

editorial

Notes on the election

• The most obvious point to be made about the provincial election is that we are not electing a government but an opposition. In a province where "79 in 79" isn't an outrageous slogan but an unfortunate possibility, it's hard to get enthusiastic about an election where you *know* the new government will be 85% of the old government. So we'll have to settle for a new opposition.

Perhaps the best reflection of the Conservative situation is the statement "Well, I'm for Loughheed all the way but I'll vote NDP so he'll have some competition." Around the university this is a common attitude; Strathcona, the university constituency, holds one of the best hopes in Alberta for a change in loyalties, *i.e.* an opposition member.

NDP candidate Gordon Wright is waging a strong campaign which will be a tough act for incumbent Julian Koziak to follow in redistributed Strathcona. The new district includes the entire university—wholly new territory for Koziak, and traditionally sympathetic to the NDP.

In an absence of public meetings for all candidates, Wright has challenged Koziak to a debate. Watch for the announcement of this, and in the meantime read their literature. Pay attention to the platforms re: student and university issues.

Keep an eye on Strathcona. This is a dangerously complacent election campaign, and in this constituency there's at least a fight.

• Speaking of student issues, there hasn't been much of an attempt made by the Tories to elevate them to election issues. It's already March, for example, and there's been no word on the U grant for 1979-80, a significant factor for U planning. A year later, post-secondary cutbacks have been positively diagnosed but not yet treated. No fee increases this year...well at least not until after the election.

Happily, the Senate has come up with a strong statement opposing differential fees for international students. Since the Senate is the university's community link, this and fourteen other enlightened recommendations should rekindle the visa student debate, another student issue relegated to the back burner since the election call.

If nothing else it's another message reminding the government we haven't forgotten that we've *been* forgotten.

• Absentee student polls are operating today and tomorrow. That means students who are not now residing in the district where they were enumerated may cast ballots for that constituency at these polls, if they wish. Otherwise they must return to their enumerated district March 14 to vote there. See ad page 8.

Those wishing to vote in their current constituency can simply take an oath prior to balloting at the regular polling station. This is a simple procedure that protects against double-voting.

So what? Well, students move around a lot and therefore have a unique opportunity to cast their votes where they will do the most good. If you live on campus it might be a good idea to register in Strathcona on March 14 and vote for Gordon Wright. There are only a handful of candidates with the potential to beat the Conservatives. A vote for Wright will really count.

Loreen Lennon

the Gateway

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Ship prices not reduced

The front page article on The Ship ("Prices Reduced at The Ship", Gateway, February 22, 1979) requires clarification, as the misinformation may contribute to some ill will among other students, faculty and staff elsewhere on campus. It may also help to clarify some aspects among the Lister residents.

Prices at The Ship have NOT been reduced. At the February 21 meeting of the Residence Advisory Council (RAC) at which Frank Whipple was present, I announced that food service had been returned to self-service, the menu had been returned to the selection as it was before February 5, and that we would continue with pizzas, Captain's Boat, short boats and take-out service as announced on February 8.

I also made it quite clear that there would still be an increase in prices as prices had been increased at all of our food outlets on campus - vending machines, lunchrooms, cafeterias and catering service. Copies of a letter sent to all Deans, Directors and Department Chairmen announcing these price increases were distributed to the LHSA executive for their information and as evidence of this fact.

It was also noted that there would have been increases even without the extended program and services in The Ship.

This action is just part of a program designed to make Housing and Food Services a financially viable entity, *i.e.*, a break-even operation. Fees have also been increased in our con-

ference and catering food operation and we plan on increased rates for these facilities. There will also be improvements in quality and variety of ference, catering and food vices.

Additional efforts to prove our financial position and in the long-term are being explored in other areas. Two of these will be known to you; the food consultant's study and the student housing study.

In consideration of financial constraints, restraints and all of our efforts could and can not see any reason to exclude an increase in price on food and beer in The Ship.

I trust this letter will clarify the matter and eliminate misunderstanding among students, staff and faculty that a result of your front page article they may feel that, while they have been asked to cope with increasing prices, the student Lister are somehow exempt from these financial adjustments they have been applied to The Ship.

Gail Bro
Director, Housing and Food Services

Religious rights

Right now is a very fortunate time in the history of Alberta. We, as Albertans, enjoy an affluent economy. It is in times such as these that the individual rights of Albertans should not be set aside or revoked. This is the main thrust of my letter.

I, and my fellow parishioners in the Church of Scientology, have been denied the basic right to get married in our own church. Through an error made by Premier Loughheed's government several years ago, the right to perform marriages, (which is recognized in all the other Western provinces), has been taken away. Attempts were made by us to correct this error, but were refused, with the Director of

Vital Statistics providing no valid reason for this.

The denial of freedom of religious worship in this matter concerns me greatly. It is not my intention to unduly criticize the government, rather it is my concern that basic human rights not be overlooked.

I would think that Mr. Hersom, the Director of Vital Statistics, would be happy to register our ministers. After all, what possible harm can come of a religious body marrying its own parishioners? Does he prefer we live in common law? I for one would like some answers. It seems everyone from the Anglicans to the Psychics are registered but us!

Michel Gariepy
B.Sc.

Expenses may soar

Re: Assessment of fees for club meeting rooms. Through the Clubs Council we have been recently informed of the possibility of fees being assessed for meeting rooms on campus. We strongly urge this policy not be implemented.

This policy would prove extremely detrimental to our club for the following reasons:

1) We have investigated alternate meeting sites and the least expensive would be \$25.00 a night. Since our club meets on a weekly basis, the total cost to our membership would be approximately \$1300.00 a year. Our gross estimate of our income for this year is approximately \$400.00.

2) The central location of the campus is convenient to our members. Our regular meetings include such events as showing

films, writer's workshops, lectures, discussion groups, and so on. This requires access to university facilities such as large meeting rooms and audiovisual equipment.

3) The campus provides a congenial atmosphere for our literary and cultural activities.

4) Through our contacts with other science fiction clubs, we have noticed that once university clubs move off campus, they tend to disintegrate.

In summary, the existence of our university club depends upon free access to university facilities. We would appreciate it if the administration would take these points into consideration when making a decision.

Adrian Fisher
President
UASFCAS

Therapy for those in need

At the risk of dragging out an already over-exposed issue I would like to add my comments on the abortion in Student Council. I agree that Ekelund is allowed his personal opinion in such a situation, as are all the people who responded.

However, all but one of the letters in the last Gateway were by men, nay saying the legal abortion. Men have no conception, literally, of the childbearing or childrearing process. Especially the effete, intellectual,

idealistic and naive spokesmen of this campus.

Having borne two children, I would not recommend the experience to anyone not willing and able to do the job properly, with a husband, a home and lots of spare time.

Modern contraceptive methods are sadly lagging behind the increased sexual awareness today; for the sake of pleasure, not procreation. This could be because the research is done by males.

The therapeutic abortion should be made available to anyone who needs it, for therapy of the woman and child. Would you, Mr. Ekelund, be prepared to quit school work, quit your SU position, physically disabled for months, and burdened for years because of one hot loose evening? I think not.

Katie Benson