

FEBRUARY

by Mike Walker

February: election month, traditionally the month of awesome display of student apathy. This year, February also saw an awesome display of mob power when the engineers stormed the *Gateway* office.

Phil Soper and his entire slate were elected to power in the Students' Union, after a surprising 28 percent voter turnout — up from 18 percent a year ago.

Soper insisted more students voted because they were concerned about the issues: SU finances, funding cutbacks and North Garneau development. Others thought the two referenda run along with the election drew voters. Both were passed, but the one calling for an increase in Federation of Alberta Students fees from \$1.50 to \$3.50 by only 52 percent. FAS campaigners were visibly shaken by the close result on election night.

Some *Gateway* staff members were

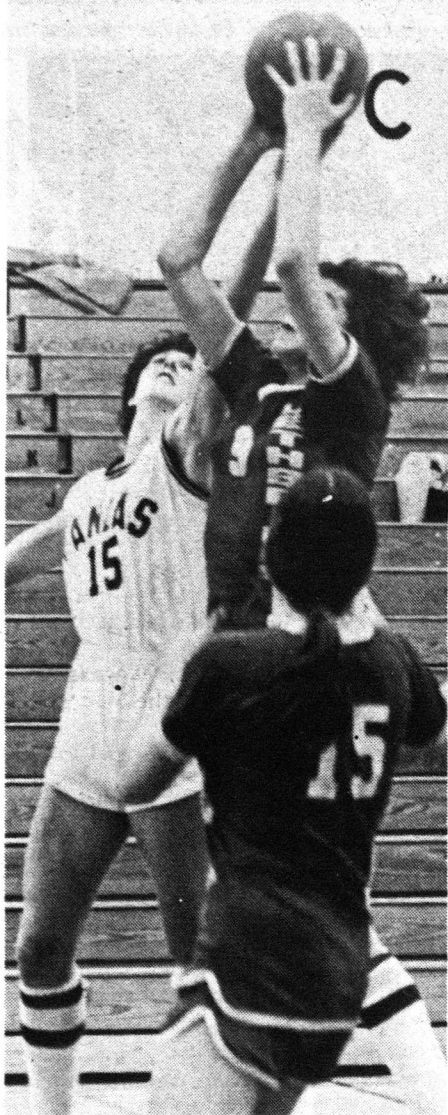
visibly shaken when about 100 irate students, mostly engineers, descended on their office demanding the paper pay them 67¢ each (the amount of their SU fees that go toward supporting the *Gateway*).

A smart-assed letters editor had tacked a note onto a letter from engineer and *Gateway*-hater Will Bauer telling him if he didn't like the paper he could come anytime and get his 67¢ back. Will and a few hundred friends took up the offer. But when they marched to the paper's office, they discovered it was deserted.

After a few minutes of milling about in the hallway and chanting "*Gateway* sucks," they left. Whereupon the *Gateway* staff shamefacedly returned to their office.

The university and its faculty and staff members couldn't agree at all on their contract negotiations: the non-academic staff asked for 20 percent to attain parity with other Alberta public employees; the university responded with an offer of about 8.5 percent.

The academics asked for 16 percent, and were disappointed as well, although they wouldn't say how much the university offered them. Neither the non-academics nor the academics can strike, the non-



I got it, I got it, I had it!! (The aftermath of Trix Kanekens).

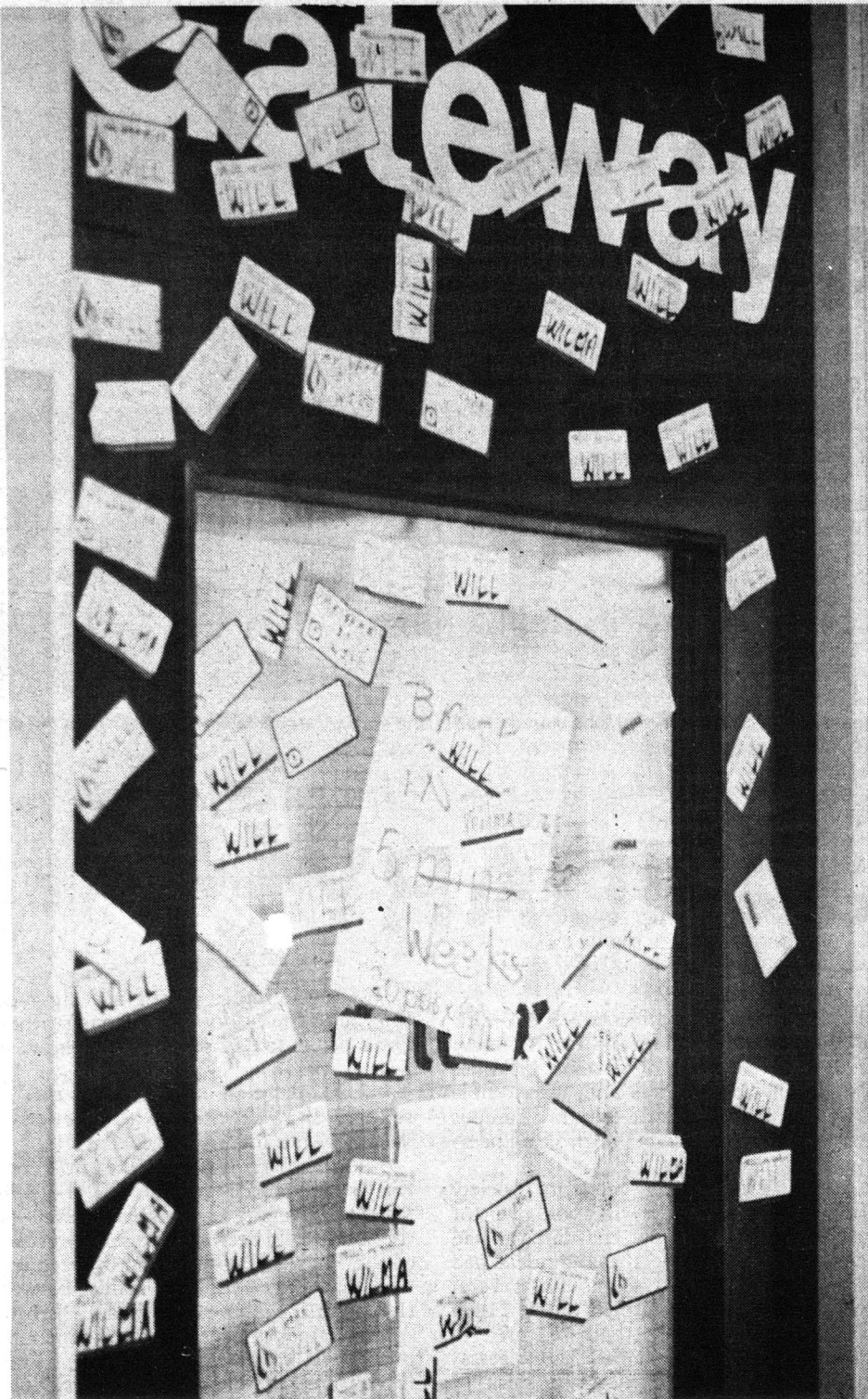


New waves for CJSh.

academics because they are considered to be government employees (none of whom can strike in Alberta), the academics because they are not a certified union.

Ambitious students were involved in more than elections in February. Campus Radio Station CJSR announced a plan to become a full-fledged FM station within a couple of years. (It now is broadcast only in campus buildings and on cable FM.) The catch: the station wanted about \$200,000 from the university to finance the expansion and refitting. The university has yet to decide whether it will go for the idea.

One plan the university is going for with gusto is the North Garneau redevelopment plan. North Garneau, a residential area, purchased years ago for campus expansion, will be the site of new



Gateway's 67 ¢ demand notes

housing for 650 students by 1982, when housing is needed for athletes for the World University Games.

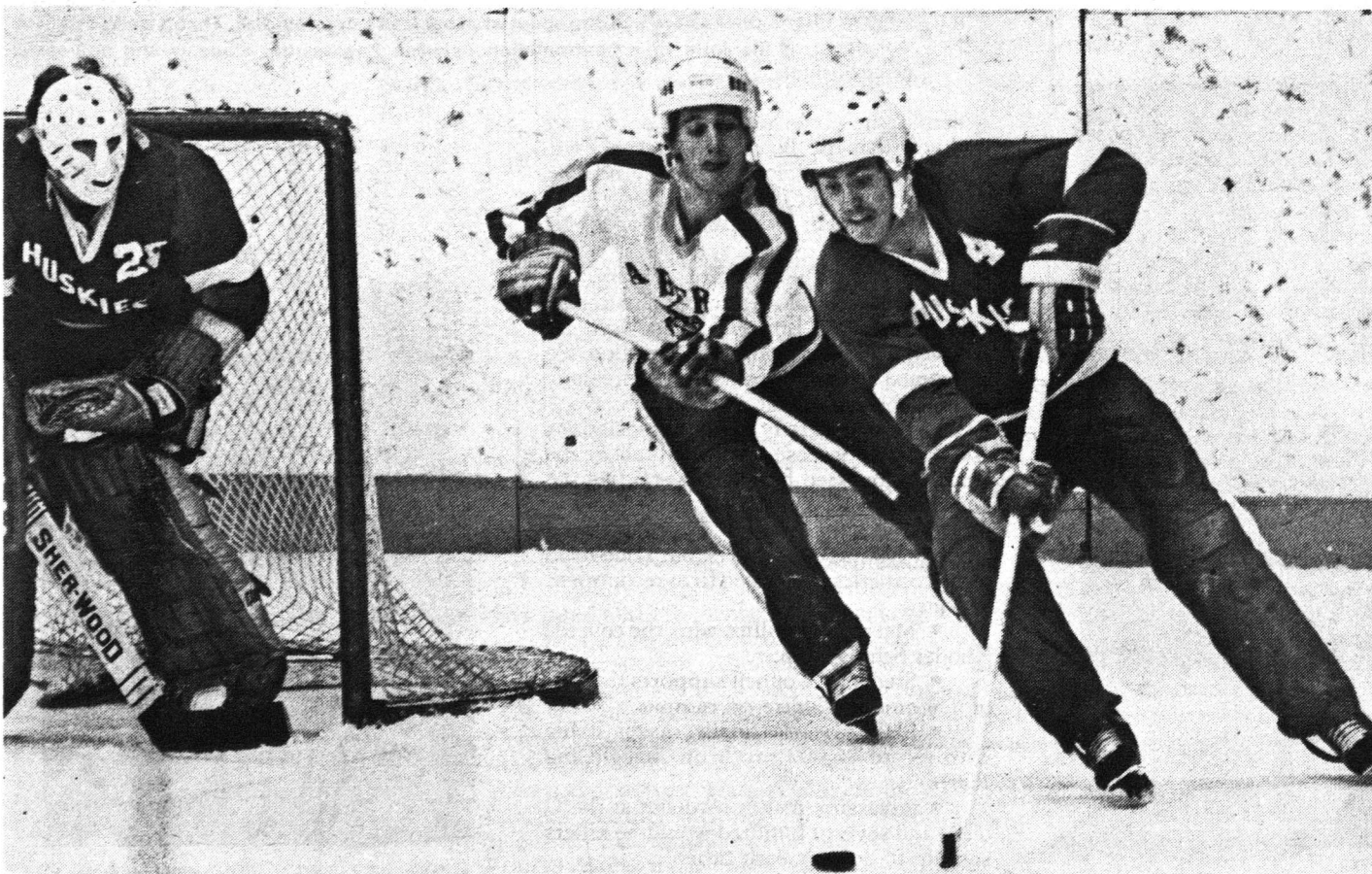
Residents were not impressed with the plans. Though most of them liked the idea of more student housing, they were afraid that what the university builds there would destroy the character of the area, which is mostly older single-family homes. As it turns out, the university wants to build four or five-storey walkup apartment complexes, so students' fears were well-grounded.

Another fear: that the Federal-Provincial Task Force on student assistance was a joke and a mockery of student input. The task force held hearings and

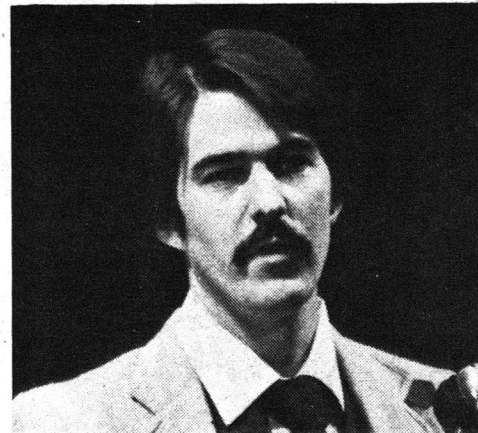
deliberated for over a year, and was supposed to make recommendations on the future structure of student aid in Canada. However, it made no recommendations and no evaluation of current programs.

In Sports, the Golden Bears men's hockey team hit the skids and missed the playoffs for the first time since 1962-63. This was a disappointment for the team members who were on last year's team, which won the Canadian championship.

The Pandas (women's) basketball team missed the playoffs as well, despite the help of high-scorer Trix Kanekens. But the Bears wrestling team made off with their third straight Canada West title.



Hey! Don't laugh at me! Grownup games like this take a lot of concentration.



The agony; Bob Kirk, defeated in the SU elections.

And the ecstasy; Phil Soper, the winner.

