

# The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short: letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750, Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

Editor - Kevin Gillese  
 News - Don Truckey  
 Features - Bruce Rout  
 Arts: Keith Layton  
 Sports - Darrell Semenuk  
 Photo - Grant Wurr  
 Graphics - Craig McLachlan  
 Advertising - Tom Wright  
 STAFF: Our production long-timers—DAX, Mary D., Liz Jarvis, Loreen L., Sue M., Lindsay B., and Margriet T-W; newers—Katy Le Rougetel, Don M., Stu McDougall; photos—Brian Gavriloff, Bohdan Hrynshyn, Gary van Overloop; columnists—Dirk S., Peter B., Fritz L., artsy-fartsies—Dave S., J.C. LaDalia, J. Charles, Bongo W. That's it.

## editorial

Things have been hectic in the Legislature this past week. The opposition didn't have much to harp about when the PCs brought down the budget with its sizeable gas subsidy and increased funding for some public services which have long been neglected, such as libraries. Of course, there are still major cutbacks (in real money terms) in such things as day care centres, post-secondary education and social services; but hopefully this budget signals a loosening in the provincial government's cautious attitude towards expenses which reduce the plight of lower-income people in this wealthy province.

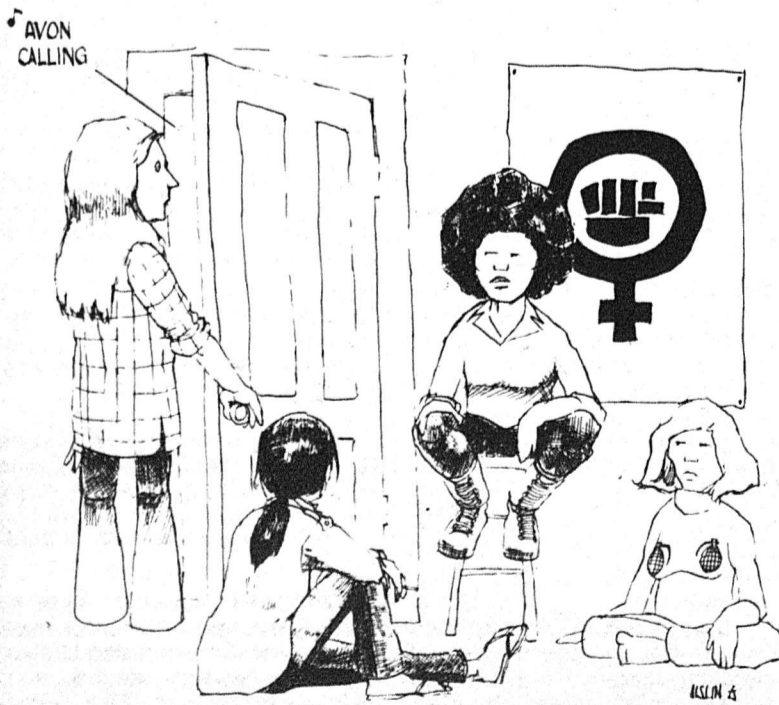
A lot of people got upset at another "government" move, however, when PC backbencher John Batiuk spoke out against the "native problem." Natives, according to Batiuk, are just one big group of backward savages and we'd all be eating pemmican if we had listened to them. This type of racist grouping is bad enough in itself (what do you think would have happened if Batiuk had made a similar comment about British people: i.e. "we'd all be eating tea and crumpets..."? Wouldn't it have sounded just as stupid?). But then for Batiuk to receive public support for such comment illustrates yet once again just how unenlightened this province really is. If people can make stupid comments (and Batiuk's was much more a stupid than vicious comment) such as this and find public support, is it any wonder the government is proposing differential fees?

On the other hand, Socred leader Bob Clark scored some political points when he introduced a motion which would make equal division of property in marriage a "legislated reality."

The matrimonial property act, long overdue, would ensure that, in the event of divorce, all property is divided equally between husband and wife. Couples who did not want this type of sharing arrangement would file in writing before marriage. As Clark points out, this act would help many Alberta women who are now treated unfairly because of the current "confusing and incomplete" legislation. Clark's motion, however, will not likely pass. Such is political life...

It would also be nice to note last week that, although many people have speculated that alcohol consumption among young people has risen drastically since the drinking age was dropped to 18, the facts say differently. A 10-year study by the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission shows no unusual change in per capita consumption of alcohol — "no evidence...to support the idea that a dramatic increase of sales occurred following the change in the law." And what increases did occur were part of a "general trend," not related to any specific group of drinkers. This takes the wind out of the sails (or whiskey out of the hip flasks if you prefer a more spirited metaphor) of those calling for an increase in the drinking age because so many of Alberta's youth have been harmed by "demon liquor."

by Kevin Gillese



## BUB SLUG by Delaney & Rasmussen



# Support the April 1 Legislature protest

Last month a spontaneous demonstration at the opening of the Spring Session of the Alberta Legislature to protest differential fees was an overwhelming success. Begun as a picket line to give information to MLAs entering the Legislature, the protest grew to over 200 people, all providing the provincial government with concrete evidence that there are people in Alberta who do not agree with a two tier system of tuition fees.

Studies indicate there are few foreign students on campus (4.6 per cent); that they do not take places from Canadian students (under one per cent are enrolled in quota faculties); that they bring money into the country (\$3,000 per year into the Alta. economy); that they cannot take jobs while in Canada and must return to their country of origin following graduation (and thus do not compete with Canadian workers); that a two-tier system of fees will be more expensive to implement (\$80,000 to the university administration, compared with about \$30,000 generated revenue) than revenues will offset; that differential fees particularly discriminate against Third World students (the ones most badly in need of advanced education); and that much of the Alberta populace (no matter what Bert Hohol says) is opposed to such an ill thought-out proposal.

Along with the U of A Board of Governors, Senate, Arts Faculty Council, Faculty Association; the Alberta NDP; provincial and district labor councils; Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; et al, we, the Alberta Committee for Equal Access to

Education, condemn the government's immoral and impractical proposal to institute two-tier tuition fees for foreign students in Alberta.

We invite all concerned citizens to join with us in protesting the government's move — motivated by a mixture of parochial hysteria and narrow-sightedness — in a public demonstration Friday, April 1 at the Alberta legislature. The time and details of the protest will be forthcoming; but students should make themselves aware of the issues now and prepare to join in another public protest to show the provincial government that

their public "support" on this issue is merely a sham, and what little support exists comes from a misinformed, or bigotted public.

Examine the issue and our protest on April 1 — when attempt to explain to the government the joke is one them, they are the fools who, through ignorance and poor sentimentality are bringing back a provincial narrowness to the public memory reminiscent of America in 1950s.

Join our protest.

The Alberta Committee for Equal Access to Education

# Sorry...

On Sunday night the Madrigal Singers were making sublime music in the large hall between the Rutherford libraries. I would like to tender my most profound public apologies to the student or students who caused the campus police to stop the performance at the half-way mark. I know how very irritating noise can be when one is trying to study, and the noise of four part harmony must be four times as annoying, especially if one does not know what it is! Of course, those who have heard of madrigals know how rare it is to hear them live, performed by well trained, enthusiastic, dedicated artists ... but enough of this sentimental claptrap.

I realize that an hour of studying can make all the

difference to the successful attainment of a degree, and the hours of training and rehearsal of ten lovely voices never be allowed to jeopardize the labours of a True Scholar. Again, please accept my deepest apologies for being a particularly heinous offense. I feel doubly ashamed because I applauded very loudly — I cannot escape guilt. Perhaps the Madrigal Singers can be persuaded to a concert in the middle of the Jubilee Auditorium parking lot, the acoustics will leave a bit to be desired, but the magnificent harmonies will not harm your career at least — not even a bit.

John Comp...