

# The Gateway

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The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

## Scholarship grievance

*Athlete claims performance criteria take second place to discretion*

by Philip Preville

A formal complaint has been filed with Athletics Alberta concerning U of A track and field coach Ted King and the distribution of Jimmy Condon athletic scholarships to track athletes.

The complaint states that some deserving athletes will not be receiving Jimmy Condon scholarships. *The Gateway's* sources from within the University's track community claim that King plans use one of the scholarships as remuneration for a student athlete who helps with King's office and administrative duties.

"We have received a complaint," said Janet Schulha of Alberta Athletics, which employs King as the director of the Track and Field Centre, and director of Coaching for Northern Alberta.

Schulha said the complaint would be brought before the Athletics Alberta Board meeting on Thursday, November 30, and if the Board determines that the complaint requires further investigation, then the Track and Field Centre management committee would be contacted. This committee consists of representatives from the Department of Athletics at the U of A,

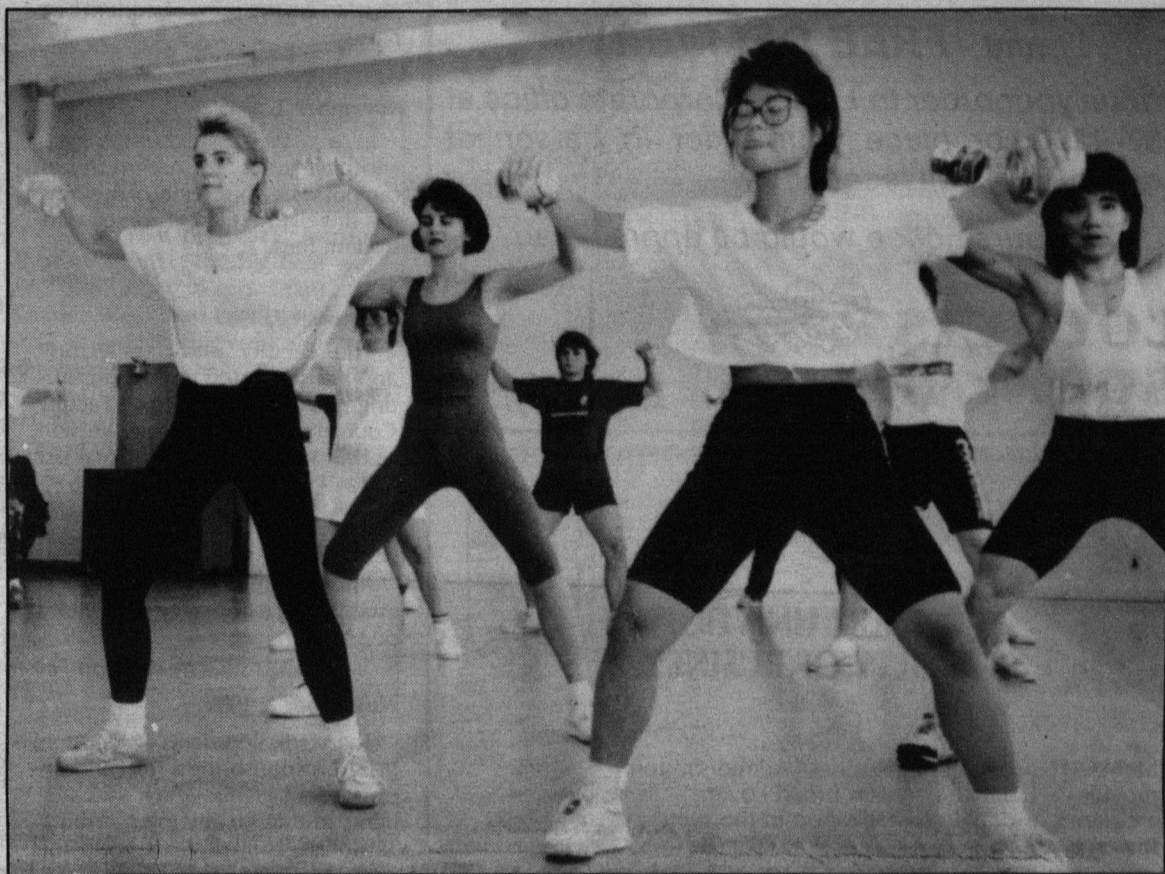
Athletics Alberta, and the Alberta Sport Council.

Schulha would not disclose the source of the complaint.

When asked to comment on the complaint, King said that he felt people were making assumptions based on a lack of evidence. "I understand it is someone who believes it [the allocation of scholarships] is not being done fairly," he said. "Unfortunately, I have not been confronted with any formal complaint prior to the one received by Athletics Alberta."

The situation came to light when middle distance runner Meteo Ayala stepped forward to express his concern over possible mismanagement of scholarship funds. Ayala—and other track athletes who requested anonymity—said that one particular athlete has alleged that King would give him a Condon scholarship in return for doing office work, even though he would not make the team.

King denied ever having such a discussion, although he confirmed that the athlete in question was doing some office duties for him. King said he was aware of such rumours, but doubted that the athlete in question would make



Kevin Law

### A tin of effort

The annual "Tin-minute workout" is being held in Campus Rec. classes this week. Participants are asked to bring canned goods to use during their workout, and then the items are donated to the Edmonton Food Bank.

any such statement. "I would be surprised if (the athlete) said such things. He is not one who believes that he cannot make any team," said King. He also denied that the athlete will receive a scholarship on this basis, however he refused to discuss the distribution of the Condon awards until after they have been announced this Friday.

Jimmy Condon scholarships are awards administered by the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Program, for university athletes participating in a sport which leads to a national championship. All inter-university sports teams at the U of A are allotted a certain number of Con-

don scholarships, depending upon levels of participation. Track and field was allotted 30 Condon scholarships, 15 each for men and women.

There are both academic and athletic criteria required in order to receive a Condon scholarship. Athletic criteria are set by the individual coaches, who choose which of their athletes are to receive the scholarships. The athletic criteria must be at least in part performance-based, but some athletic criteria may be based on other factors. "There is an element of my discretion involved, as there is with all other coaches," said King.

King would not outline his own

specific criteria to *The Gateway*, but he did cite the cross-country races which many prospective team members participated in, as well as two time trials held in recent practices. "Everyone knew that this would be a factor," said King. Ayala, who competes in the same disciplines as the athlete in question, won both time trials, although he admits that he had a poor cross-country season. He has been told, unofficially, that he will not receive a Condon award this semester.

King has been the coach for the track and field program since its resurrection in 1988. Final cuts for track and field have not yet been made. The season starts in January.



### 'Tis the season

As Christmas approaches, carollers have begun entertaining HUB Mall patrons to bring on the festive spirit.

## Lawyers check *Bridge*

by Dawn Lerohl

Lawyers for the Students' Union have completed a review of the controversial November issue of *The Bridge*. According to that review, comments in the paper about Mayor Jan Reimer would likely be just cause for a lawsuit.

"If charges were pressed by Jan Reimer she would have a strong case," said SU president David Tupper after conferring with legal counsel.

But the Students' Union could not be held responsible for the content of the newspaper as the SU executive had no concrete knowledge of what was to be printed in the paper. "We, as a Students' Union, since we only had a general knowledge of the paper, likely we would not be liable," said Tupper. Although Mayor Reimer has

indicated it is unlikely she will take any legal action, technically, the University, the Engineering Students' Society and the writers themselves could perhaps be held responsible, said Tupper.

The SU is waiting to hear the ruling on *The Bridge* from the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board. But Tupper admits there is little the SU could do to control the future direction of the paper.

If the DIE Board finds *The Bridge* in violation of any federal, provincial or municipal legislation, the SU could revoke the status of the ESS as an SU club. But, as the ESS does not receive any direct Students' Union funding, the SU executive would be limited to restricting the club's use of Dinwoodie Lounge for fundraisers.

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