

editorial

Let's hope March 14 wasn't a trend-setting election in Alberta. We now have too many government members in our Legislature and—unless we elect federal representatives that reflect our diversities—we may again send too many opposition members to Parliament.

That these massive mandates are given to the Progressive Conservative Party is no proof of our unity of purpose or spirit. Provincial P.C.'s are *elected*, on their own merits I think, while the federal candidates are *sent* to Ottawa as protest against the mighty Trudeau regime. This fundamental difference in attitude has two implications for the federal election.

First, it means that Albertans are dangerously close to abdicating their responsibility for federal issues to the cocky but reassuring Peter Lougheed. In this event our nineteen MPs are given less credibility than they deserve.

Also, Albertans may identify the federal Conservatives too closely to the popular Lougheed Tories. In fact, there is another opposition party, the NDP, which on the national level resembles Alberta Toryism as much as Joe Clark and his team.

The elections been called. Federal candidates have been primed for months; it should be a good fight—even in Alberta. If we take our national politics seriously.

May 22. That's the magic date that ends over a year of speculation and sets into motion what will probably be an intense federal battle.

After a year you'd think the date wouldn't matter. On second thought May 22 is an excellent choice on Trudeau's part.

It follows the first long weekend. People will return happily from their Victoria Day holiday to a short week with the knowledge that winter is over, for sure. Now, who could be cynical about the status quo after a long lazy weekend heralding the longed-for summer?

By May 22 most of the restless university crowd will have found summer employment. Dispersed, and with the unpleasant memories of school, exams etc. behind them, students will be as close to content as they ever are. Who will take the pettiness of politics seriously with a full pocket and three more months of summer ahead?

At the end of May other things will be forgotten too. Like budgets, the slumping dollar and maybe even the ill-fated popularity of Joe Clark. Beyond reason, but with a little luck, by May 22 Maggie T. may have boogied her way out of the hearts of millions (of voters).

On a local note for example, won't Alex Fallow's election office look nice when its repainted and freshened up? After its winter furlough the spring warmth will do a lot for its sagging image.

And finally (thank God) the nation's pundits will have something concrete to cover. In the last week or so, the election speculation creativity has ebbed. Even before articles like "What do the stars tell us about our national leaders?" hit the newstands it was evident the election was way overdue.

May 22. Looks good, but then as they say looks aren't everything. We'll see.

Loreen Lennon

the Gateway

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If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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Julie Green, Sue Smith, the prolific Alison Thomson, Russ Sampson, Doug a-Spaner-in-the-works, Mitch Marte, sorry Tricky Dick—nextish, Johnny Benochuk, Linda Mozart...er, Wagner, Grassy Young, Veronica and Maxine, Dave, Randy and John—thanks for the break, Len Thom, Dave who counted the ads, THE END.

Important Staff Meeting

TODAY
2 PM

Intramurals not blackmailed

In connection with your editorial of March 23, 1979, I would like to make a few comments. I must disagree that "final budgets are preliminary budgets with minor adjustments." Whatever the result of the fee referendum, the final UAB budget will not be the same as the preliminary budget—the preliminary budget is simply a compilation of proposals from various groups within the Department of Athletic Services.

Crowded facilities

This year the University athletics facilities were drastically reduced. Available swimming hours and weight room hours were cut during week days. During weekends, building hours were decreased from a 10:30 p.m. closure to a 6:30 cutoff. Why? The reason is that the football team needed more cash.

The proposed UAB increase, which amounts to about \$150,000 does not seem to include any benefit for the average student. In the March 20, issue of the *Gateway* there is no mention of alleviating any of these cutbacks.

I believe the present timetable for the physical education facilities is unsatisfactory. The weight room, pool and track are continually congested. This is mainly because more and more people want to get into shape. This is a good thing and should be promoted as much as possible. If there were longer available hours the crowds could spread themselves out and more people could participate in fitness.

Some of the \$150,000 should be used for this purpose.

M. Burley
Science III

Engineering exams

We are concerned about the letter in *Gateway* of February 22, 1979 entitled, "Exams available to lucky", and want to make it clear that we support the Students' Union position on free access to old examinations. To this end we have in general sent our old examination papers to the Students' Union Registry. In fact, we did this with the examination in question, EE440/1976.

Our understanding is that any student can obtain ex-

However, my major complaint is with your inference that only Intramural programs are being threatened. The point has been made several times that all programs (sports clubs, intramural, intercollegiate, and recreational) are facing cutbacks. In no way are the participants and supporters of the Intramural program being "blackmailed". As a member of the student-dominated UAB I have as much input into budget discussions as anyone else, and it is certainly not my intention to allow Co-Rec and Women's Intramurals to be dominated by intercollegiate sport (as you seem to feel will be the case).

The current Women's Intramural program runs (on average) 3 nights per week from September to March; we are using the facilities to their maximum. Naturally there are some budget considerations I would like to see applied to the program, but these are mainly of

Increase necessary

As a member of the Men's Intramural Staff and the Men's Intramural Council I would like to impress upon the students the importance of the upcoming UAB referendum.

The intramural program on this campus is one of the finest in North America. In order to maintain the high standard of programming adequate funding is necessary. Without the \$8.00 increase in athletic fees budget cutbacks will greatly affect our program. The program will not be able to increase its service to the students but in fact may have to cut services.

At the last Men's Intramural Council meeting the

an administrative nature they concern the quality of program, not the quantity. Co-Rec program has increased in size every year since inception, and so has its budget.

The administrative assistants in the Co-Rec Women's Intramural Office (lower level, West Physical Education Building) would be glad to discuss any aspect of referendum—office hours 12 to 1 pm and 4 to 5 pm Monday to Thursday. I would also be more than willing to answer questions (phone 3565). I hope that this letter has contributed somewhat towards alleviating the "misinformation, accusations, and innuendo" surrounding the question of increasing the UAB fee from \$8.25."

Thank you.

Kathy Mc
Acting Co-ordinator
Co-Rec and Women's

intramural budget and programing were discussed. The activity calendar was deemed adequate but the area administration, it was felt, could be improved. Should the referendum pass the students could forward to better campus communication regarding recreational opportunities, facility availability, program offerings, etc.

As a member of the University Athletic Board I would like to stress that the figures revealed in Friday's (March 23) *Gateway* were preliminary figures only. These figures were reduced before the final budget was brought down.

The UAB consists of members and students. The students make up the majority of the board. It is their responsibility to act as watch-dogs over budget meetings and see that money is allocated appropriately. These students, on the other hand, are concerned about budget appropriations. No one needs to fear that any one area will be favoured over another.

In this age of inflation a positive vote for the referendum will insure the maintenance and improvement of services offered by the department.

R. P.
Men's Intramural Assis