

gateway

Tuesday, March 20, 1984

Being ordinary and from St. Albert is like...

... being ordinary twice.

Gale Garnett

Alpern wins in convoluted VP External race

by Mark Roppel

By the time the dust had settled after an official complaint, a near fight outside the ballot counting room, and a controversial questionnaire—Paul Alpern had emerged as next year's Students' Union Vice-president External.

The last poll closed at 6:00pm Friday but the results were not known until 8:00pm yesterday.

At 7:55pm on Friday, a scant five minutes before the deadline, Alpern filed a complaint with Chief Returning Officer Ninette

Gironella. Under the new improved election rules passed by Students' Council in January, ballots can not be counted until all complaints have been dealt with.

Alpern's complaint was about an article in the March 15 Gateway

The article contains a line: "he (Alpern) supports CFS." What Alpern actually said was, "I am not opposed to CFS. I think the concept of a national student organization is great. But what I am in favour of is holding a

referendum where both sides of the issue are represented."

But 24 hours after submitting it, at 7:55 pm on Saturday, Alpern withdrew his complaint.

"Since the error affected nobody but myself I couldn't justify spending another \$10,000 on another election," he said.

"It was a valid complaint," says Alpern. "I was not optimistic at all... it really looked like Phil Ewing would win. I was surprised at the result."

Returning Officer Gironella has no power over the Gateway

but both she and the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board have the power to overturn any election.

In all 2720 students, or 11.2 per cent of the people eligible, voted.

Alpern got 487 votes. Phil Ewing came second with 442 votes cast in his favor. Phil Hammond was third with 340 votes and Oscar Ammar came in fourth with a tally of 339.

The above five will all get their \$25 deposits back.

Not so fortunate were Diane Murtha with 234 votes, Gil Whyte with 182 votes, Alan Robinson with 177 votes, Lee Lane with 129 votes, Donald Grier with 53 votes and Martin Schug with 38 votes.

After receiving Alpern's complaint Friday night Gironella decided to open the ballot boxes and retrieve the yellow questionnaires that had been filled out by some students along with their ballots. She hoped the questionnaires could shed some light on the validity of Alpern's complaint.

But this idea was quickly scuttled.

"The data was too random to use," says Gironella. Since no ballots were actually being counted she also kicked all the scrutineers out of the ballot counting room.

These two moves outraged SU President Robert Greenhill, but when he attempted to enter the vote counting room, he was blocked and engaged in a shouting match with Deputy Returning Officer Glenn Byer.

"I've never seen Greenhill mad before," said witness and candidate Oscar Ammar.

Vp Internal Peter Block and Vp Finance Greg McLean managed to force their way into the room but were promptly thrown out.

"The poll staff were working under siege," said Gironella.

Eventually the ballot boxes were resealed with masking tape and stored until Monday when they were counted.

As usual, there were more votes from Arts than from any other faculty. 673 or 17 per cent of Arts students voted. Science was a close second with 626 (14 per cent) ballots.

The least apathetic faculty was Engineering: 19 per cent of Engineers voted. At the other extreme, Dentistry only had a voter turn-out of 2 per cent.

Another interesting statistic was the ratio of male to female voters. Sixteen per cent of men voted, but only nine per cent of women voted.

Faculties with large numbers of women were poorly represented. For example, the Faculty of Education accounts for 17 per cent of the student population, but only accounted for eight per cent of the ballots cast in the election. Similarly, Nursing comprises four per cent of the eligible voters but only two per cent of the actual votes.

Bears tripped

by Bernie Poitras

For the Golden Bears hockey team, it has been three years since they last won a national championship. After this past weekend's CIAU hockey finals held in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, that wait will have to be extended one more year.

The Bears were beaten by the Concordia Stingers in a three game total point series, 4-2, and lost a bid to win their seventh championship in the fourteen times that they have now appeared in the four team tournament. Concordia scored a victory in the third game; a mini game to gain a berth in the final game against the U of Toronto Varsity Blues - who went on to embarrass the Stingers on national television 9-1.

The Bears and the Stingers tied both of their games as the two teams both scored two goals in the opening match on Friday and then fought to a 3-3 deadlock on Saturday. As a result, a 10 minute mini game had to be played immediately following Saturday's match, and it saw the Stingers score two goals to take the series.

For the first 32 minutes of the second contest it looked as if the Bears were headed to the final game on Sunday. The Bears held a 3-1 lead until the twelfth minute of the second period, and that's where things started to go wrong. From that fatal twelfth minute on, the Stingers scored four unanswered goals and literally won two games in the space of one.

Continued on page twelve



Photo Bill Ingles

The Bears did not play up to par at Trois Rivieres. See sports pages and this page for story.

Emotional Council debate on quotas

by Brent Jang

The proposal to limit first-year admissions to the U of A in 1984-85 has passed through one of two main decision-making arms of the university.

General Faculties Council (GFC), responsible for university academic affairs, yesterday approved a motion to impose quotas "equal to the first-year intake in session 1982-83." GFC's recommendation now goes to the Board of Governors, the undisputed champion of power on campus, which will meet on April 13 to give the motion final consideration.

"For me this matter is very painful. I never dreamt when I became president five years ago I would ever chair a meeting to decide to limit our enrolment," said U of A President Myer Horowitz, in an emotional speech before 100 GFC members and 40 spectators.

The turnout was the largest ever for a GFC meeting as univer-

sity students, ex-students, mothers of high school students, professors, and administrators packed into council chambers in University Hall.

President Horowitz said there has only been one year out of the past nine where provincial funding to universities has approached that of the previous year's inflation rate. He noted that 33 academic positions and 70 non-academic positions will be cut in 1984-85.

The quota proposal has split students, professors, and administrators into different camps. They disagree on the ways to alleviate current problems of overcrowding arising from the Alberta Tories' policy in recent years to restrict funding to post-secondary education.

There is agreement at GFC, however, on the serious nature of the problems involved in having 23,500 students on campus, which is 5000 more than in 1981-82.

"More than 50 per cent of the

universities in this country don't have a total enrolment of 5000 and we have been expected to absorb 5000 students in a bit more than two years," commented Horowitz.

GFC amended its original motion, saying the move to have limited enrolment here is due to the "lack of sufficient government funding necessary to educate to a university standard."

Non-quota faculties have taken in most of the 5000 students. "The pressures on the Faculties of Arts and Science are absolutely unbelievable," said a tense Horowitz.

Still, the 51-year-old U of A president said he was "absolutely convinced that we have no other alternative."

University VP Academic George Baldwin estimated students currently applying to the U of A would need at least a 75 per cent average to guarantee admittance into the university.

SU President Robert

Greenhill said GFC should not "just deal with the mechanics of the quota system but with the reasons for having to even consider it."

"We have to make it clear we are not doing this out of any academic reasons or because we feel it's justified. We have to make it clear to the public that we're doing this against all best concepts of what a university education should be," remarked Greenhill.

Greenhill charged Advanced Education Minister Dick Johnston with showing little sensitivity, concern, and understanding for the problems being experienced at the U of A.

SU VP Academic Barb Donaldson said it has been a particularly bad year for grade 12 students with the reinstatement of departmental examinations. "Those students (who don't get accepted) aren't just going to disappear. They're going to appear somewhere else but they're not going to get an education here and they may not get an education at other institutions in this province," she said.

Donaldson, Rob Lunney, and Mike Folsom are student members of the GFC executive that endorsed the "quota" solu-

Continued on page six

The Gateway speaker series is a hit! This week we present Robert Sheppard, Edmonton correspondent for the Globe and Mail. Drop by Room 282 SUB at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 1984 for an informative talk on "Canada's national newspaper." Find out why the Globe has a "power that outdistances its circulation figures." Everyone welcome!