

# Space found for studies

A committee examining the study space shortage has reached an "acceptable compromise" according to Students' Union president Dean Olmstead.

Olmstead, a member of the General Faculties Council (GFC) ad hoc committee on study space, says the committee's proposals will take the pressure off existing study areas.

The committee looked at study areas and times and what students are losing and gaining, says Olmstead. Its aim is to make recommendations to minimize the study space problem for 1979-80.

The committee has gathered cost estimates, primarily for additional staff, and is looking at a total expenditure of

under \$30,000, says Olmstead.

Olmstead says stacks will not be installed in Rutherford South until the study space in the basement of CAB is ready, presumably in the next few weeks.

CAB will be open to 12:00 p.m. and library hours will be extended beginning December 3.

Olmstead also says library study space hours will be increased on a regular basis starting on February 1.

The committee has proposed that a university body monitor the study space situation and evaluate student attitudes toward the problem.

The committee will present a report at the November 26 GFC meeting.

## New program for colleges Degrees granted

The Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Jim Horsman announced his intention to introduce legislation allowing private colleges to grant undergraduate degrees.

The proposed policy will encourage the Canadian Union College, near Lacombe, Camrose Lutheran College and Concordia College in Edmonton to extend courses offered for credit to the third and fourth years, Horsman said in a statement Thursday.

Currently each college has an affiliation agreement with the

U of A under which first and second-year courses are recognized for credit when students transfer.

The legislation will also ensure that the quality of the programs be maintained and that the colleges will gain representation on the Universities Co-ordinating Council.

In the past, academic degrees have only been awarded by universities.

In his statement Horsman said his proposal "represents a significant policy initiative in post-secondary education in Alberta."



photo Russ Sampson

A tradition abandoned? Some 819 U of A graduates received their degrees in absentia. Only 541 graduates attended Fall Convocation last Saturday afternoon in the Jubilee Auditorium.

## Notley criticizes fees

The provincial NDP has reacted quickly to recent comments on student finance made by the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, Jim Horsman.

"Any tuition increase at this stage would be a wrong move," said Grant Notley, provincial NDP leader. We would not set up new barriers to post-secondary education."

Notley questioned the minister in the legislature earlier this month, when Horsman reaffirmed the Tory government's commitment to differential fees, and indicated that a tuition fee increase is due

next year.

Notley is also opposed to differential fees.

"I consider this a black mark against our province," he said. "I think most people, when they take time to understand the issue, are against differential fees."

Notley also criticized the minister for saying the Grantham report recommended, though not unanimously, that differential fees be continued.

"In fact it was a split decision, and no recommendation was made by the report," said Notley.

In a related issue, Notley

favoured greater student involvement in decisions affecting them. This was in response to Horsman's statement that students did not need to be represented on the national task force on student aid. Rather, said Horsman, they should make presentations to it.

"Students should definitely be represented on national bodies," said Notley.

Notley expressed dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the entire student finance issue.

"We're dealing with a conservative, insular Tory caucus," he said.

## NDP to challenge decision

Provincial NDP candidate Gordon Wright has decided to appeal a court decision which upheld the election of Conservative Julian Koziak in Edmonton Strathcona this March.

Wright announced the decision to appeal at a press conference November 14.

Wright and other members of the NDP constituency association executive had charged that violations of the Elections Act had invalidated the election.

The alleged violations included not enumerating students and not placing polls in locations convenient to the electors.

However the Honourable Mr. Justice A.M. Dechene ruled that the election was not "an undue return or election."

"This precedent-setting decision (is) totally wrong and (abrogates) the voting rights of all students in the province of Alberta", said constituency executive member Paul Sanborn.

Wright said he was optimistic about a by-election that would ensue if the decision were overturned.

"If the candidates remain

the same, I believe I'd win."

Wright said the appeal will probably be heard within the next three months.

## Czech writer to speak

Czech writer and former political prisoner Vladimir Skutina, will discuss his experiences and the human and civil rights movement in Czechoslovakia at 7:30 this evening in the Tory Lecture Theatre (TB1).

Skutina is currently touring North America to publicize the recent trials and further arrests of Charter 77 members in Czechoslovakia.

He will discuss the activities and the consequences of the activities of supporters of the Helsinki Accords and the International Declaration of Human Rights: both of which were signed by representatives of the

Czechoslovak government.

Skutina is renowned for his actions in the spring of 1968. As Soviet tanks rumbled throughout Prague, he broadcast underground from the state-owned television station.

Gordon Wright, the Edmonton lawyer who attended the October trials of five Charter 77 members in Prague, will discuss his observations of what he has denounced as a "travesty of justice" and "the perversion of the (Czech) legal system."



Czech dissident Vladimir Skutina

## Students' council

Students' council will hold a special meeting tonight to consider taking a position on the convention center plebiscite.

A motion from science proxy Brian Mason at the last meeting to oppose the proposed convention center and to communicate that position to the press was tabled to the External Affairs Board.

A further motion required council to hold a special meeting to consider the matter.

The meeting will be held in University Hall tonight at 7:00 p.m. All students are welcome to attend.

## Kirk Kirkwood

Oh God, they want me to be funny again. Worse, they want me to do it in print.

It seems people are saying that the *Gateway* is dull and boring this year. It seems people are saying that every year and every year the *Gateway* tries to do something about it. This year they asked me to be funny.

People are always asking me to be funny. No, people always expect me to be funny. If I talk to someone without making a joke for five minutes they think I'm severely depressed. People laugh when I make the most serious statements because they're waiting for a punch line. People have been known to laugh when I enter the room, although that might be something else again.

How did this happen? When did this start? Did I say something funny as a child that won the approval of others thus causing me to repeat the behavior to win more approval? Is laughter a substitute for love? For sex? Maybe I've just watched too much TV. Whatever happened, people expected me to be funny so I tried to be funny and people expected me to be funny even more.

And the funnier I am the funnier they expect me to be. They laugh so much waiting for the joke that the joke is never good enough. Not even the one about the salesman whose car breaks down, you see, and he has to walk to this farmhouse ... excuse me.

Anyway, once again it is my job to be funny, this time for a bunch of people who don't even know me. That is important because you haven't heard any of my material before. Except that one about the salesman; most people seem to know that one for some reason. Actually I don't tell many jokes. I try to create humor through personality. It is very difficult however to get personality to come across in print. I'll work on that problem right after I figure out where I'm going to get a personality from.

Most of you probably know by now that my real problem is: I'm just not all that funny. The *Gateway* people know that. I asked them, "Why me?" and they said, "Because Erma Bombeck isn't a student here." They would replace me in a second if they could.

But they can't because none of them are funny at all. That's because they're all communists. Communists are sad most of the time because they have, "empathy for the masses downtrodden by the capitalist system." And when they do laugh it's only because the stock market is down or somebody has gone bankrupt.

So until the *Gateway* can find some one who can write boffo material about working in a Bulgarian tractor plant I have to be funny. Be warned; I think the funniest book ever written is Plato's Republic. But seriously folks, I've had to do this all my life and I can be pretty funny if I want to. Next week I'll show you.