

The Gateway

"What do you think about sobriety?"

"It's never worked for me." — incoming Editor-in-Chief Randal Smathers

Thursday March 23, 1989

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

MLA Wright stomps out competition

by Shannon Taylor

Assuring an appropriate level of funding for the University of Alberta will be a priority for New Democrat MLA Gordon Wright.

Wright was re-elected as the MLA for Strathcona by an overwhelming majority of constituents during Monday's provincial election. Wright received 7,071 votes. Progressive Conservative candidate Jack Scott placed a distant second with 2,841 votes, and Liberal Phil Lister finished last with only 2,563 votes.

"The university is my single biggest constituent and its concerns must definitely be addressed. It and students were hurt by the cuts and freezes in funding to education under the previous government.

"I plan to draw to the government's attention the difficulties this has placed on the university," Wright said, after the election results were reported.

As a member of the opposition, Wright is in a better position to criticize inappropriate government funding than a conservative party member would be, he said. "A government member finds it hard to fulfill his duties to his constituents. Instead, he must make excuses for the government, and try to justify what is being done."

Wright plans to continue acting as a government watchdog for education funding, and will keep university administrators informed of the provincial government plans for the university, he said.

Satanic Verses burns city muslims

by Will Gibson

The Edmonton Islamic community lashed out Tuesday evening against criticism of the Muslim response to *The Satanic Verses*.

About 100 people turned out to listen to Dr. Mohammed Sadiq, head of the Edmonton unit of the Islamic Circle of North America, lecture on why Muslims are offended by the book and followed by answering questions from the audience, which consisted mostly of Muslims.

Sadiq, a psychiatrist, blamed the media for distorting the Islamic position and wanted to use the forum to "explain what the funda-



Rob Galbraith

Natives restless at Canada Place

Stanley Bearshead (inset, left) leads a song to boost the spirits of the estimated 1500 people who marched on Canada Place Wednesday afternoon to protest planned cutbacks to education funding for native students. Many schools in Northern Alberta were closed for the day so that students could take part in the protest which started at Churchill Square, and finished at the doors of the Minister of Indian Affairs' office.

The MLA said he will also fight for funding for the Old Strathcona area — this would include pursuing funds for the farmers market located in the bus barns on 83 Avenue.

"The 103 Street corridor is the historic end of the railway line which first came from Calgary in 1892... Now the city wants to sell the land off for development.

"That would be a real shame," Wright said, adding the area deserves special treatment because of all the uniquely Edmonton festivals held there yearly.

"It's bigger than a local issue. It's bigger than a city issue. This is an area where the province should kick in some help," Wright said.

While Wright believes Don Getty will call a Progressive Conservative leadership convention in the near future, he does not think Ray Martin's future as NDP leader is threatened.

"My guess is that in his (Getty's) heart he knows he is not cut out for the role of leader, and he will be quite relieved to go his own way," Wright said.

And while a New Democrat leadership conference is automatically held at every annual meeting, Wright does not think any candidates for leader will present themselves at the next conference. "I don't see that happening at all," he noted.

Wright also said he does not perceive the Liberal resurgence to be a threat to the New Democrats' position in provincial politics. "The New Democrats will outshine the Liberals in terms of constructive critique of the Progressive Conservative government," he said.

University fights foreign student fees

by Teresa Pires

The International Centre, the SU, and the University itself have declared their opposition to differential fees imposed on foreign students; however, the Alberta Government has no plans to abolish these fees in the near future.

The Provincial Government presently maintains a differential fee policy for international students of an additional 50 per cent

of tuition cost

According to Jane Simmons, Director of Communications for Advanced Education, the Alberta government established differential fees after an extensive tuition fees review in 1981. "The government decided to adopt differential fees based upon the views expressed by a great many Albertan tax-payers," explained Simmons.

FEES — p 2

INSIDE

Humour

Fast fun with fast food, p 4

News

El Salvador aid, p 3

Feature

Cathay Canadian style, pp 8-9

Theatre

Lowe's *Lover* and the ubiquitous Yachimec are highlighted, p 5

Sports

Great grapplers on campus this weekend, p 11

MUSLIMS — p 3