

Life is...

# The Gateway

Thursday, September 20, 1984

Death isn't

Jean Paul Sartre

## Rowdy Council says no to McGrath

by Brenda Waddle

For the second time, Anne McGrath has lost her bid to become the Students' Union Academic Affairs Commissioner.

Arts Representative Don Millar told a raucous council meeting Tuesday night that "this is not Grade One" as the motion to vote on McGrath was amended and Kerri Kamra's name was inserted.

Kamra was then selected the new Academic Affairs Commissioner.

McGrath called last night's proceedings "disgraceful" and said council "twisted the rules to make sure I didn't get the position."

"They resorted to outright lies and they didn't debate my qualifications" she said. Science Representative proxy Dave Koch said McGrath's charges were "totally unfounded."

Of Tuesday's meeting Koch said, "I felt it was perfectly fair to move the amendment for the person who I am sure is the better of the two candidates."

"There was nothing illegal about it," said Koch.

Since the resignation of Sheryl Jackson, the original AA commissioner for the 1984/85 term, the process to fill the position has been a long and contentious one. Seven people were interviewed for the position of Academic Affairs Commissioner, and Anne McGrath, former SU Education Representative, VP Academic Affairs and President of the University of Ottawa Students' Union, was chosen by the Nomination Committee, with Kerri Kamra the second choice.

This recommendation was defeated at the August 7 council meeting.

At the time, SU President Floyd Hodgins said he disagreed with the committee's recommendation because of the bias of some members of the committee.

However, McGrath believed she lost the job because of her political beliefs.

McGrath was the Communist candidate in the riding of Edmonton-Strathcona during the federal election.

McGrath then brought her grievance to the Student Ombuds-service and, according to Ombudspersons Gayle Morris and Dan McGarvey's report delivered at council, three reasons were found for the Students' Council's dismissal of the Nominating Committee's recommendation:

- Bias in the selection process employed by the Nomination Committee.
- McGrath's report concerning the censure of some members of the U of A's delegation.
- McGrath's political affiliation with the Communist Party of Canada.

According to Morris, these reasons had no bearing on McGrath's suitability for the job. "There was no reason why the recommendation did not go through in the first place," said Morris.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Students Ombuds-service, SU President Floyd Hodgins reintroduced the original motion Tuesday night, moving that Students' Council ratify the appointment of Anne McGrath as Academic Commissioner.

SU VP External Paul Alpern stated that "Students' Council is the final authority to make the decision", regardless of the Nomination Committee's recommendations.

Science Representative proxy Dave Koch then attempted to have the motion amended, to strike McGrath's name and insert Kamra's name, as McGrath's nomination had already been voted on and defeated, in August.

Regarding McGrath, Koch said, "I do not think she will be able to work with the people she has to work with. I do not think she can take orders."

Students' Council Speaker Kris Farkas then questioned whether a Board Recommendation could be

amended in council.

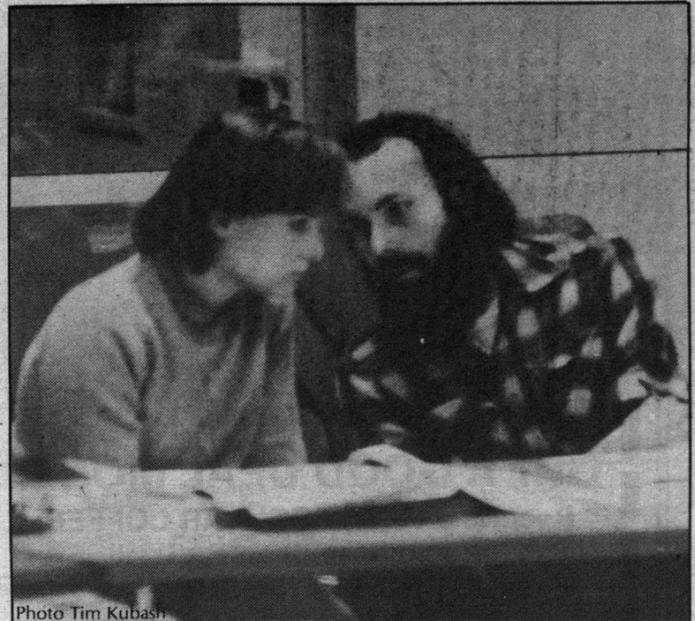
This inspired an outburst from Ken Boxman, who read aloud from Robert's Rules of Order that any committee recommendation, once introduced to council, could be amended at the will of the council. He then put his copy of Robert's Rules of Order in front of Speaker Farkas, and slammed her gavel (a bottle of Pepsi Free) on top of the book.

Farkas then reminded Boxman that if he ever burst out like that again, he would be escorted from the chambers, saying "I'm normally a calm person, but I don't have to take this."

Business Rep Robert Lunney called a vote on the original motion, saying that voting for Kamra as opposed to McGrath nullified the purpose of the Nomination Committee. "If we did that, then Dave Koch could bring in a friend and ask us to ratify him as academic commissioner."

Dave Koch then demanded an apology, which Lunney made.

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S.U. VP President Floyd Hodgins and VP Academic Donna Kassian confer during one of Council's few quiet moments Tuesday night.

## Enrolment up again

by Neal Watson

Early numbers obtained from the Office of the Registrar indicate that enrolment is up about 3 per cent at the U of A for the 1984-85 academic year.

There are approximately 24,000 full-time students registered at present compared to a final count of 22,908 for the 1983-84 academic year. In addition, there are 3,300 part-time students.

Enrolment is up around 3.4 per cent for the University of Calgary and 5.5 per cent for the University of Lethbridge.

University Registrar Brian Silzer says he expects this year's enrolment to break last year's all-time high, but says the enrolment number will level off by about the half-way point of the first term due to students failing to show-up for classes or dropping out of University.

We are still experiencing enrolment pressures and will be hard pressed to provide the necessary quality instruction said Silzer.

Silzer said the number of first-year students had diminished and the quota on students entering the U of A would be achieved.

Last winter, the University Board of Governors - the Universities main decision-making body - set a quota of 4,500 first year students to be admitted for the 1984-85 year.

Silzer said that after sorting through first-year applications and keeping qualified applicants and (keeping in mind students first and second choices,) the University admitted close to 4,800 first-year students.

But with the "no-show factor," the final number of first-year students will be "closer to 4,000," said Silzer.

Dean McDonald of the Faculty of Science said the enrolment in science is "essentially the same" as last year. As of September 11, there were 4,549 full-time students registered in science. This is compared to 4,584 for September of 1983.

However, McDonald said the faculty was still having "real trouble coping with the number of students moving to higher years."

With an average lecture size of almost 50 students, McDonald said the faculty was forced to cut-off registration in a few classes, including some math classes. But McDonald said all students that advanced-registered were admitted to their classes.

One problem, emphasized by both McDonald and Registrar Silzer, is the difficulty caused by service courses. Both Sciences and Arts provide service courses, particularly at the junior level, to other faculties. McDonald said these courses are a strain on the faculties resources.

Service courses are out of faculty courses students take to satisfy requirements - ie. english for engineers.

Dean Terry White of the Faculty of Arts said the increased registration in his faculty was causing "enormous difficulties." White said the increase in the number of registrations in half-courses had risen by

over 4,000 since September of last year.

White also stressed that registrations in the 300 and 400 level courses was "up dramatically" from 36,600 registrations to 42,284, but that the quota on first-year students had helped ease the strain somewhat.

With little increase in the "hard-budget" in Arts - the amount of money allotted each year to the faculty - White said they were having difficulty in hiring quality sessionals to teach for a year or two. Sessionals are reluctant to come here with the prospect of only one year's work.

White said his faculty needed an increase in staff and space to cope with the increased numbers. White said the faculty and the University had a responsibility to give students the courses they want but he asked if the university should take everybody that show up at the door." For example, White questioned whether college students should be able to transfer right into university.

## Science is no. 1

by Neal Watson

Science students think their faculty is number 1 on campus and next week they are issuing a challenge to other faculties in order to prove it.

The "Science is No. 1" dare is part of Science Week which runs from September 24-28.

Presented by the two-year old Undergraduate Science Society, Science Week is a week of activities sure to rival Engineering Week in its originality and scope, if not its controversy.

Darren Larsen, the VP Communications of the Society, says like other undergrad organizations, the Science Society gives students a good vehicle for becoming involved in their faculty.

Larsen says the Society acts as a liaison between science students and the various university administrative bodies, including General Faculties Council and the Deans' office. The Society is also available to provide information on all student concerns and will act as a referral service.

Larsen says next week's activities kicks off with a pancake breakfast Monday morning and will feature daily earthball competitions. Most of the activities will take place in Quad.

And of Friday, the Society gets down to real business with its "Science is no. 1" challenge to the rest of the campus.

Science Week will conclude on the 28th with the Jeckyll-Jive cabaret

## The Senate meets

by Audrey Djuwita

The Senate of the U of A does not enjoy the same notoriety as the Student Council on this campus. In fact, many have wondered what it is and what it is doing here. Mary Totman, the Executive Officer, says the Senate is a volunteer body that "acts as a bridge between the University and the public."

"We are the voice of the community within the University," said Totman.

The Senate's work is co-ordinated by an executive officer and office support staff.

Because the Senate is unbiased, it is able to set up ad hoc committees to examine issues brought to its attention and make proper recommendations.

If required, any part of the University may submit a report to the Senate, which also receives and considers submissions from the public.

The Senate tries to maintain an

open line between the University and the public in various ways. For instance, to interpret the many and varied aspects of the University to the public and to influence decisions through studies and reports which it is empowered to commission.

According to Totman, the most recent activity of the Senate is a task force on the role of the U of A in the teaching of ethics. The report is expected to be completed by April. Totman has been very pleased by the response, coming from chairman, the professional world and the students (3rd and 4th year).

Totman also said that 52 members of the U of A Senate are going to attend their first (of four) meetings on Friday, September 21, 1984 in Grande Prairie. They are expecting briefs from the public on various aspects of post-secondary education and the University itself.

Anyone who is interested in the meetings of the Senate is welcome to attend.