

"A face like a horse..."

# The Gateway

...and a voice like glue."  
— David Bowie on Bob Dylan

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## Fraternity backlash prompts swift retraction

by Shannon Taylor

Fallout from the fraternity dispute that erupted earlier this week has lead two University of Alberta Student Union vice-presidents to retract a statement they made Monday.

SU academic vp Charles Vethan and finance vp Chris Welsh issued a press release defending campus fraternities Monday after the organizations were criticized in an *Edmonton Sun* article.

The article quoted English professor

Gary Kelly who says Garneau residents are tired of the vandalism, drunk driving, and loud noise they claim are results of fraternity parties in the area. There are 13 U of A fraternities in the Garneau-area.

The press release issued by Vethan and Welsh criticized Kelly's comments, saying "In his campaign Dr. Kelly has stated that fraternities serve no other purpose than to be a party haven for drunkards."

The two executives, both members of campus fraternities, withdrew the state-

ment after Kelly demanded a retraction Wednesday. In a letter addressed to Vethan and Welsh, Kelly said "More serious, however, is the fact that you attribute to me statements that I did not make... You (Vethan) told me that someone had told you that my wife had been overheard to say something like it (the retracted statement).

"I have in fact never made such a statement... I have always been ready to acknowledge that fraternities do valuable

social and philanthropic work, for their members and for others," Kelly said in the letter.

Kelly also took offence to the vice-presidents signing the release as members of the student executive, saying they were falsely representing the U of A SU.

In the retraction, Welsh and Vethan stated the release was the position of two Students' Union vice-presidents as fraternity members and is not an official policy  
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### First breath of spring

First-year science student Garry Solonynko probably didn't plan on having a mouthful of dust included in his first breath of spring. Streetsweepers hit U of A campus on Monday.

## Tuition policy big step

by James Carr

University and Students' Union officials agree that the new SU system for setting a tuition fees policy is a positive step for student interests.

From 1987 until this year the SU had a standing policy of tolerating absolutely no tuition fees increases.

Peter Miller, dean of Student Services, said that this policy meant that "the Students' Union had their hands tied. In the last two years, increases were inevitable, but the SU was still demanding 0%. As a result, Miller said, the SU "had little bargaining power with the Administration."

David Tupper, who is presently SU vp external and was elected as next year's SU president, agreed. He said that the 0% increase policy "was creating a problem for the SU when they approached the government "about student tuition and funding concerns. The public perception was that the students want more but won't give more, creating a problem of credibility for student representatives."

This academic year it was Tupper's and SU president Paul LaGrange's idea to change the system for determining this policy. The success of the March referendum over tuition fees policy  
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## Effects of chemical spill almost nil

by Judy Evans

It's toxic, it can burn, and prolonged exposure to its dust over years can cause cancer.

But the term effects of the chemical which spilled on a 40 km stretch of highway north of Edmonton are virtually nil, according to a University of Alberta expert.

About 900 litres of sodium dicromate, used to kill bacteria in radiator cooling water, was

washed up on Highway 831 last week.

According to the Hazardous Chemicals Information and Disposal Guide, the highly active dichromate salt can cause skin ulcerations and burns, is irritating to the eyes and lungs, and on prolonged exposure can damage the liver even causing cancer after a number of years of contact.

However, the same reactivity that makes it hazardous, also

allows for easy neutralization.

According to Dr. Byron Kratochoil, a professor in the U of A chemistry department, the dichromate can be neutralized by a simply solution of iron (II) salts, thiosulphates or bisulfites.

The resulting product is highly inert and poses no threat to human or environmental health.

"As soon as it contacts organic matter it will be neutralized," said Kratochoil.

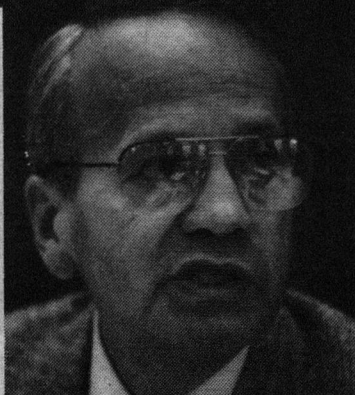
"Traces left on the highway would probably be washed into the ditch when it rains and would be neutralized by the organic matter in the water."

"It might kill the grass in the ditch, but it will regrow," he said. Residents of the spill area should still avoid exposure to the chemical, but they can rest assured that the threat to their health is, indeed a temporary one.

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