

Gateway

Member of
Canadian University Press

Published twice weekly by the
University of Alberta Students' Union
in the Gateway Offices, Room
282, Students' Union Building.

Volume LXVI, Number 31
January 15, 1976

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CIRCULATION

Circulation 18,000. The Gateway
publishes on Tuesday and Thursday
during the Fall and Winter Sessions.
It is distributed to the students,
academic, and non-academic staff
on campus.

Subscription Rates: \$10.00 for 67
issues

Circulation Manager: Jim Hagerty

ADVERTISING

No mats accepted. National and local
advertising \$28 per agate line.
Classified Ads, 10¢ per word. All
classified ads must be prepaid.

Advertising Manager: Tom Wright
432-3423

PRODUCTION

Ad make-up, layout and typesetting
done by Media Productions, University
of Alberta, Room 238, Students'
Union Building.

Production Managers:
Loreen Lennon
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FOOTNOTES

Publicizes campus events or those of
interest to students, without charge.
Footnote forms available at the
Gateway office and should be submitted
before 2 p.m. Mondays and
Wednesdays.

LETTERS

Submit all letters, typed and double-
spaced to the Editor, who reserves
the right to edit copy. Regular copy
deadlines apply.

Opinions expressed in the Gateway
are those of the writer, and are not
necessarily those of the Gateway.

GRAPHICS

Submit all graphics, cartoons, and
illustrations to Graphics Editor by
normal copy deadlines.

COPY DEADLINES

Monday noon for the Tuesday edition;
Wednesday noon for the Thursday
edition.

TELEPHONES

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letters

Predictions

In response to your request for inside dope as to various unprintable information for publication re: the executive elections fast approaching, I was wondering if you'd be interested to know that there's not one, not two, but FIVE slates in the making so far, and nominations haven't been opened yet!

Seems like the candidates are dividing into camps and not just the best man is going to win, but those who might be fortunate enough to run with him.

In addition to the two slates you mentioned before, there's going to be a revival of the socialist slate (usually the one with the best issues to haggle over) and three other anonymous ones who have yet to admit in public their political ambitions.

Also I hear rumblings as to what the election is going to be fought over, and my prediction is that if you're into money politics you'll be interested. Otherwise this election, like most others, is going to be a bummer. If you dig talking tuitions and government cut-backs and these vitals, you'll probably have a gas listening to how the various camps are proposing to solve the problems facing the university.

The socialists are going to smash the state, Mason will swallow his foot clear up to the thigh, Zoeteman will magnanimously pull Mason's foot out for him, while the others will plan marches on the legislature (usually a winner if you'll check with the Ed students association and the Enough is Enough campaign.)

Stan Underwood

P.S.

By the way, I hear you're going to be sued, and by a Calgarian no less. Its about time someone put you in your place, but the ignomy of a southerner.... gawd!

Dear Stan;

Thanx for the tips. New information is always nice to have.

Sued. Yeh, that's right. Think of it. The Gateway with a criminal record. Will I ever get a job after this is over?
Ed.

Penny pinching

Is it justifiable, or even morally defensible, to charge foreign students higher tuition fees than Alberta students?

The present tuition fees for Alberta students are heavily subsidized. Why is this so? Is it because Alberta taxpayers have decided that this province really needs educational institutions which are open to all qualified students, from any part of the world, at a reasonable cost? Or is it because Alberta needs more University-trained professionals, or because Albertans want their own sons and daughters to have a reasonable chance at an education?

We can dismiss the second alternative, since: 1) a University degree is no longer the meal ticket it once was; the number of unemployed graduates is a national scandal; 2) students in

relatively useless programs such as English or Fine Arts would be paying the whole cost of their education and 3) it is cheaper to steal graduates from elsewhere than to subsidize their education here.

The third alternative is much more likely that the first, owing to human nature; even students from average working-class backgrounds could not get into university if tuition fees were not subsidized as at present.

While the government can afford to spend the money needed to make a University education more available to the poorer people of the province (such as the Native people, whose conspicuous absence from our University is due not to financial restrictions, but problems in the elementary and high school systems), the world is just too big for our pocket-books.

Anyways, the available pool of qualified foreign students who can pay for the full cost of their education already exceeds the space we have available for foreign students. After all, while it is monstrous to discriminate between foreign students with respect to skin color or nationality, discrimination on the basis of what they are prepared to pay is perfectly respectable.

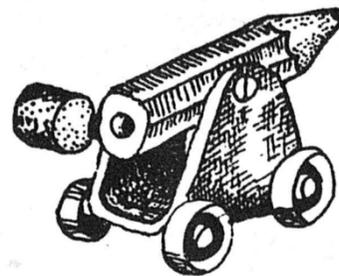
Therefore, the increased subsidization of the tuition fees of foreign students would only benefit the wealthy few in the countries that send us foreign students. Better we should gouge them, and find some other way to help the rest of the world - one that helps the people who need help.

Increases in foreign student tuition fees, however, should be applicable only to new foreign students, to avoid causing hardship and dislocation to those presently enrolled.

If foreign students paid the full cost of their education (plus maybe another \$5 or so) there would no longer be any need to impose quotas on foreign students. Since expansion of the University to accommodate them would not create an increased operating deficit, the costs of expansion being included in tuition fees as a part of the cost of education over the time it takes to amortize the new facilities.

After all, to ask that the tuition for Alberta students be lowered to assist all Albertans in benefiting from the University, and then to ask in addition that tuition for foreign students be lowered to that same level is to place an impossible burden on the generosity of any government, let alone the present bunch of penny-pinchers.

John Savard
Science 4



editorial

Pete the Sweet

Well, it's happening again, but with a lot more rumblings this time around. That's right - the question/rumour is STILL hitting the polls in political gossip: Will Peter Lougheed be running for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative national party?

Even though Lougheed has come out and made a formal public statement that he will NOT run, his latest excursion to the east seems to have sparked the controversial fire once again.

Supposing that our dashing TV-image premier, in some way, shape or form, *does* manage to show up on a ballot form at February's convention, and supposing that he somehow *is* given the national leadership, and then supposing he is elected Prime Minister, questions as to the credibility of the programs which he has advocated in his past four years in office might be raised.

If, in fact, Lougheed has been serious about the protection and availability of natural resources for the benefit primarily of the individual provinces, then what would happen should he have to decide between territorial ownership of resources (i.e. the Yukon and Northwest Territories) and national ownership?

Supposing that such a confrontation arose? If Lougheed were to take a national stance, in a response to what he saw as a threat to the national economy, for example, then it would seem to contradict all the rhetoric with which he has bombarded the Albertan populace during the last two years. If instead he chose to side with Alberta's voice in calling for greater provincial autonomy in the development (particularly) of natural resources, this would likely be viewed by Eastern Canada as 'playing favorites' with the West, with the resultant rise of dissension in the Canadian people.

This, of course, is to say nothing of the credibility gap which would be created between the Albertan electorate and Lougheed, were he to run. After so many protestations echoing an 'adamant' refusal to seek the leadership, it would be blatantly hypocritical to rescind the verbiage and declare candidateship.

But again, we speak on the basis of rumours that may or may not have founding in truth. It may simply be that the PC's, acknowledging that this next leadership campaign will be relatively dull and unimaginative (but with lots of candidates), have chosen to circulate controversial rumours in order to stimulate the attention devoted to their internal proceedings. If the rumours are grounded in fact, it will be a sad situation for all concerned were a Lougheed candidateship to be announced under these most inauspicious terms. Better to maintain a stand, which many people believe in, than to go to one which most cannot.

Kevin Gillese



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COMING!

TO THE GATEWAY

NEXT THURSDAY



THE ADVENTURES OF...

CAPTAIN KANUTE GROUNDLOOP AND THE GREEN FUZZIES