

Forum will explore the two countries' federal systems

# Conference compares India, Canada

by Jeff Oss

Last August, U of A economics professor Kanhaya Gupta found a curious idea tapping at the window of his mind.

"India and Canada are in different stages of economic development, but as federal states they share similar considerations: how to accommodate a diverse country, how to accommodate different pressure groups. If they face similar problems, how do they handle them?"

Gupta was curious to see exactly how similar both federal governments were, and to see if both governments faced similar problems.

If so, it would certainly be worthwhile to compare and contrast government responses in each case. If not, it would be equally worthwhile to discover differences.

This led Gupta to organize a conference to address the issue.

"Comparative studies are always useful and interesting; pointing out mistakes to be avoided and lessons to be learned. Information in such a study is not too common and not too readily available. Comparative studies (done) between Australia and Canada (proved) very beneficial."

After months of fundraising (The U of A and the *Edmonton Journal* agreed to jointly fund the conference), finding speakers from eight universities and a Government of India agency, and organization (the joint efforts of the Shastri Indo-

Canadian Institute and the U of A), that conference — entitled "COMPARATIVE FEDERALISM: CANADA-INDIA" — will take place on Thursday and Friday this week (March 26-27) in Room TBW2 of the Tory Building. All events are open to the public. There's no admission fee and no registration is required.

"It's the first conference of its kind in North America," said Gupta.

Gupta maintains the conference is not about India, nor Canada. It is

"the comparative exploration of the federal systems. It examines and explores the functioning of federalism in a comparative perspective."

In other words, the conference doesn't focus on the countries involved; it focuses on the governments of those countries.

Comparing federal systems of government, Gupta asserts, "is not an area that's been explored in any depth." Consequently, he had a

hard time finding speakers for the conference, most of whom are political science professors.

"There are not many people working in this area. (Basically) it's a conference in political science (implemented) by an economist, although (Dr. Jayant) Lele is a sociologist and (Dr. Govinda) Rao is an economist. These are technical, professional papers."

Another snag added to the difficulty in finding speakers: bad tim-

ing. "Professors don't want to come at this time." However, Gupta emphasized, "It was a very deliberate choice to hold the conference at a time when students could attend it — explicitly taking students into account (so as) to accommodate them and not just the academics."

For more details call Gupta at 432-3127, or D. Baine at 432-3755.

## Science Council elections hassle

by K.G. Bosman

Science student council representative elections remain embroiled in controversy.

"Why didn't they just take down their posters?" lamented Undergraduate Science Society (USS) president and newly elected Science SU rep Kevin Klapstein, commenting upon the upcoming Science Students' For Action slate appeal of their disqualification to the SU Discipline, Enforcement, and Interpretation (DIE) Board.

Last Wednesday, USS Chief Returning Officer Greg Steward disqualified the Action slate from the Science elections for multiple campaign violations — specifically failure to cease campaigning on election day.

Meanwhile, mum's the word from the Science Students for

Action slate. Slate manager Robin Boodle issued a strict "No comment" saying he didn't want to influence the DIE Board decisions.

The disqualified Action slate is

requesting a new election be held in Science.

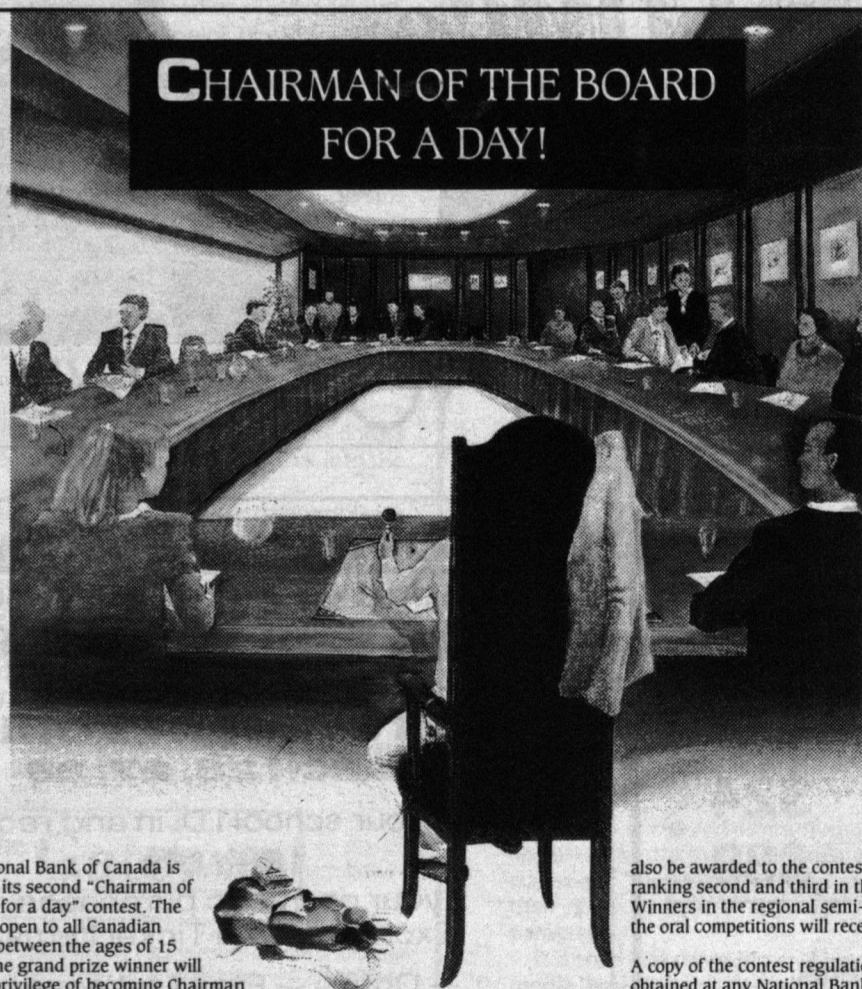
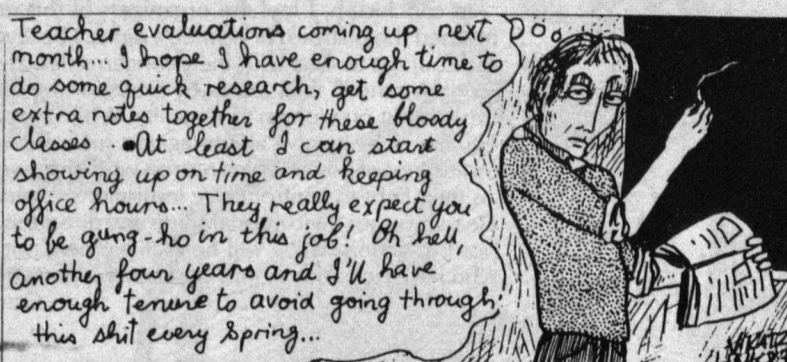
Should DIE Board require a new election, logistical problems abound. "Under our bylaws, the

fastest we could have an election is 33 days from now — that is April 24th, the last day of finals" according to Klapstein.

The other alternative, DIE Board allowing the USS to appoint SU representatives, is also unacceptable to Klapstein: "I don't want to be in on acclamation — somebody in on acclamation has no right to represent anybody."

Klapstein can't understand why the matter is going to DIE Board. "I've offered to resign my council seat and hold a new election," he said.

Klapstein also contends that the appeal to DIE Board is simply a reaction by the disqualified slate after the fact: "All the things they are complaining about they've only mentioned after they were disqualified."



The National Bank of Canada is launching its second "Chairman of the Board for a day" contest. The contest is open to all Canadian residents between the ages of 15 and 19. The grand prize winner will have the privilege of becoming Chairman of the Board of the National Bank of Canada for a day.

Again this year, the contest will be held in three stages and will consist of written and oral competitions. Winners will be chosen by a jury.

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

In the first stage of the contest, participants send a typed essay of a maximum of three (3) pages to their nearest National Bank of Canada branch, explaining: "How do you envision an ideal society and what can today's youth do to help achieve it?" The essays judged the most interesting will be retained and their authors will be invited to meet with the jury for the second stage of the contest: the regional semi-finals of the oral competitions. The regional semi-final winners will then be invited to the Bank's Head Office on June 24 (all expenses paid) to meet with the jury for the final of the oral competitions.

also be awarded to the contestants ranking second and third in the final. Winners in the regional semi-finals of the oral competitions will receive \$150.

A copy of the contest regulations may be obtained at any National Bank of Canada branch.

### DESCRIPTION OF PRIZES

In addition to becoming Chairman of the Board of the National Bank of Canada for a day, the grand prize winner of the final in Montreal will receive shares of the National Bank of Canada (worth \$2,000). Prizes of \$1,250 and \$650 will

### CONTEST DATES

The contest opens February 23, 1987 and essays must be received by the Bank before midnight, April 12, 1987. An entry form and birth certificate must be enclosed with the essay for the first (written) stage of the contest.

### ENTRY FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AGE (BIRTH CERTIFICATE REQUIRED): \_\_\_\_\_ LANGUAGE OF ENTRY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS OF BRANCH TO WHICH YOU ARE SENDING YOUR ESSAY: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA

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## Blue Velvet

— upcoming films —  
 April 3: Little Shop of Horrors • M  
 April 10: Name of the Rose • R