

Confidential letter exposed

# Gonzalez makes point in print

by Allison Annesley

An oversight in confidential filing has revealed that Students' Union VP External Teresa Gonzalez may have tried to influence the Chairman of the disciplinary board which tried SU President Robert Greenhill Monday night (see DIE Board story, page 1).

In a letter typed on Students' Union stationary and marked private and confidential, Gonzalez expressed reservations to Disciplinary Interpretation and Enforcement Chair, David McCoy about the objectivity of one DIE Board member. The letter was accidentally misfiled in the regular DIE file and subsequently was found by member Tim Sayers.

Gonzalez' letter accuses Sayers of being in a conflict of interest for the procedures against Greenhill which were brought up by Councillor Dwayne Chomyn. Gonzalez reasoning for Sayers' conflict was that he had been Greenhill's campaign manager during his successful bid for reelection earlier this month.

Gonzalez' letter also states, "I believe that the major reason that Mr. Sayers is present is to discredit Michael Ford (another member of DIE Board), Speaker of Students' Council. While I know that there has been, and is some, personal animosity between Mr. Ford and Mr. Greenhill and Mr. Greenhill's decision to run for reelection, there is no conflict of interest situation for Mr. Ford."

Gonzalez continues, "I personally know that Mr. Ford did not vote in the election and therefore eliminates any conflict of interest

for Mr. Ford."

Sayers reacted by addressing his own letter to McCoy in response, and by obtaining a signed statement from Board of Governors rep Brian Bechtel stating that he had been Greenhill's Campaign Manager, and not Sayers.

Though Sayers does admit to having worked on the Greenhill campaign, his letter to McCoy points out that he was in no legal conflict of interest. When the meeting of DIE Board actually began Monday night, Dwayne Chomyn challenged Sayers' presence as a voting member because of his involvement in the Greenhill campaign. McCoy deferred the question of Sayers' eligibility to vote and told all present that he would continue the Board's proceedings and deal with Chomyn's complaint later.

During the course of the meeting though, Sayers submitted a written withdrawal to McCoy and Robert Ferguson was then appointed to vote in Sayers' place. Sayers continued to observe the meeting as a non-voting member.

Says Sayers, "I view this memo as a personal attack on my reputation by an individual who is now trying to shield herself with the thin excuse of confidentiality."

Gonzalez refused to comment on the letter because of its confidentiality as did Chairman McCoy. McCoy did acknowledge having read both letters and stated that the situation should be dealt with by an appropriate disciplinary board.

Greenhill, who has also read

Gonzalez' letter, defended himself against her comments, "I personally have no feelings of animosity for Michael Ford." He added, "While I have personal feelings on this letter, I have no wish to comment on them publicly."

Said Bechtel, "It is this kind of uninformed knee-jerk reaction that has made elections so divisive to the Students' Union in the past."

Bechtel's sentiments are shared by Sayers: "Students' Union politics around election time become unnecessarily slimey, petty, and of a personal nature. I have always felt that student politicians should concentrate more of their efforts toward running a Students' Union which is responsive to students, rather than concentrating on the completely illegitimate aspects of personality politics."



SU VP External, Teresa Gonzalez

photo Ray Ciguere

# MLA's wait on Gerry

by Todd Race

Although the ballots from last November's provincial elections have long been counted and the results confirmed, an official opposition for the Alberta Legislative Assembly has yet to be recognized.

The two groups currently vying for official opposition status consist of Alberta N.D.P. leader, Grant Nottley and fellow N.D.P. member, Ray Martin; and former So-cred members, Ray Speaker and Walter Buck, who both won seats as independents in last November's elections. Both groups claim to be the only legitimate opposition, but base their claims on very different arguments.

The N.D.P. argues that recognition of an official opposition should be based on statutory provisions set forth under section 60 (1) of the Legislative Assembly Act; this section states that only a group possessing party status is qualified to be the official opposi-

tion. Section 60 (1) also states that this party must have won at least 5 per cent of the popular vote in the preceding elections.

The N.D.P. argues that since Ray Speaker and Walter Buck did not campaign as members of a registered political party, they are not qualified to become the official opposition. On the other hand, in addition to possessing the required party status, the N.D.P. won 18.5 per cent of the popular vote in the November elections; this figure is considerably larger than the 1 per cent won by the independent members.

The two independent M.L.A.'s are basing their claims to opposition status on a 1944 precedent in which 3 independent M.L.A.'s were recognized as the official opposition. In addition to this, Ray Speaker argues that the leader of the official opposition "ought to be the most senior opposition member", and that he is entitled to retain the position of opposition leader on the principle

of incumbency.

However the premises upon which the independents' argument rests have been made invalid by amendments to the Legislative Assembly Act, instituted well before the November elections. Thus Ray Speaker and Walter Buck appear to be staking their claims on fairly shaky ground.

If this is the case, and if the true facts speak for themselves as the N.D.P. would argue, then the only question remaining to be answered is why has this controversy arisen in the first place? This, perhaps, is a question that only the Tories can answer. To anyone else it would appear that the Tories are attempting to delay the appointment of an official opposition for as long as possible. Speaker Gerry Amerongen, in whose hands the matter rests, will hand down his decision March 6th; four months after the controversy originally arose.

## Illegal hiring practices

# Faculte unaware

The people responsible for the illegal hiring practices at the Faculte St. Jean claim they did not know they were doing anything illegal.

The Faculte recently accepted applications for four summer positions in the Faculte residences.

The application forms request that a photograph be included, which is illegal according to the Human Rights Commission.

The application also requests birth date, citizenship, state of birth, height and weight, all of which are also questionable.

Lucille Douville of the Faculte St. Jean who is responsible for the questionable application admits she made a mistake.

"I do recognize that a mistake was made and I had no intention

of practising any discrimination," said Douville.

Douville did state that the same mistakes would not be repeated again next year.

However the applications are no longer being accepted and there will be no changes to the hiring procedures this year.

Although Douville admits she made a mistake she is not completely repentant.

"I don't feel that any justification of the application forms is necessary," said Douville.

Dr. Gamilia Marcos, Dean of the Faculte St. Jean, is obviously irritated about what she appears to consider an attack on the Faculte St. Jean as a whole, and refused to allow herself to be quoted in the Gateway.

# Recession euphemism for panic

**ST. JOHN'S (CUP)** — Contrary to what the government would have us think, we're living in a depression, and not a recession. This is causing a "lost generation" of unemployed youth, says Don McGillivray financial columnist for Southam News.

Speaking to delegates at the 45th national conference of Canadian University Press in Ottawa earlier this year, McGillivray said that although we don't see the bread lines and "Okies" there are many similarities between the 1930s and the current economic state.

He noted that the American government invented the word 'depression' at that time because it thought 'panic' had unpleasant connotations. Today, 'recession' is being used instead of 'depression' for the same reasons.

McGillivray said this depression is having particularly hard effects on unemployed youth who aren't cultivating work skills but are instead learning to live on unemployment insurance.

"People don't have a long shelf life," he said. "Whatever skills they have deteriorate in storage. If someone has been unemployed for four years, they'll find it harder and harder to work. They feel the country doesn't need them and they aren't necessary."

The depression, which McGillivray said is a direct result of Ottawa's adherence to British and American-style monetarist economic policies, has had a noticeable effect on universities and post-secondary education policy.

Generally, he said, two things can happen to universities. The "authorities" may use the university as "a kind of dumping ground

for the unemployed," keeping young people temporarily occupied and out of the job market and unemployment rolls.

The phenomenal 6.5 per cent full-time enrolment increase at Canadian universities this year seems to bear McGillivray out.

At the same time, governments may dilute the quality of education by reducing faculty numbers through attrition, a system he called irregular because of the tenure structure.

Another possible direction is to encourage a "new elitism" by pushing up tuition fees and decreasing accessibility.

In either case, he said, it is the politicians who call the shots. "The economic solutions are in the hands of the provincial and federal governments more than in the universities."

McGillivray added that the effects of the depression can be seen in the commercial press.

"The daily newspapers have become more and more junky,"

he said. "They're crammed with ads."

He said newspapers "have reacted to the recession by reducing staff and cutting space" when they should be using their resources to analyze the economic state.

"Some papers with Op Ed pages (comment and opinion pieces other than editorials) have cut them."

The dailies tend to trivialize things, giving a lot of attention, for example, to the Royal Family.

"You also get 'boosterism,'" he said. "They look for the bright side of everything," while ignoring the less pleasant realities.

"Some of the news judgment is terrible."

McGillivray said "the student press is in a position to cover things more realistically. Student newspapers can reach out to the wider story that needs to be covered, and it's a pretty dismal and drastic one."

# What do you mean, no place to loaf?

Lack of study space is a serious problem on this campus. There are few clean relatively quiet places where students can sit at a table and read or study.

What few students seem to be aware of is that Dinwoodie Lounge is open during the day. Although it is a cafeteria, no food is served inside the room, so it is fairly quiet.

Says Ray Conway, "I've been thinking about running some sort of information campaign to let students know that they can use Dinwoodie to eat their lunch or study because nobody seems to know."

Dinwoodie can sit up to 750 students and is open from 10 in the morning till 5 o'clock at night.

BAB

by SKEET and Nielsen

