

# editorial

## A wasted summer

The forced resignation of elected vp finance Kyle Peterson is probably one of the most significant incidents in recent years involving a SU executive member. Peterson is the first executive member forced out of office since 1974 when vp Patrick Delaney was removed due to alleged financial mismanagement.

The reasons for Peterson's removal are obvious and need not be examined here. Suffice it to say that no executive member at any time should have another full-time job in addition to his position with the SU. Peterson's moonlighting was a flagrant violation of good faith as well as being unconstitutional.

But Peterson is gone and what is left is an executive that took two months before dealing with Peterson. Peterson took office on April 1. He was not forced to submit his resignation until July 3.

The latest date that the executive could have found out about Peterson's other job was May 1, a full two months before he resigned. For close to eight weeks, then, the executive's silence served as tacit approval of his behaviour. It was finally the action of councillor Steve Cumming that brought the matter to council, and by this time the summer was almost half over.

The Students' Union had finally managed to establish some order to its financial business, after two years of uncertainty due to vacant positions in financial areas. With the undue procrastination of the executive concerning Peterson, we now face another few months of free-floating financial management. It took close to six weeks to find a replacement for Peterson, and if interim vp finance Glen Gallinger decides not to contest the fall by-election or loses that election, then we will have another inexperienced executive member who will need time to train and become familiar with the many facets of his job.

The executive should have acted promptly when they saw the many problems Peterson's other job was causing them and the Students' Union. There were no extenuating factors involved with the Peterson affair; it was a clearcut case of an executive member acting in an unconstitutional manner with no plans for changing his behavior. He should have been forced to choose one position or another on May 1, and not the last week of June.

It is not an easy or pleasant task to remove a fellow executive member from office. While it is doubtful that the executive were trying to protect Peterson, their apparent reluctance to force the issue to a confrontation and their fear of scandal or boat-rocking only prolonged the problem. Kyle Peterson collected a full two months' salary for doing virtually no work; this in itself is inexcusable. But even worse is that two of the four valuable summer months were wasted in the financial and administrative areas. And that is much less pleasant than easing out a fellow executive member.

While the executive has done an excellent job in covering for Peterson and his successor by making sure that his most important duties were carried out, I hope their procrastination throughout this affair is not indicative of their future working habits.

Gordon Turtle

# the Gateway

VOL. LXX NO. 2  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 1979  
TWENTY-FOUR PAGES

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

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a circulation of 18,500, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.

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## The hazards of house hunting

Two friends of mine were house hunting. To this day, I swear they actually enjoyed it. They compiled a list of all available real estate (is there such a thing as unreal estate?), then ploughed through it like a herd of turtles. I've moved nine times in the past six years, not counting five interim stays with friends

between moves, and I hate the whole damn business, with a deep, bitter green loathing.

I've just been through it all again, the rush for the obese *Journal* each morning, the anxious checking of ads in HUB, the Housing Registry, the pounding of the streets. Like many students, my ideal is to be within

walking distance of campus, so I combed Garneau, that curious suburb where little old houses alternate with tower blocks. For only \$150 I could share a room in animal house. For \$200 I could get the second Black Hole of Calcutta to myself. For another \$50, my black hole could be ten minutes from CAB, or furnished, but not both.

The rented buildings are easy to spot, over-grown, under-maintained, the wooden steps listing, and only the termites holding hands to keep it all together. Split into four or more suites, they yield about \$1000 per mensa to a disinterested landlord. To get to the cheapest suites, you have to duck under one set of hot-air ducts, while scrambling over another, in the pitch black of the basement. Upstairs, in the classier suites, natural daylight seeps in sufficiently to pick out the cracks in the lino, and emphasizes the graceful curve of the bed spring, where the centre brushes the floor. Do all previous tenants weigh 250 pounds?

continued on page 5

## He caught on quickly!

I am a first year student entering university and have somehow managed to survive the horror of registration week. Unfortunately, I think the administrators of the university have long forgotten their first week, else they would have taken steps to change the system. After seeing dozens of harried and even crying students in a similar situation as I was, I'm sure there must be a better way.

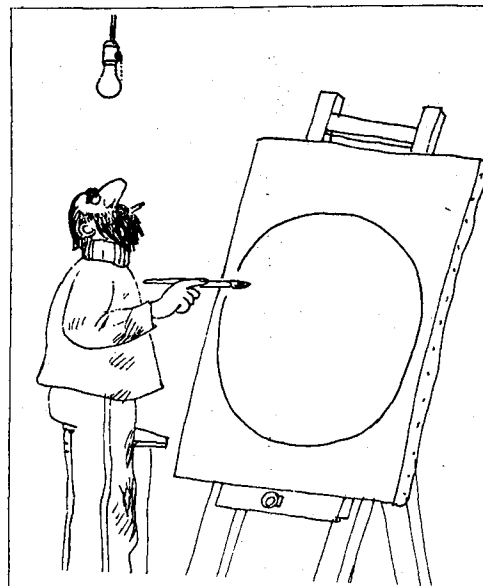
The first obvious solution would be advance registration. If second, third and fourth year students can do it, why not freshmen? Sure it requires us to pick up registration booklets,

but they could be made available with calendars in high schools. We have to send in applications early, so why not registrations?

Instead of registration week, you could have one day to pick up timetables, then two days of classes, then two days to speak with professors and make class changes. Sure, there would be hassles, but far fewer than there are now.

I would in conclusion like to urge the administration to at least give consideration to some alternate system, for there must be a better way.

Charles Ferguson  
Science I



## Rookie Night Thursday, September 20

The Gateway is the volunteer paper of the University of Alberta, and that means you. If you are interested in working at the Gateway in any capacity, please drop in to the office any time (believe me, there's always someone there!).

## Offices Room 282 SUB