

No home for students

Students are *prima facie* required to vote in an absentee student polling place, according to judge Andre Dechene.

This decision was made as part of Dechene's justification for turning down defeated provincial candidate Gordon Wright's charge that Julian Koziak's victory was an undue election in the Edmonton Strathcona riding in March.

Wright's case was based, in part, on the fact that students living in residence were not enumerated. Dechene ruled that the returning officer had been correct in his decision not to enumerate these students.

Quite aside from the injustice done Gordon Wright and the New Democratic Party, this decision has frightening ramifications for students.

Dechene discusses the concept of ordinary residence, and states that the question is where a person "regularly, normally, or customarily" lives. He concludes that single students living in residence during a university term are ordinarily resident in the homes of their parents, to which they return on vacations.

This decision is patently absurd. Students, once they have begun to attend university, commonly consider that they have left home; their parents, as they heave sighs of relief, certainly do.

Dechene says enrolment at university is no more than a temporary stage in a person's career, leading at some future time to a "settled and permanent way of life."

However, very few people in our society spend their entire lifetime in one job and one place. A university career, in particular one involving graduate studies, could quite conceivably be the greatest length of time an individual does spend in one place, at one occupation.

This statement simply reflects prejudices, shared by a great number of people, that students are just putting in a frivolous four years before finding out what the real world is like. In fact, the time spent at university is a significant part of an individual's life. It is one in which beliefs, and in particular, political beliefs, are formed. It makes no sense, therefore, to force students who want to become involved in the political process, to do so in the riding in which their parents live.

Students should be allowed to vote where they are living for the academic term, which amounts to two-thirds of the year. It is in Lister Hall, or Pembina, or co-op housing in Garneau; that a student lives "in the course of the customary mode of life" and it is therefore in Edmonton Strathcona that they are most apt to be informed about the issues and the candidates.

Dechene's decision may be appealed, and it may be overturned. The Students' Union should support any appeal financially, for if this decision is allowed to stand, students have effectively been disenfranchised in the riding in which they are living.

Alison Thomson

the Gateway

If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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STAFF THIS ISSUE: John-Boy Bilsland, Ken Meyers, Hollis Brown, Megan Collins, Shawna Vogel, Happy belated birthday, Maxine, Janice Michaud, Sarah King, Debbie Jones, Gerard Kennedy, Tim Wood, Mike Walker, that's life in the big city Rene, Bob Kilgannon, Shaune Impy, Pam Spencer, Terry Jonestown, Austin Hitchins, "Indians on dawn's highway bleeding" happy birthday Jim M., and Sondra.

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NEWS ITEM: STUDENT UNION
TO SPEND \$300.00 ON UNIFORMS
FOR LOCAL 'MITE' HOCKEY TEAM.

DASKEWICH '79
- THE GATEWAY -

Second Wind

by Mike Walker

David Marples is correct in stating in his October 30 column that Canada is guilty of neglecting its native Indian and Inuit populations. But his apparent belief that northern Canada should be reserved solely for the Inuit and Dene peoples is both unrealistic and regressive.

Marples states that the native peoples' requests "to be able to live off the lands they have occupied from time immemorial and to pass them on to their children" are "meagre." He goes on to point out that this way of life "will flourish long after the supplies of oil and natural gas have been exhausted."

The first assertion is open to question. Regardless of right or wrong, taking vast chunks of Canada for the sole use of one group of Canadians is not a meagre request. Marples seems to forget that our way of life demands the extraction of resources from the north. He blames multinational corporations for their "insatiable appetite...for gobbling up the natural resources of these areas," when in fact the multinationals merely focus our collective hunger for the fruits of those resources.

Certainly the second assertion is true: if a way of life doesn't depend on oil and gas, their disappearance will not affect this way of life. Is it possible, though, in the modern world, for any group to live in isolation, oblivious to the society surrounding it, insulated from the ever more rapid change outside?

Of course, it is not. We are all bound to the twentieth century as only time can bind. When Europeans set foot on the shores of America, its history was irreparably changed. Nothing can now change the fact that a highly advanced technological society lives in North America. The future is all that is open to us.

Implied in the entire column is the claim that all or most natives really want to continue living as they did in the past. Is this accurate? Some undoubtedly do want to return to a simpler time and a simpler life. But many only want to slow the pace of development and gain some control over development decisions affecting their lives. Others probably want to be able to sell Canada the mineral rights to the Northwest Territories.

Regardless of natives' wishes, though, the north will be developed. Canada simply must have the resources its prosperity is based on. Some day, the western world may learn to live without oil and gas. Until then, there can be no question about development.

The only solution to the conflict over development is compromise. Clearly, development must go ahead, albeit at a slower pace. It must be planned to minimize environmental and social damage. Northern residents must have a strong voice in decisions.

All Canadians must share the burdens and the benefits of the orderly and considered development of Canada's north.

Fraternities react to story

I think you owe the fraternities on campus an apology for printing such a flagrantly inaccurate piece of irresponsible journalism as your Oct. 16 article

entitled "Frat Fun," which contained not only half-truths and omissions, but also a lot of downright errors. As Bernie Williams has quite correctly

pointed out, Lear didn't even bother to get his facts straight. The nine men's fraternities (not "frats," please!) with chapters at

Campus still dangerous

Despite the good works of the Safe Campus Committee and others, the possibility of sexual assault on campus has not yet been entirely eliminated. Being alert to this possibility, and taking simple precautions in light of it, is the most effective and least dangerous means of removing personal danger. In the belief that "forewarned is forearmed," students are invited to pick up free copies of "Lady Beware" and the Rape Crisis Centre's pamphlet from our office in room 250 SUB. Both

pamphlets describe means of avoiding assault, of defense during an assault, and of procedures after an assault. Student Help has also placed "Safe Campus Help Lists" and our own pamphlets in many bulletin-board pockets across the University. Students are urged to help themselves to these, as a first step in increasing safety and security in their everyday lives.

Keith Paynter
Director
Student Help

the U of A are: Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Theta Chi, Zeta Psi, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Farmhouse and Delta Upsilon. The women's fraternities are Kappa Alpha Theta, Pi Beta Phi and Delta Gamma.

In the past, Gateway policy seems to have been to politely ignore the existence of fraternities. Maybe you should keep it that way — we certainly don't need this kind of shoddy and misinformed publicity.

Barb Schultz
Arts IV