

Repression is throwing caution to the winds...

The Gateway

...when there is no breeze.

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Dent. students refuse comment on exam boycott

by Bruce Rout

All 41 fourth-year dentistry students refused to write mid-term examinations this Christmas and all are now tight-lipped about their reasons for doing so.

Monty Audenart, president of the dental undergraduate society, said Monday the students' actions would be related to liaison committee representative Dave Brodie in a meeting when he returns from his holidays today.

"I've got no comment on why the students did it, I'm really not in a position to say," said Audenart, "I think it was blown way out of proportion by *The Journal*."

The Journal ran a story on the dentist dilemma December 23.

Dr. D.M. Collinson, assistant dean of dentistry, said he felt the situation was not extremely serious.

"According to regulations, the students will get zero for their mid-term examination mark, but I hope to meet the students and try to work something out to resolve the matter."

Collinson, acting dentistry dean following the recent unexpected death of Dentistry Dean J. McCutcheon, said, "We have an excellent group of students and I hope there are no adverse effects from their action."

"The exams are meant to

measure student and course performance. I have talked to the class and some individuals before the exams were held, but I'm now waiting to resolve their actions.

"We're faced with an issue that must be resolved and there is no advantage in delay."

Collinson said the situation would be resolved intelligently and hoped no one would misinterpret the situation.

"It's now before the academic standing committee," he said.

Fourth year dentistry class president Keith Ellis refused to comment on why the students did not write their mid-terms.



The latest scoop...

The first signs of construction on the \$86.4 million Health Sciences Centre can be seen northeast of the University Hospital as workmen dig an expensive hole — one which will eventually house a \$700,000 550-ft. utility corridor.

Hoarding erected around the construction site forces pedestrians onto the north sidewalk of 87th Avenue, while the university lays the groundwork for the Health Centre, construction of which officially begins in March, 1977. The services corridor, which will join up with the 3.05 miles of utilities tunnels currently under the campus, will house steam, power, gas and water lines, running to the Hospital and the Centre. Construction will take at least nine months according to Al Robertson of the university's department of physical plant. The project is funded by the provincial government.

SU sponsors community week

In an effort to take the university to the community, the Students' Union will initiate a project called Community Involvement Week to run from Jan. 31 to Feb. 4.

About 200 students from 16 student faculty associations will address community leagues around Edmonton on topics of mutual concern, SU executive vice-president Howard Hoggins said Monday.

"For example," Hoggins said, "Agriculture students may

discuss soil requirements for gardening, care of shrubs and trees; Medicine students may review prevailing home first-aid practices."

To date about 30 community leagues have expressed interest in the project. The leagues will be addressed during the evenings of the week. Hoggins said information booths may also be set up in selected Edmonton shopping centres on Friday evening, Feb. 4.

Hoggins said the project is designed to replace Varsity Guest Weekend, which ended in

1970-71. Varsity Guest Weekend brought the community in to the university, Hoggins said, while Community Involvement Week is designed to take the university out to the community.

In accordance with these aims, no activities are planned on campus.

Hoggins said cost to the SU will be "around \$100," since almost all organization is being handled by the student faculty associations and all participation from faculty reps. will be voluntary.

In Memoriam

James McCutcheon, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, died suddenly December 20, 1976, at the age of 56.

Dr. McCutcheon served as Dean of Dentistry at McGill University for 14 years until he was appointed Dean of Dentistry at the U of A in 1970.

In 1973 Dr. McCutcheon

assumed the duties of Acting Director of the School of Dental Hygiene. He also served as Director of the Department of Dentistry at the U of A hospital.

Dr. McCutcheon is survived by his wife, Geraldine, his daughter Nancy and his son, John, who is an undergraduate dental student at the U of A.

GFC lowers eng. requirements

Grade requirements for prerequisite courses within the engineering faculty have been lowered by the university's General Faculties Council (GFC).

The council has agreed to drop the passing grade to three from four, provided only one grade of three is scored per term. The move allows engineering students with good overall academic records to proceed without penalty.

The motion does not apply to courses outside the faculty of engineering.

The GFC overruled a recommendation from its executive committee asking the grade change not be granted. The engineering faculty on the other hand received formal approval for a procedure it adopted in the 1975-76 academic session.

Engineering dean Dr. P.E. Adams said it is statistically possible for a good student to have "a bad day" and fail an exam

he might otherwise have passed.

Marks vary from professor to professor in the same type of course and some studies have shown a three in the faculty of engineering might be equivalent to a four or a five in other faculties, he said.

Commerce has course guide

A course guide for students in the Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce has been compiled by students in the Bus. Admin. and Comm Undergraduate Society (BACUS).

Information for the guide was obtained by BACUS volunteers during the final three weeks of last term.

We interviewed 55 out of 65 profs," said BACUS public-relations chairman Kyle Peterson in a Monday interview, "and we covered most compulsory courses." continued to page 2

Government's two-tier fee system is "discriminatory" charges Clark

Robert Clark, Leader of the Official Opposition, has called the provincial government's attempt to implement a two-tiered tuition fee aimed at foreign students attending Alberta's post-secondary education institutions "discriminatory and wholly unwarranted."

Clark, in a press release, said that advanced education minister Bert Hohol has implied foreign students are taking away positions from Alberta students. "The onus has been upon the Minister and his department to provide information which would justify that conclusion," Clark said. "No such information has been forthcoming from Dr. Hohol's office."

"In fact, we find that, in faculties where quotas have been imposed, foreign students are almost totally restricted from entrance. The scapegoat for causing the imposition of quotas on Alberta students in such faculties should not be foreign students but should be the provincial government for having such misguided spending priorities in the area of education."

Clark described the government's position as being a "hip pocket policy arising out of the last Progressive Conservative

Convention in Calgary.

"We have a responsibility as a province in a wealthy industrialized country to contribute to the development of third world countries. Rather than send money to those nations where it often doesn't seem to get into the right hands, we are much better to have their students come to Alberta for a post-secondary education. These students should be en-

couraged to utilize the skills obtained in their home countries."

Clark also expressed a concern that a two tiered tuition fee system in Alberta would lead to a reciprocal action on the part of universities around the world "resulting in a situation where Alberta students studying outside Canada suffer the consequences of actions undertaken here."

Dean selection

A newly-created position - Dean of Students - may be filled by early Feb., the university's assistant academic vp Dr. Jean Lauber said Monday.

The position was created last fall as part of the university's restructuring of the office of student affairs.

Lauber, who chairs the committee which will recommend the new dean to General Faculties Council (GFC), said the selection process, which began 2 months ago, is now "in midstream." Candidates have been narrowed to a short list and these candidates will be interviewed beginning next week.

Gateway sources have indicated six candidates from both inside and outside the campus community are on the committee's short list. However, Lauber said she felt it was "inappropriate at this time to reveal who or how many are on the list."

The Selection Committee's criteria were determined by a GFC report, which called for a responsible, active candidate capable of coordinating the functions of the Dean of Students' office. The position is open to all academic staff at the U of A.

Dr. Lauber added that the committee "is very anxious to get a Dean of Students and get things operating."