



old problem... industrial tires dumped on bank of Athabasca River by Great Canadian Oil Sands last August

## Court case "Hogwash"

by Katy LeRougetel

The recent court dismissal of the case against Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. was, "hogwash" from a scientific point of view," said a spokesman of Save the Environment, Oppose Pollution (STOP) group last week. In a Gateway interview, Lynn Royer commented on the scientific aspect of the provincial government's charge against GCOS under the Fisheries Act. "400,000 gallons of acutely toxic liquid were being pumped into the Athabasca River every day by GCOS. STOP discovered, thereby damaging the native trout population. In all laboratory tests, Royer said, brook stickleback and rainbow trout died from exposure to polluted samples of the effluent in 90 hours. One fish died in a single hour. In its defense, Royer said, GCOS produced two witnesses who testified that, as regular anglers, they had never seen a dead fish floating in the river. However, GCOS claimed the laboratory tests invalid because they were performed on fish which, while native species of the river, were not physically removed from the Athabasca. On these

grounds the case was dismissed. This "hogwash," Royer said, is being appealed. In addition, STOP is initiating an appeal of a charge against GCOS concerning excess sulphur dioxide gas emissions. A company spokesperson admitted under oath that its emissions exceeded the statutory amount. However, the Crown closed the case by invalidating the use of self-incriminating evidence produced by the defendant.

Pollution laws as they stand now are "shabby, very shabby," Royer stated. Not only are their regulations inadequate, but those in existence are unenforceable, he said. STOP uses court cases to publicize the law's loopholes, seeing public action as the best means to effect much-

needed change in environmental regulations.

STOP is also aiming for immediate public hearings on the Tar Sands development project. "It's the only issue on which corporations like Syncrude and community groups agree: we want public hearings. But the government minister opposes them. He wants to wait three or four years — when it will be too late. Why is that?" Royer asked.

Much of STOP's extensive research is directed toward Syncrude. The court cases now underway serve as important lessons for STOP in one of its ultimate projects. Eventually, STOP hopes "to prove that it's impossible to develop the Tar Sands keeping within environmental law."

## Travel course

A course in Industrial Education (494) is being considered for Summer Session, 1977 consisting of a tour of selected European countries to observe practices and problems of private government operated industrial and educational agencies concerned with the preparation of skilled workers for industry.

The course would last from August 30 to July 21, 1977 inclusive, and the cost would be \$473 (London - London, plus tour of Europe (approximately \$900 additional). Countries scheduled include England and The Netherlands.

Interested persons are requested to contact Dr. A. Meyers, 3668, as soon as possible as student enrollment is limited.

## of G gives chorus \$

The Board of Governors has approved a finance committee recommendation to grant the U of A Mixed Chorus \$1,500 to assist with its 1977 spring tour to the Northwest Territories and Northern Alberta.

The Mixed Chorus has already received financial assistance for its tour from the Students' Union and Alberta.



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### EVENING STUDY ROOMS

**Law Centre**  
LC-101  
LC-107

**Tory**  
TB-5  
TB-29  
TB-96  
TB-108  
TB-121  
T1-96  
T1-100  
T1-107  
T1-113

**Agriculture**  
AG-150  
AG-155

**Arts**  
A-111  
A-143

**Chem/Min. Engineering**  
E-343  
E-344  
E-345

**Civ/Elec Engineering**  
EB-2-28  
EB-436  
EB-531

**Mechanical Engineering**  
EM 4-1  
EM 4-3

**Phys Ed**  
W-128

**Humanities Centre**  
HC 1-3  
HC 1-7  
HC 2-14  
HC 2-15

**Education**  
ED G-208  
ED-106  
ED-128  
ED-158  
ED-164

**Med Sci Bldg**  
MS-240  
MS-241  
MS-245

**Bio Sci Bldg**  
BS B-108  
BS B-121  
BS G-110  
BS G-113  
BS M-132  
BS M-137

**V-Wing**  
V-112  
V-114  
V-120  
V-121

**Dent/Pharm Bldg.**  
CP-1030  
DP-2023  
DP-3017

**Central Academic**  
CA-343  
CA-365  
CA-377

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from the Students' Union.