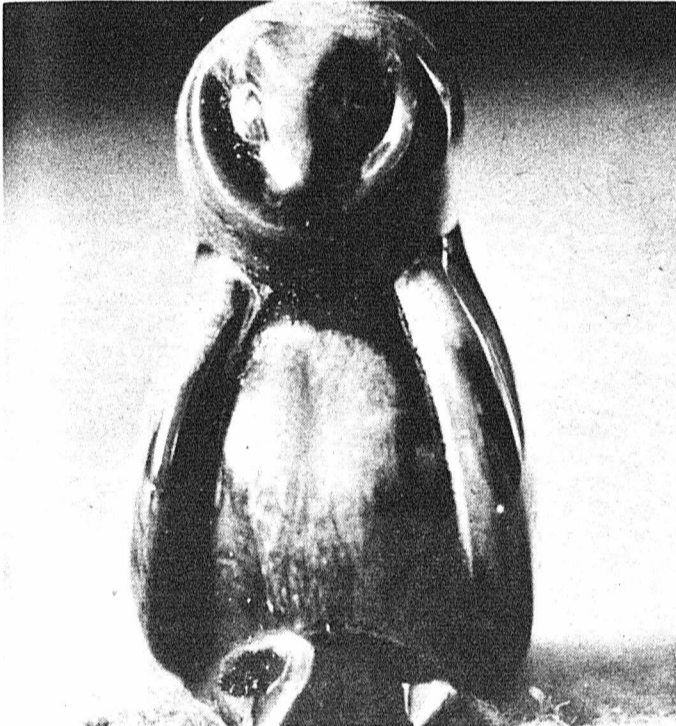
Other councillors felt it was up to GFC to decide in what manner the regulation should be enforced, whether to ask smokers to leave the classroom or to fine them.

Gene Borys, vp (finances and administration) felt that bad feelings toward the Students Union might result if students found themselves fined or out of classrooms because of SU pressure.

He likened the unenforceability of the fine to the virtual unenforceability of parking regulations.

But Council remained firm. It defeated an amendment which would have simply required Bothwell to ask GFC to consider its policy on smoking, and held to the original motion that classroom rules not only be considered, but enforced.

It remains to be seen how GFC will react to the request, as it usually conducts its business from within the anonymous confines of a grey tobacco pall.



Symbol of the north, home of controversy and alienation.

Native rights defended in forum

by Mary MacDonald

"Take our land and you may as well shoot us!"

This is the attitude of the Indian people, as expressed by Father Rene Fumoleau. Fr. Fumoleau, author of *As Long As This Land Shall Last*, spoke Friday at a Students' Union forum on native treaty rights in the Northwest Territories.

Having lived in the north for some time, Fr. Fumoleau feels qualified to speak on the Indian situation. He claimed that "the Indian does not understand selling and possession. Land is something given by the great spirit to all to share."

The people of the Northwest Territories, he says, have been shaped by the land and weather surrounding them. Their concept of 'land' is one which the white society fails to understand. Land to the native is not a thing to be possessed but something to be shared by all.

Speaking to a full audience, Fr. Fumoleau outlined his interpretation of treaties made in the NWT. When the natives heard that their land was part of a

NATIVE RIGHTS,
continued on page 6

The Students' Union Present
for the second time
a
Lecture Series
**WRITING TERM PAPERS
AND ESSAYS**
ALL LECTURES BY
**PROFESSOR McKILL, ENGLISH
DEPT.**
4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
ED. North 2-115

January 28 Wednesday	Outline — structure — organization
February 2 Monday	First Draft — introductions — topic sentences — transitions — conclusions
February 4 Wednesday	Revision I — common grammatical errors
February 9 Monday	Revision II — common problems in punctuation
February 11 Wednesday	Revision III — writing more effective sentences — writing with greater economy

— No charge, no registration
— "first come, first serve" basis only

STUDENT UNION POSITION AVAILABLE

COURSE GUIDE COORDINATOR

- SALARY NEGOTIABLE

The Course Guide is a book designed to provide information on specific courses and professors. It does not evaluate the professors ability to teach. It tries to describe the teaching style, competition, and the degree of difficulty one might expect in a course.

The Students' Union needs an energetic, aggressive student to develop the questionnaire for the guide and to see to its administration, collection and compilation. Experience in the techniques of question design, statistics and computers would be an asset. Preference will be given to students intending to return in the fall of 76.

Those interested please apply at the Students' Union Offices, Room 256, SUB. Deadline for application - January 30th, 1976.