

# gateway

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We live for just these twenty years...

...do we have to die for fifty more?

David Bowie



Photo Ray Ciguere

The University of Alberta's 75th Anniversary Committee has brought the first official U of A flag to campus. Top University officials, above, observed an official flag-raising ceremony last Friday marking this summer's World University Games. Designed by U of A Professor Walter Jungkind, the flag's focal point is the University Coat of Arms.

Cutbacks no, sexism no, group says

## Yes to disarmament

by Ken Lenz

The Student Left Union held its first organizational meeting last Thursday at the University.

Interim spokesperson for the SLU Anne McGrath outlined some of the objectives which the group wishes to help achieve. "At a time when unemployment is high and the government is cutting back on health and social services we think there should be a more activist approach," said McGrath.

The Group was formed to address issues that concern students from a socialist perspective. The SLU's statement of purpose puts issues in education first, followed by the economy, labour, women's issues, and peace and disarmament.

"Cutbacks in government threaten the accessibility of our education. Tuition increases and inadequate student aid maintain a strong class bias in our system."

The group also takes a radically different stand on labour and unemployment from our present government. "We support full employment policies and the right to a job or a living wage."

Women's issues also play a large role in the development of SLU policy. The group takes a

stand against sexism in course content, pornography, sexual harassment on campus and the present state of childcare provisions made by the government.

The SLU supports a "strong independent women's centre to organize women around these issues."

The final notable SLU policy centers around the disarmament issue, opposing both NATO and NORAD involvement as well as a cruise missile free Canada the group states. "We want Canada to become a nuclear weapons free zone so Canadians don't have to be faced daily with nuclear annihilation."

When questioned why there is another group forming to address these issues which already are being represented by several groups around campus McGrath stated, "There are groups that do address these issues but we felt there is a need to have a more unified and cohesive left group."

The next meeting of the Student Left Union is today.

The next meeting of the Student Left Union is today in Room 280 A, SUB, at 4:00.

## Nukes not legal

MONTREAL (CUP) — Nuclear war may be illegal and therefore international law experts have a role to play in the nuclear weapons debate, according to an American law professor.

Burns Watson, a University of Iowa professor and editor of the *U.S. Journal of International Law*, told a McGill University audience March 10 that the legal profession too often opposes progressive change for the sake of stability.

There are two fundamental principles of war: the principle of humanity and the principle of military necessity, but there is an inherent problem in balancing the two with regards to nuclear weapons.

"Therefore, the question of intent of use must be asked of all states; do they believe - and we can't prove that they do - that the rules of humanitarian armed conflict apply in a nuclear war?"

Watson said nuclear weapons can contradict the principle of humanitarian armed conflict, because they would destroy human civilization and cause long-term environmental damage.

Although there is no question a nuclear first-strike would be an illegal act of aggression under international law, the law is ambiguous about the use of conventional forces in armed conflict, said Watson.

"It's highly unlikely that all states will listen to us. We will never change the neanderthal thinking of Caspar Weinberger, but no major changes have ever been led by government."

"By making people aware of our position, the legal profession can have an influence on the ballot box, by forcing politicians to reconsider their position if they want to be elected."

But there are problems with this approach, said Watson, because although the use of nuclear weapons may be illegal, a nuclear build-up is not.

On the other hand, Watson said that by informing the public that there are basic legal grounds against nuclear weapons, they will not think the anti-nuclear movement's position is legally groundless.

For those Albertans who believe their commitment to disarmament should be both legally and morally upheld, there will be a march from Cold Lake to Edmonton this week.

The twelve day march will be to protest cruise missile flight testing at the Cold Lake site.

Protestors will meet tonight at 6:00 PM for a vigil in Cold Lake. The march will end in Edmonton on Easter Sunday with a rally at City Hall.

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