

"If Jim is vindicated he would have been an innocent victim."

# Board screens candidate's appeal

by Ken Bosman

Disqualified Board of Governors candidate Jim Shinkaruk will get a second chance to appeal his disqualification.

This Friday, in its first ever meeting, the Students' Council Advisory Appeal Board (SCAAB) will hear Shinkaruk's appeal against the SU Discipline, Enforcement, and Interpretation (DIE) Board which previously upheld CRO Shelley Chapelski's disqualification of Shinkaruk.

SCAAB itself is simply a screening board for the Students' Council, who will hear the actual appeal, if granted.

But before Shinkaruk gets a chance to appeal, SCAAB must determine "if we have jurisdiction" according to SCAAB Chair and SU speaker Paul Alpern.

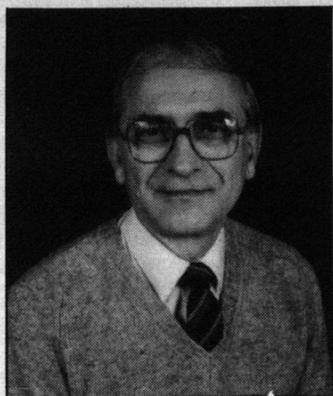
According to SU bylaws, SCAAB does not have jurisdiction "during an election", and Chapelski and candidate Shinkaruk disagree on what an election is.

"The election starts when nominations close" according to Chapelski, while Shinkaruk maintains that "The nominations, campaign, and election are separate events."

Shinkaruk hopes that, if SCAAB upholds his appeal, that "They won't count the B.O.G. ballots," and hold another Board of Governors by-election, this time with Shinkaruk in the running.

But SCAAB chair Alpern thinks otherwise: "My personal feeling is that even if Jim (Shinkaruk) is found innocent I don't know if there is reason for a by-election." Alpern adds: "If Jim is vindicated he would have been an innocent victim."

Shinkaruk, meanwhile, describes the whole process as "a miscarriage of justice," and will, according to Alpern, base his appeal upon "a number of grounds, some proced-



Shinkaruk (file photo)

ural, some on points of justice."

Key to Shinkaruk's defense will be his claims that the DIE Board acted in an inconsistent manner.

Both Shinkaruk and Grant Draper were originally disqualified because the slates they ran with in last year's elections failed to pay campaign debts before this year's nominations closed.

Draper was subsequently allowed to run because the debts of his slate, headed by Jason Woodbridge, were considered individual debts of Woodbridge, while the Shinkaruk slate, Students Working for Students, had its debts considered joint and several.

Chapelski explained that the assignment of debt to individuals and slates was done by the current SU accounting staff, and that she based her original disqualifications upon the SU information.

SCAAB chair Alpern agrees with Shinkaruk that a problem exists: "If anything, I don't think Draper should have been allowed to run."

Shinkaruk continues to maintain he knew nothing of the finances of his slate. "I asked Peter (Sesek, Shinkaruk's Slate mate), he told me

he had attended to it."

"Winning is secondary, to see that justice prevails is of primary importance," said Shinkaruk.

## Life in the welfare trap

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Four and a half years ago, Julie came to B.C. from Quebec, fresh out of high school, looking for a job.

Instead, she received a welfare cheque and the general prejudice of a society that disdains welfare recipients.

"When you are on welfare, people look down on you as if you were the plague," Julie said.

B.C. currently has more than 218,000 welfare recipients, compared to less than 100,000 before 1980.

Julie, who did not wish to reveal her last name, is now a third-year arts student at the University of British Columbia. Her story was part of a recent "welfare week", organized by the UBC New Democratic club to make students more aware of the problems faced by people on welfare.

Club president Freyja Bergthorson said "it is easy to forget people are in a no hope situation."

Julie found people's attitudes the hardest things to deal with while she collected welfare.

She said people considered her a "princess on welfare", and could not understand how healthy young people could need government assistance.

Julie said people should be more caring and sympathetic toward the issue of income assistance, and that she was glad to be out of it.

During the time Julie collected welfare she felt extremely insecure and "everything seemed to be on

If Shinkaruk's appeal is denied by SCAAB and the SU, the Alberta Universities act empowers the Student Disciplinary Panel of the

General Faculty Council to hear student appeals on SU disciplinary matters.

Stay tuned.

hold, at an age when people are supposed to be optimistic about life."

Julie said it is stressful trying to make ends meet while on welfare, and the last week of the month is always the toughest.

"Sometimes you have three bucks left and it's not because you throw your money around," she said.

Another problem for welfare recipients is that many of the jobs

available pay poorly and lead nowhere, said Julie. "There is little reward in doing repetitious work 40 hours a week to make such a small amount of money," she said.

Julie said it is difficult for people to get out of the welfare trap, because many cases are catch-22 situations.

"Most welfare people don't have the money to buy a suit, but without a suit it is hard to find a job," she said.

## Loans problematic

Ever had problems with the Student Finance Board concerning your student loan?

The situation does not seem to be too uncommon. In fact, the office of Gordon Wright, MLA for Edmonton Strathcona, has received so many complaints from students concerning their loans that Wright has written a letter to the Gateway warning students of the importance of reinstating their loans with the bank before leaving University, whether temporarily, or permanently following graduation.

Reinstating a loan with the bank means extending the period of grace for six months before it must be paid off.

If a student with a student loan decides to leave the University without having the loan reinstated, he or she will have to begin repaying the loan right away.

"We have had a lot of people come in and say they have problems with the Student Finance Board," says Brian Dawkins, Wright's Constituency Office Manager. "Many of these problems stem from the way in which the provincial act controls student loans, but the Student Finance Board has had its share of problems," he said.

But despite the claim of problems from the Student Finance Board both from Dawkins and in a letter Wright wrote to the Gateway, the Student Finance Board appears to see matters differently.

When contacted about the matter, Jean Sprague at the Student Finance Board office would not offer any comments. Sprague said that she does not believe that there are any complaints from Wright's office regarding the SFB.

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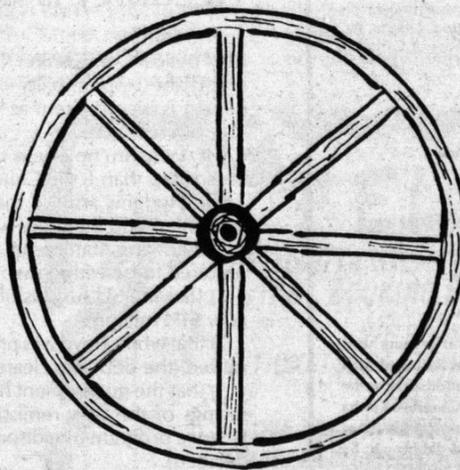
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