

# Education for elite?

by Greg Halinda

The University met the community in a school gymnasium last Wednesday night for an informal debate.

The U of A Senate sponsored the event, and the motion addressed read: "the education received at the U of A must now be considered education for a select elite because it only affects a small minority of the population."

Arguing for the motion was a lawyer, a civic official, and a priest, all from St. Albert, where the debate took place (at William D. Cuts Community School).

Against the motion was a professor, a dean, and a student from the University of Alberta.

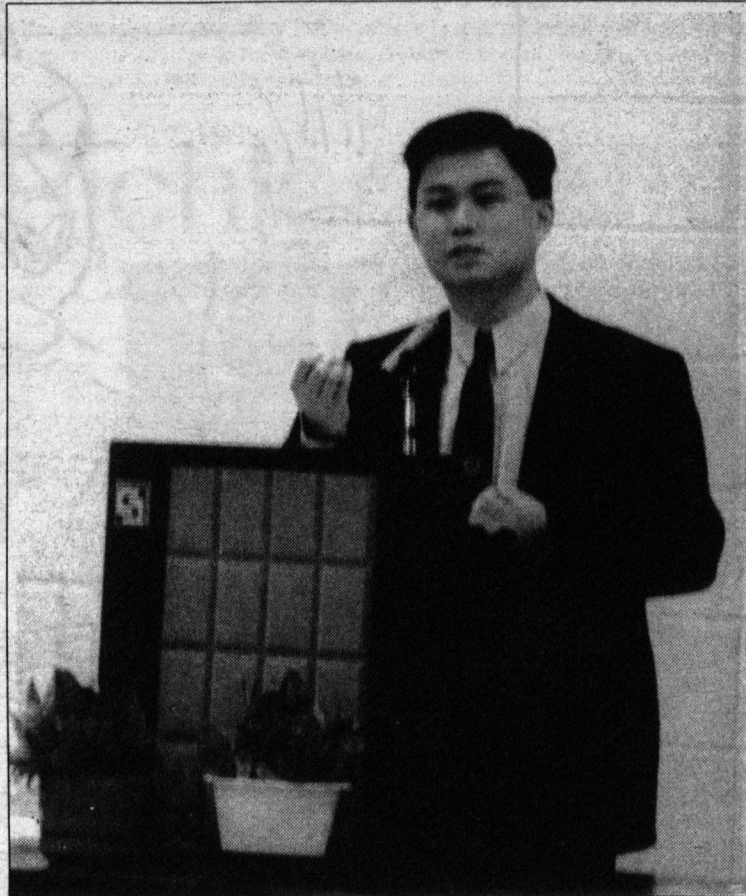
The affirmative team, in supporting the motion, attacked the entrance standards as too high and the quality of graduates as too low.

Tom Mackay, St. Alberta city manager, said, "I as an employer have many university graduates who write to me and I can't even understand their letters."

Rev. Ed Lewis of St. Matthew's Anglican Church said, "The university I feel is a degree mill, producing thousands of graduates from very impersonal, meaningless classes . . ."

Lawyer Judy Anderson advocated raising entrance standards so that those who have "the ability and the achievement" would receive a university education.

Sticking up for the university, Jason Lucien, a U of A arts student, said, "The university is not elitist. You, young and old, can come to the U and in some way enrich your



U of A student Jason Lucien

Photo Geoff Haynes

life."

Gerry Moss, a professor of physics at the U of A, contrasted institutions of the 13th century like Oxford and the Sorbonne with the U of A today.

"In the 12th and 13th centuries . . . a select few gained access to study," Moss said. "Today, university admission is founded on intel-

lectual accomplishment and on a desire to learn."

At debate's end a vote by applause was taken, and declared a tie. University president Myer Horowitz gave concluding remarks, but withheld comment on the substance of this "fun" debate.

About 60 persons attended the event.

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# Recent DIE Board decisions

The Board finds that *there is a distinction between a student-at-large and a Students' Council member.*

Membership requirements for Students' Union boards (and committees) specify, inter alia, that a certain number of Students' Council members and a certain number of student-at-large members must be chosen to represent each board. While the Bylaws indicate that a student-at-large can fill a Councilor position, nowhere is it indicated that a Councilor can fill a student-at-large position.

The purpose of such legislation is to ensure that a certain number of non-Councilors maintain membership on the respective board in an effort to promote the widest re-

presentation of student views.

Where a student-at-large member of a board later becomes a Students' Council member, his/her membership on the respective board will become voidable.

The board member in question shall be permitted to remain on the respective board only in the event of a Student Councilor vacancy.

Upon written request by any Students' Union member, the Chairperson of the board in question shall investigate and take the appropriate action.



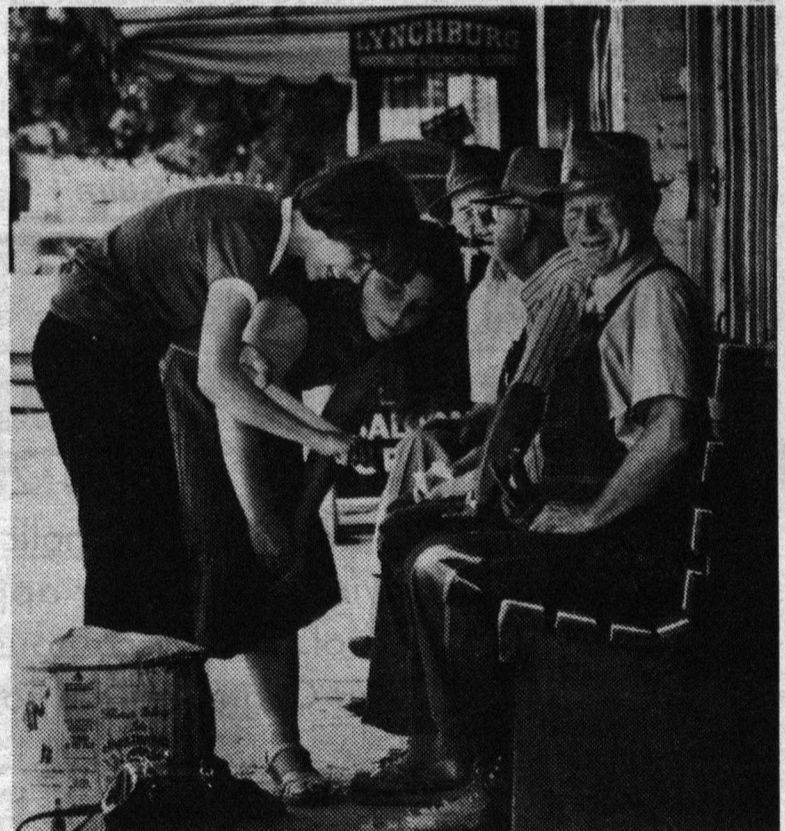
All remunerative positions on the Gateway are approved pursuant to Article XVI, Section 3. (a) and therefore do not fall within the

conflict of interest provision of Section 2.

The Board could find no reason to believe that a Students' Council member is any more likely to disclose confidential information to the Gateway by reason only that he/she is a voting member of the Gateway.

Article XVI, Section 4. adequately protects against any impropriety of Students' Council members who are also members of other organizations.

The Board therefore finds that a Students' Council member is not in conflict of interest of Article XVI, Section 2. by reason only of that person being a voting member of the Gateway.



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