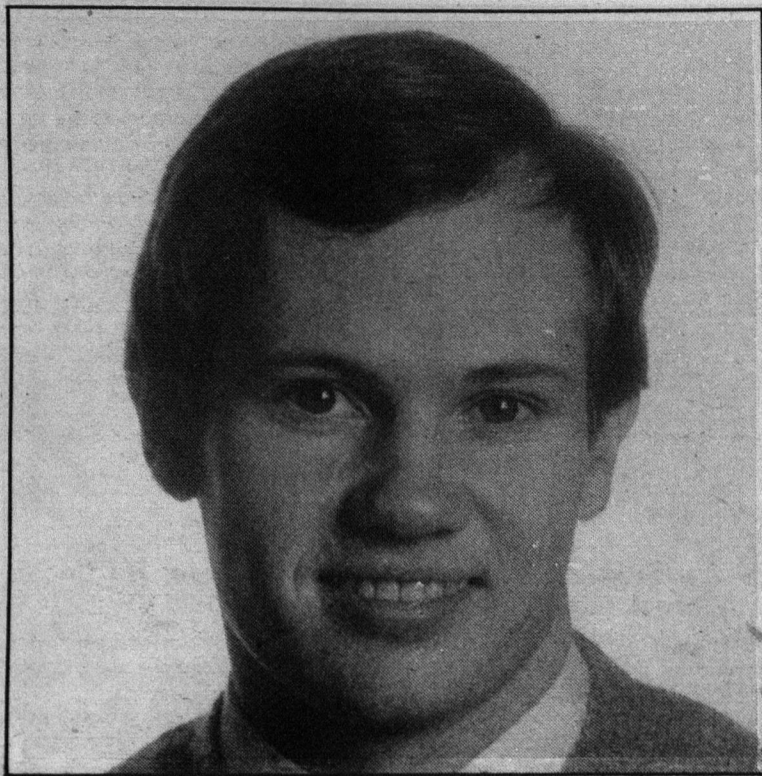


Youth unemployment conference fails



Life is nasty, brutish and short - har, har, har...

by Ken Lenz

A conference on youth unemployment was recently held in St. John's Newfoundland.

The conference, intended to achieve a mandate to organize a national caucus on youth unemployment, was termed by attending Student's Union Vice President External Andrew Watts "a failure".

"Although they had a really good idea with the conference, most people were not ready to pass several packages of resolutions tabled in the final plenary."

"Many packages were incomplete, not collated properly, and downright wrong," stated Watts.

Watts also commented, "Most of the people were there only to learn about the problem of youth unemployment and how to cope with it."

Many of the provinces

represented became extremely frustrated with the conference.

Says Watts, "The Manitoba delegation left early, many individual delegates walked out, and, by the end, people were abstaining from voting en masse."

"The Ontario delegation withdrew all of their provincial resolutions, the Quebec delegation also withdrew, stating that if this happened in Quebec, there could be a riot!"

Watts does think something good did come out of the conference.

"Many people, including Alberta delegates, left with the idea of forming provincial youth advisory councils. From these a national caucus may form naturally and properly."

"The conference was a failure to the extent that they didn't accomplish what they originally set out to do. There were some very good exchanges of ideas," concluded Watts.

U of A soaks students

by Ken Lenz

Students this year may run into some unexpected expenses in the form of incidental fees.

Incidental fees are fees levied by the University to cover expenses which it considers separate from tuition costs.

Some of the incidental fees you may have to pay this year are:

-Students this year will

receive one calendar. If a student wishes to check out options in a faculty other than the one in which he is registered he must buy another from the bookstore which range in price from two to eight dollars.

-A two dollar fee will be charged for each transcript a student orders. If you want to apply to several different Universities you have to pay for each additional transcript.

-Students are charged for using more computer time, above a certain number of allotted hours.

-Compulsory survey camps for civil engineering students went up from thirty to two hundred dollars.

-Every new student will be charged fifteen dollars to write the mandatory English Competency Test. If he fails he will be charged an additional sixty dollars to take a make-up course. In past years about fifty per cent of students failed this exam.

Commenting on the mandatory english exams, Student's Union Vice President Academic states, "It is unfair for students to pay for a deficiency which is not their fault."

"If a student gets the required mark in grade twelve matriculation English he should be considered competent."

There are a couple of potential increases as well, she says. Students who are entering into any sort of calculus program may take an optional test at a cost of fifteen dollars.

"I can see them making this test compulsory in a few years," she adds.

"It is also becoming more common for students to pay five to ten dollars for handouts from professors," says Donaldson.

This year, the University of Lethbridge has introduced a six per cent incidental fee adjustment. Donaldson predicts this may happen here although University VP Finance Dr. Willard Allen says there are no such plans.

Hey, students!

RENT for \$69



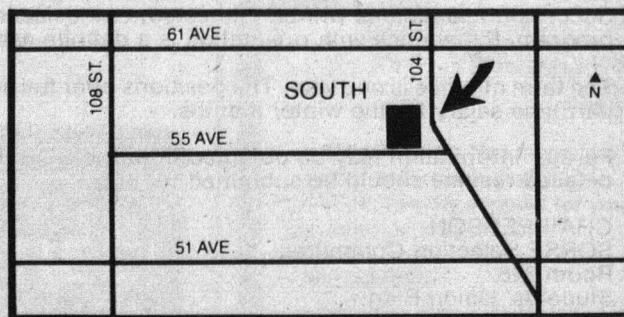
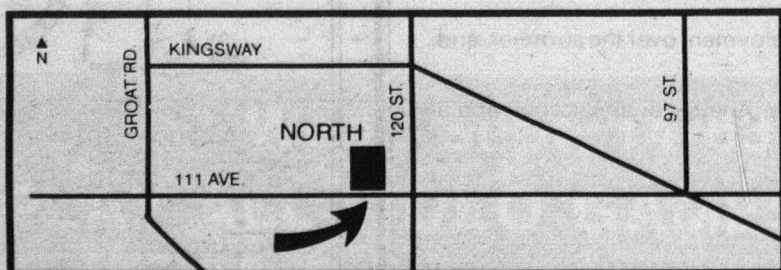
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Illiteracy, eh?

Over one quarter of Canadian Adults are functionally illiterate, says a UNESCO report released in Ottawa.

Ironically, these 4.4 million people may never read that September 8 is International Literacy Day.

The revelation that a considerable portion of the Canadian adult population is under-educated is especially disturbing in a country such as Canada where compulsory schooling has been in effect for many decades.

To date, illiteracy has been considered by many as primarily an educational issue. However, the study by UNESCO identifies the problem as a political one that needs to be solved by appropriate policies and programs.

Despite the many efforts undertaken to improve the situation, Alberta's illiteracy rate alone currently stands at 19 per cent.