

# SU union-breaking?

by Kimball Cariou

A long-time employee of the Students' Union says he was fired last October because the Students' Union management tried to weaken the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local responsible for full-time SU employees.

Govind Sundram, who has worked seven years as a SU employee, was fired Oct. 22 from his job as Operating Assistant in the Games Area of SUB and CUPE. He alleges the charges which led to his dismissal were "rumped up," as excuses to remove him because of the leading role he has played in the CUPE local since it was formed in 1971. Sundram played an active role in forming the local, against the opposition from the SU executive.

A letter from Harry Goldberg, Students' Union General Manager, cited Sundram's alleged "inability with respect to the technical requirements of the position ... reports of early closing and/or leaving, reading or studying the job and classes interfering (and no) indication of an

increase in your technical aptitude or ability which is a requirement for the position," as the reasons for the firing.

Sundram denies all these charges. When they were brought against him, he filed grievances with the SU executive, but the executive upheld the SU management's position. The matter has now gone to arbitration within the department of labor.

According to Sundram, the

group of supervisors employed by the Students' Union were traditionally the strongest union supporters, and he feels an attempt is being made to weaken the local by removing people in these positions.

Last year the SU applied to the Board of Industrial Relations to have the supervisors removed from the bargaining unit. The Board removed three - Vern Torstenson, supervisor of theatre operations; Janet Moore, super-

visor of arts and crafts, and Wally McLean, supervisor of SU food services. Sundram's position as evening supervisor was made redundant in June, leaving only three supervisors in the local.

When his position was eliminated, Sundram was offered the Games Area job, with responsibility for the HUB and SUB Billiards, the curling rink, and the bowling lanes. He took the new job, the qualifications for which, as listed in the job description,

included:

- Grade 12 education
- experience or willingness to learn Games Area maintenance and administration, including maintaining curling ice, and bowling lane surfaces and equipment, and re-covering and maintaining billiard tables.
- some technical training (not mandatory)
- well-organized and thorough work habits, and an ability to deal with staff, students and public.

Sundram's understanding with the Students' Union was that he would work in the Games Area until it became possible to promote him. He had the highest seniority of any staff member; his performance appraisals list him as "good" or "average," to "above average" or "excellent."

With the approval of the SU management, Sundram began taking courses at Grant MacEwan Community College in September, in order to better qualify himself for promotion.

During his time on the job, Sundram says, he was never unable to do the work, and in fact at times was able to do work for which he had no official training,

Continued to Page 2

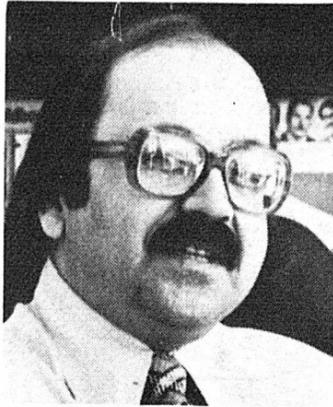
## Management denies it all

Students' Union general manager Harry Goldberg says he cannot comment on the allegations brought against him by former SU employee Govind Sundram.

"The matter has gone to arbitration," Goldberg said in a Wednesday telephone interview. "Anything I say at this point may be prejudicial.

"I will have to hold my comments until this (arbitration) is finished before the department of labor."

SU president Len Zoeteman feels there was no injustice done to Sundram. In an interview



Harry Goldberg

Wednesday, Zoeteman said Sundram's supervisor job had become redundant, and he was offered another position, which he proved unable to fulfill properly.

Zoeteman said that the SU's goal in applying to have supervisors removed from the bargaining unit was to remove "managerial" staff from the union.

Zoeteman said he and the Executive were quite willing to accept the Industrial Relations Board's decision to move only three of seven supervisors into managerial positions.

One would not object to Alberta's climate changing...

# The Gateway

...if it didn't change more often than twice a day - Bob Edwards

OL. LXVII, NO. 33. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1977. SIXTEEN PAGES.



"Each of the novels have a narrator who tells the story from his own perspective."  
What is the subject of this sentence? Is there a mistake in number between the subject and verb? English lecturer Lorna Vaughan runs an overflowing seminar through the grammatical mill Wednesday in Humanities L4. If you can't answer the questions, the next grammar lesson is Friday at 10 a.m., same place.

## Losing their composure

VANCOUVER (CUP)—For the third consecutive year, more than one-third of the University of British Columbia's first-year English students have failed a composition exam.

English 100 chair Jonathan Wisenthal said Jan. 6 the failure rate on the exam was 37 per cent. Last year, 38 per cent of first year students failed.

Wisenthal said the exam was three content questions on a short essay by Aldous Huxley and a choice of two essay topics — was fair, and reflected marks the students received for the rest of their term work.

"The marks students receive on the composition exam are generally in agreement with the marks given them by their professors," Wisenthal said.

## Gateway ad startles but maybe no crisis

A Gateway classified ad which advises campus women to take precautions because of "numerous sexual assaults on women travelling from campus late at night" has elicited numerous responses but there is no information as to who placed the ad, or whether the ad's assertion is valid or not.

A number of telephone calls from readers alarmed by the ad's warning sent Gateway staffers searching back files to find out who placed the 26-word ad.

## Hohol returns home after CMEC meeting

Alberta's minister of advanced education, Dr. Bert Hohol, has returned from meetings with four federal ministers in Ottawa and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) meeting in Quebec City. "My talks were positive and successful in terms of exploration of issues on which there will be new policy statements developed," Hohol said in a Tuesday press release.

At the 27th meeting of CMEC, Dr. Hohol supported the Council's reiteration of the provinces' complete and exclusive jurisdiction in matters of education policy, as granted by the British North America (BNA) Act. The provincial right to decide education policy is not negotiable, delegates reiterated, stressing that the nine-year-old Council is the only acceptable body for the discussion of Canada-wide education concerns.

In discussions with John Roberts, a guest at the meeting, the Council stressed the need for reassessment of the federal

government's policy regarding financing second language programs. Alberta, having already set aside funds for instruction in languages other than French and English, intends to follow multilingual program objectives which better meet provincial priorities, Hohol said.

With regard to student assistance, the Council emphasized that by pooling federal and provincial support according to an agreed formula, a more satisfactory national student assistance plan can be designed. Roberts agreed to review the Canada Student Loan Act and to consider amendments in its eligibility requirements to accommodate part-time, as well as full-time students, by including weekly, rather than annual, loan limits and reducing minimum course length, from 26 to 12 weeks.

The Council, re-affirming the need for Canadian instructional materials, will support the

continued to page 3

The person who placed the ad paid in cash and did not leave a name. No Gateway staff members remember the person at all, not even to the point of identifying whether it was a man or a woman.

The ad reads:

Campus Women. There have been numerous sexual assaults on women travelling from campus late at night. If possible - travel in pairs and vary your route home.

There seems to be no way of factually substantiating the ad's claim that there have been numerous sexual assaults on or around campus in recent months.

City police will release no information. Campus security will not give any information to the media (this is their stated - in this case stated repeatedly - policy).

The director of Student Health, Dr. Frank Cookson, says there have been no requests for abortions due to rape-induced pregnancies in the past year, to his knowledge.

Cookson, who also sits on a committee examining sexual assaults on campus, says there was only one assault reported to

continued to page 2