

"I've said over and over again, I'm not a bigot. I have nothing against business people and lawyers..."

The Gateway

"although none of my four daughters had better marry one." David Suzuki

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Flying high

With ball in hand, Golden Bears guard Dave Youngs appears as weightless as the rest of the players in a high flying game Sunday against the Lewis Clark State Warriors. The Bears won 94-82.

Paul Menzies

Native funding defended

by Cam McCulloch

A united group of student associations from across Alberta is lobbying the federal government to abandon plans that would alter the way native students receive funding for post-secondary education.

The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) is trying to block plans by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to restrict the maximum time in which native students receive living allowances. The plan calls for restriction from 96 academic months to 48 academic months.

Although tuition assistance would not be subject to time limits, the proposed maximum for living allowances would mean any native student pursuing a graduate or professional degree would be subsidized for only the first six years of his/her program (including the four year undergraduate program).

Cora Voyageur, who is part of a group of native students at the University of Alberta voicing concern over the proposed policy, said native students are being asked to come up with their own funding and are being left to fend for themselves halfway through their program. Voyageur said native students are being encouraged to pursue scholarships and bursary possibilities; however, she added, "there is not much out there except oil companies, which usually stipulate petroleum-based occupations. In areas which are not hard science, psychology for example, there is nothing available."

The new policy would also see a flat rate provided per month for living allowances.

A single student would receive \$575 per month (not including tuition, which is covered in full).

Under the existing system, native students receive three-quarters of their rent, up to a maximum

of \$500 per month, and may receive other subsidies which are applied for individually.

Sheila Carr-Stewart of the Department of Indian Affairs said, "there was concern the administration of the program was too complex. This is an attempt to simplify things."

At stake is not only the money issue, but the right to a significant level of education which would allow natives to compete with other graduates, she said.

Of the approximately 750,000 post-secondary students in Canada in 1987, 13,066 were Treaty Indians (or about 1.7 percent). At the University of Alberta, only 200 of approximately 29,000 students are Indians (about 0.69 percent). Even more appalling, according to the native student leaders at the U of A, is that of 3,741 graduate students at the U of A, only four are natives.

Another member of the group of native students fighting the proposed changes, Judy Daniels, said, "the government is trying to redefine what the Treaty right to education is." She added, "I'm often asked 'why should Indians receive a free education?' I tell them, 'because Indians gave up a lot when they signed the Treaties. We regard education as a birth-right.'"

The federal government provides incentive grants for mature students who pursue disciplines related to self-government or economic self-reliance. The catch, however, is that the government has drawn up a prioritized list of who gets funding depending on choice of programs. For example, a Masters degree is fifth on the list.

Daniels said, "the government is losing touch of the idea of the long-term effects of educated Indians. We need credibility in the non-native world. The only way to get that credibility is with a degree."

Students need more lab hours

by Michelle LaGrange

A petition is being circulated within the Faculty of Arts in the hope that Language Lab hours will be extended.

Peter Quily, who started the petition, says, "the hours of the language labs are inadequate for students' needs." The present hours of the labs are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Arts Students' Association (ASA) and Quily agree that the weekend hours are inadequate.

Quily claims that the petition was started because the ASA told him that they wouldn't be able to do anything about the situation until February. Barry Chow, president of the ASA, said that

solutions will be discussed when the arts students' committee meets within the next couple of weeks. According to Chow, nothing can be done until then and "the petition will provide a good bargaining tool."

After touring the language facilities, academic commissioner Michelle Kitt agrees that there is a problem. Kitt and SU vp Charles Vethan wrote a letter to Dr. Thomas Powrie, acting dean of arts, supporting the petition.

Kitt claims that students who are on schedule with the lessons can tape them and work on them at home. Problems arise when students get behind in the scheduled labs because they can't get into the labs on weekends to

make up the lessons.

However, Quily claims that not all lessons can be done at home, and that some classes require students to put in lab time.

Dr. Allan Ballah, director of language labs, who was approached about the issue, said "it is primarily a funding problem." However, Ballah is also concerned about the security risk in extended business hours, as equipment has been stolen from labs before.

Powrie has not yet received the 1000 signature petition, but he hopes that they can arrive at a solution when he does.

All-night study hall here for Xmas exams

by Kisa Mortenson

Got a study habit? Now you can satisfy the craving.

The first floor of Cameron Library will be open 24 hours a day during final exams at Christmas and in the spring.

A two year trial period is set for the 24 hour library in order to determine "... if it will be cost-efficient," said Michelle Kitt, S U academic commissioner. Kitt and Charles Vethan, SU vp academic, point out the 24 hour library is an

example of the SU meeting the needs of students.

Vethan and Kitt both emphasize that the University administration is also very supportive of the project and is willing to pay for half of the operating costs.

Vethan says one of the main concerns is the security of students on campus late at night. Security will be handled by three people: one at the front desk of Cameron, one to monitor the area, and a campus cop to act as an escort service.



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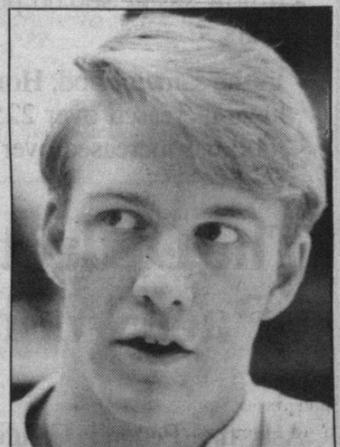
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Rob Galbraith

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