

The Gateway

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Divided loyalties?

Members of the U of A rowing team practice for an upcoming regatta, led by someone whose allegiance may be elsewhere.

Getty refuses environment petition

Student get-well card seems lost in transit

by Mitch Panciuk

The get-well card to the environment, which University of Alberta students signed during Environmental Awareness Week, is looking for a home.

Right now the card is sitting under a desk in the SU executive offices, and according to S.U.V.P. external Wade Deisman, "the card is going to be ready when we have an audience with the Premier."

Students' Union officials had planned to present the card to Premier Don Getty, but so far he has refused to accept it.

"It's not that he is unwilling," said Pat Lobrett, the executive assistant to the Premier, rather "that the matter is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment. The Premier has asked that this be presented to Mr. Klein."

The card received over 7,000 signatures from U of A students,

and there are 3,000 more from other post-secondary institutions across the province.

If, by the end of next week, the Premier doesn't agree to receive the card, Deisman is considering organizing a rally and march from Quad to the Legislature. According to Deisman, he feels that "to delay any longer is to misrepresent the urgency of the situation and to fall prey to the stonewalling."

Sheryl Dipanfilo, a communications officer from Klein's office, confirmed that the Minister would "love to receive the card." According to Dipanfilo, Klein's office has already expressed to the SU his willingness to accept the card, and that "he [had] expected to receive the card when he was at the University for the Environment Week Debate."

Klein's office also said that the Minister and the government are

"very supportive of the efforts that the students are making, and think that it [the card] is wonderful."

Deisman does not want to present the card to the Minister, and argues that "this isn't an issue which is simply confined to the Minister of the Environment, but rather the whole government."

The Council of Alberta Universities met this past weekend to discuss what type of action they should take in regards to this issue. Deisman, who attended as a representative of the U of A, felt that "the council has determined that this is to be a priority issue. We've agreed that all of the schools will be calling the Premier's office to impress upon them that this is an important issue." Deisman sums it up as "always a question of priorities," and feels that the Premier should be able to have 10 minutes to spend with representatives of 11 institutions."

Polygram boycott ending

by Ron Kuipers

The National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA) is on the verge of officially lifting their boycott of records distributed by Polygram Inc., as the record company has agreed to send certain records free of charge.

Members of the NCRA, which include the U of A's FM88 CJSR, have not been giving any airplay to Polygram-distributed products for several weeks now. They have done this in an effort to dissuade Polygram from levying a service fee against radio stations. The NCRA felt it was unfair for Polygram to charge campus and community radio to play and promote Polygram's artists.

Polygram Canada has now introduced an 'alternative plan.' All stations on this plan will receive 'alternative' records free of charge. "This means alternative in the strictest sense of the word," says Polygram representative Dave Freeman, adding that anything over and above this product would be accompanied by the servicing fee.

FM 88 CJSR station manager Ian Istvanffy, on the other hand, says that Polygram has assured him that

the plan would be very broad in scope. "From Van Morrison and John Cougar on one side, to the Pixies and De la Soul on the other."

Freeman said that Polygram did not decide to introduce the alternative plan because of pressure exerted by the boycott, but said the plan was a way to "get past" the boycott. Freeman said Polygram was not having trouble organizing concert tours for its artists due to a lack of airplay. "We certainly haven't noticed (any problems)," said Freeman.

But Greg Curtis, Program Manager at the University of Calgary, was hesitant to book a Polygram artist, Jazz Butcher, when given the opportunity to do so recently. "I was hesitant to look at booking the act due to a lack of the possibility of advertising on college radio," said Curtis.

Regardless, Polygram recordings are on their way to campus and community stations across Canada free of charge. CJSR station manager Ian Istvanffy says, "It's gratifying to see Polygram Inc. come to their senses. It's unfortunate that artists and listeners were inconvenienced by all this. But we felt it was important to stand up to what we felt was unfair treatment."

Incredible Edibles expires

by Dawn Lerohl and Pat Kiernan

A threatened showdown in HUB International has come to a peaceful conclusion with a longtime tenant conceding defeat and agreeing to close his doors.

Despite a failure to pay rent since July, Incredible Edibles has remained open throughout a series of legal challenges.

The restaurant, known for its range of deli style foods, was unable to survive in the face of increased competition and higher rent.

In an effort to make a farewell statement, the shop's owner defied a court order, and locked himself inside.

Walter McLean, who describes himself as the "deposed president" of Incredible Edibles Ltd. says that although his time in HUB is over, he is "trying to make a point."

"We're upset with the 'mall-ification' of HUB." He adds that the small businesses who once provided for the nutritional needs of students are being replaced by shops that care about nothing more than profit.

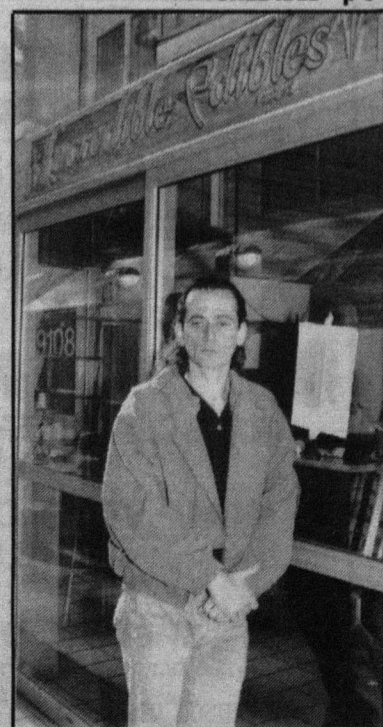
"I believe strongly that the University of Alberta should provide alternative nutritional sources," said McLean. "It's sad that in a university situation, there is no diversity of possibilities."

The protest ended before it could capture the attention of university officials. Just hours after McLean's sit-in began, he gave up saying "I didn't want to make my statement by doing something that was unlawful."

HUB administrators don't share McLean's belief that there is a large demand for food high in nutrition. Said leasing agent Gail Hinchliffe, "If he wasn't able to generate the sales, then the customers were saying that type of product wasn't important to them."

The nutrition of students was not McLean's only concern. In drawing attention to the problem he hoped to pressure mall administration to allow him a chance to recover his losses.

The rights to HUB leases have
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Deposed president Walter McLean.

Jeff Cowley

Ron Sears