



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

INTERNATIONAL ISSUE Dean of Native Studies hopes the UN conference will bring greater awareness of treaty rights.

Protecting treaty rights an international responsibility

UN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Most Aboriginal people in Canada do not have access to clean water or adequate sewage treatment," she said. "Observers are going to see that the gap between the global statements government makes and the way the average Aboriginal person lives is huge."

Attendees of the UN seminar will examine modern treaty-making practices between states and indigenous peoples. It's part of a series of conferences that are being held to discuss a 1999 report from the UNHRC Special Rapporteur Miguel Alfonso Martinez on the implementation of treaties, international agreements and human rights legislation.

Okeymaw believes that the conference will be important in emphasizing that treaties made over a century ago between indigenous tribes and the government are legitimate legal documents, rather than relics from a previous era.

"Many people look on our treaties as historical documents, but they are actually international agreements between nations," she said. "They are

as valid today as they were when they were signed, and they confer certain obligations."

"Many people look on our treaties as historical documents, but they are actually international agreements between nations."

BOBBI OKEYMAW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONFEDERACY

Okeymaw also pointed out that some of the delegates next week will be able to relate to the treaty situation in Canada. There will be representatives coming from all over the world, including fellow former British colonies like New Zealand and Australia. The legal situation of indigenous peoples in those countries has a lot

in common with that of Canadian aboriginals.

"The Aborigines and Maori are in somewhat of the same position as us," Okeymaw said. "Their treaties are almost identical."

After a quarter-century of work on the document, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in June of this year. It will be voted on in the General Assembly this fall, but Canada has announced that it will not be supporting it, to the surprise of some of those involved, including former MP Chief Willie Littlechild, one of its drafters.

"We had to go through the UN to pledge our support of the Declaration, because we couldn't go through our own country," Okeymaw said. "When Chief Littlechild asked why, the only response he got was that it 'went against their policies.'"

Representatives from the federal government have been involved in planning and will be attending the forum, but had not responded to requests for interviews by the Gateway.

speech has been increased, and she hopes that the timing will not affect attendance.

Finally, councillors confronted the elephant in the room: the Executive was asked about the new tuition policy announced by the provincial government last Friday. Vice President (External) Dave Cournoyer argued that the policy, which tied tuition increases to the Consumer Price Index, was "15 years too late." He said that the SU would continue to lobby for rolled-back tuition.

JOKING AROUND

Council then engaged in a lengthy debate over a motion that would increase the potential campaign budget of joke candidates in SU elections. The motion asked Council to raise the maximum budget to equal that of real candidates running for Council positions. The SU would only fund half of the budget, letting the person behind the joke the option of paying the other 50 per cent out of their pocket. The motion also stated that the joke campaign could do no fundraising, and that it couldn't run parallel to a current referendum, meaning that the joke candidate couldn't encourage students to vote for or against referendum questions on the ballot.

The merits of the joke candidate were debated, with many councillors saying that the joke candidate was an effective way of prompting the election and increasing turnout among students. Some were opposed to the

motion, fearing that it would create a "two-tiered joke candidate system," which would give advantage to students with deep pockets.

Other councillors suggested that the SU pay the full amount of the campaign budget to bring it on par with those of actual candidates. After an hour of debate, an amendment was brought forward that would place the joke budget at two-thirds that of the real candidates, fully funded by the SU. The motion was passed.

IN A POLITICAL POLICY PICKLE

Later in the evening, a political policy was proposed that would encourage the SU to join the Progressive Conservatives and vote in the leadership race, as well as lobbying the leadership candidates to voice firm positions on postsecondary education. Strong opposition to the policy followed, with councillors arguing that doing so would be tantamount to endorsing the Tories, and that it wasn't the SU's place to endorse a particular political party, but rather to represent students on the U of A campus. Others argued that such a policy would weaken the SU's ability to work with and lobby other political parties in the province. Eventually, the motion was soundly defeated. After another quick declaration that encouraged Council to nominate someone for a vacant seat on the University Senate, Students' Council adjourned for the evening.

www.su-venues.ca

A SERVICE OF YOUR STUDENTS' UNION FOR U OF A STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI.

RATT HEY! new hours

- MON - WED 11 AM TO 1 AM
- LAST CALL AT MIDNIGHT
- THURS 11 AM TO 2 AM
- LAST CALL AT 1 AM
- FRI 11 AM TO 3 AM
- LAST CALL AT 2 AM
- SAT 3 PM TO 3 AM
- LAST CALL AT 2 AM

THE POWERPLANT

BAR HOURS

- THURS - FRI 11 AM TO 2 AM
- SAT 8 PM TO 2 AM

RELAXATION SPACE

- MON - WED 8 AM - 8 PM

oh...and don't forget

happy hour:

RATT >> MONDAY TO FRIDAY >> 2-6 PM

draught pint and jug specials >>>>>

powerplant >> THURS AND FRI >> 2-6 PM

>> UPCOMING OILERS GAMES

DON'T FORGET:

RATT GIVES AWAY A PAIR OF TICKETS 1/2 HOUR BEFORE EVERY HOME GAME.

ALL PAY-PER-VIEW OILERS GAMES WILL BE SHOWN AT RATT.

RATT IS CLOSED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY - THUS THE COLORADO-OILERS GAME WILL NOT BE SHOWN.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 5 PM >> OILERS IN COLUMBUS. I'VE GOT NOTHING ABOUT COLUMBUS.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 7 PM >> OILERS RETURN HOME AT FACE ST. LOUIS. WIN TICKETS

>>> RATT AND MOLSON CANADIAN WILL BE GIVING AWAY A PAIR OF TICKETS TO EVERY HOME GAME. DRAWS ARE MADE 1/2 HOUR BEFORE EACH GAME <<<

MOLSON Canadian jugs are \$9.75 DURING THE game, Canadian bottles are \$3.

POWERPLANT BUFFET DAILY MENU THEMES.

MONDAY >> Chef's Choice
(it's a wild card day - pleasant surprises to start the week)

TUESDAY >> Vegetarian
(a few more Veggie choices than usual)

WEDNESDAY >> PASTA (MORE ENERGY FOR HUMP DAY)

THURSDAY >> ORIENTAL (STIR FRIES, ETC.)

FRIDAY >> CHEF'S CHOICE | the sequel

Thursday, November 23

Special: American Thanksgiving

Enjoy thanksgiving roast Turkey and the trimmings at lunch

BRING IN THIS AD FOR \$1.00 OFF (EXPIRES NOV. 30-2006)

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 November.

QUESTION PERIOD

Council kicked off with a flurry of nominations, with one person nominated to APIRG and a total of eight to DIE board. After that business was out of the way, Question Period began. A question was posed about what progress has been made by a committee set up to examine the U of A's contract with Aramark. The committee has met once since its creation, and dealt with organizational matters. Another meeting is planned soon to allow the committee to dive into the details of the contract.

The timing of the next Revolutionary Speaker Series lecture was questioned next, with councillors wondering why Carol Off was scheduled to speak on a long weekend Monday. President Sam Power explained that the date was unintentional and that the date was chosen to correspond with Off's book tour. She went on to say that promotion for the