

# The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short; letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750. Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

Editor - Kevin Gillese  
 News - Don Truckey  
 Features - Bruce Rout  
 Arts: Keith Layton  
 Sports - Darrell Semenuk  
 Photo - Grant Wurr  
 Graphics - Craig McLachlan  
 Advertising - Tom Wright  
 CUP Editor - Cathy Brodeur

STAFF: F. Logan, Dave Samuel, Al Finkel, Wayne Kondro, Terrence Pack, Mary D., Sue M., Loreen Lennon, Allen Young, Kent Blinston, Don McIntosh, Stu McDougall, DAX, Lindsay Brown, hi mom.

## editorial

Students' Council is determined to finish the year with a whimper it seems. The Alberta Committee for Equal Access to Education, formed in opposition to advanced education minister Bert Hohol's proposed two-tier tuition system, was granted \$500 earlier in the academic year to use for information and lobbying purposes. Now Students' Council has said they will remove their financial support if the Committee goes through with its planned protest against differential fees, to be held April 1 at 1 p.m. outside the Legislature.

It seems councillors would rather see the committee "negotiate" with the government than attempt to obtain support for their cause by making public their protest. One can easily understand, from the boring and often cowardly attitude Council has towards political action, why in this instance councillors would feel endangered by a public protest which their funds helped support. Just look at Ken McFarlane, SU academic vp, who spoke so strongly against the Feb. 24 information picket line—protest march organized by the Equal Access Committee. McFarlane, although having little involvement with the differential fee question, maintained the committee should work in "reasonable" terms with the government and attempt to negotiate our position. He argued the protest would only antagonize a government which already has a low opinion of students.

Such arguments, which supposedly are shared at least in part by the councillors who helped defeat a motion of support for the Feb. protest and are against further demonstrations, are nonsense. Who cares if the government gets pissed off at us because we make our points in public and demand that our public officials — supposedly in the public trust — answer publicly our questions about an issue? We have already "negotiated" with the provincial government. We have met and discussed with elected officials, particularly Bert Hohol, who, it seems, may be a hatchet man put out to bear the brunt of a plan suggested by Lougheed himself. We have tried to be "reasonable" with the government — but they have not been reasonable with us.

The PCs will not debate their differential tuition scheme in the open — because they cannot. And we must show the people of Alberta the lack of responsibility we have found in the Lougheed administration which claims to be the most responsible in Canada.

Of course we should not protest if the government will consent to answer our questions, if they will tell us *why* differentials are being suggested. If they will explain how their plan shows their publicly avowed "concern" for people of developing nations. If they will show how, in pragmatic terms, the proposal will bring revenue to the universities. If they will list — factually and specifically — where the support for this scheme comes from. If they will factually substantiate their claims about foreign students, i.e. that they take housing, education and work away from Canadians.

The government will not answer these questions — because they cannot. Every group within the academic community has voted opposition to this proposal. A great number of public groups have done the same. Support for the proposal, which comes from a mis-informed public on the whole, often disappears when the facts are brought into the open. But still Students' Council are too afraid of their career prospects, too afraid of rocking a boat they hope to be navigating someday to give a bit of financial support to a group that will say to the government "Answer to the people!" and will not accept the platitudes Lougheed has handed us since this time last year when the proposal was suggested.

Why is it wrong in a supposedly democratic society to suggest that elected officials be responsible to the electorate? Why is it so wrong to suggest those officials should have a sense of moral duty? Why is it so wrong to register public opposition?

It isn't. It just takes a little bit of guts. And it's obvious Students' Council — as an elected body — doesn't have any.

by Kevin Gillese

## BUB SLUG by Delaney & Rasmussen



## Beer boycott confusing

That the Students' Union professes to have curtailed for several weeks now the sale at Dinwoodie cabarets of Carling-O'Keefe beer, a product of a corporation owned and controlled by the South African Rothman's conglomerate, represents a commendable awareness of the highly political nature of "mere business amongst corporations"; yet at the cabaret on Saturday, March 12, most of the beer available over the counter was, in fact, Carling-O'Keefe. My indignation at this having been misled by an elected official of the Students' Union into believing that South African beer would no longer be available in Dinwoodie could only have been exacerbated by the fact that there took place on the very same day the city-wide picketing of liquor stores in the campaign to boycott South African products.

While one can understand an occasional deviation in prescribed procedures at an event as large as a Dinwoodie cabaret, our Union could easily have precluded the occurrence of such a mix-up (if it was a mix-up indeed) merely by stocking no South African beer in the RATT cooler, from which the cabaret operation acquires its beer. Had no Carling-O'Keefe beer been available in the building, no mistake or misunderstanding last Saturday night could have led to its sale in Dinwoodie.

Moreover, since the beer operations of Dinwoodie and RATT are controlled by the same organization, a moral stand concerning products sold in the former can hardly exonerate the continued sale of South African beer in the latter.

While I applaud any effort to ask Students' Council to approve a total ban of South African

products throughout the Students' Union, I see no reason for the management and executive not acting on their own without prior direction from Council. A refusal to deal with Rothman's and Carling-O'Keefe on the grounds of their participation in the racist regime of South Africa is exactly equivalent to a refusal to deal with any other company known to operate by questionable practices. Our

Students' Union decides almost every day not to deal with such companies, so why can it not also decide against dealing with South African corporation

While management will not deal with or employ local habitually criminals, it would appear to be happy to do business with multinational muggers in pin-strip suits.

Doug Elv

## Assaults everywhere

Sexual assault on campus has become a matter of increasing concern. Indecent exposure and rape cases have been widely discussed. These, however, are only the most spectacular kind of sexual assault experienced by women.

On campus, for example, women students can face sexual coercion by male professors. The Campus Committee on Sexual Assault invites all women who have experienced such harassment to write to the committee c/o Dr. Jean Lauber, University Hall, U of A. All information will be kept in strictest confidence.

Please include name and phone number to enable the committee to get in contact for discussion on further action.

This topic is one which, for obvious reasons, women are very reluctant to discuss. It is imperative, however, for women to defend themselves from these attacks. An exchange of experiences and ideas will be a fruitful beginning.

The committee is also seeking reaction to the recently initiated Night Watch program and welcomes all comments on this project.

Katy Le Rouge

## Up the NDP stand

I would like to congratulate the Alberta NDP for their support of "the principle of self-determination for Quebec." Hopefully, the intelligence the members of the party demonstrated in recognizing "the right of Quebec to separate if it wants as well as their courage in expressing what is evidently an unpopular opinion in this country, will spread not only to other major political parties, both provincial and federal, but also to the general populace.

Both Quebec nationalism

and the desire of many Quebecois to form an independent nation are facts of life. Unfortunately, Canadians are willing to recognize this as legitimate rights of the Quebecois and are willing to negotiate the independence question with them as equals and not as with a subordinate colony, the channels of communication between the two nations shall remain relatively closed.

Dean A. Chiasson  
 Med.

For National Advertising, this paper is a member of

**youthstream.**  
 The Campus Network  
 307 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1K5  
 (416) 925-6359