

Food bank donations misguided

The Students' Union is currently debating whether or not to install a collection point on campus for the food bank.

Such a venture deserves very careful consideration. Several well intentioned councilors feel that students donating food would be a small but significant step in alleviating the needs of the destitute in this city.

It is true that even the longest journey starts with the first step; but, is it misleading to think that the answer to the crisis in Edmonton lies with private philanthropy?

It's often been said that the lines at the food bank act as a social barometer indicating the economic climate of the city. The longer the lines, the higher the unemployment. As alderman Jan Reimer recently noted, Edmonton is the unemployment capital of western Canada.

The need for the food bank is all too obvious: more and more people are knocking on its doors every day.

Food bank officials say that one in five welfare recipients use their facilities, an increase of eight and a half per cent since January.

Why?

A recent report released by the food bank found that "the primary reason for this increase is the cut to welfare rates for single employables."

However, some single employables have been press-ganged into a new government scheme — working for welfare — since the report was released. This new scheme guarantees welfare recipients enough work to get off the provincial welfare roll onto the federally financed UIC.

A Senate committee on poverty reported in 1971 that the welfare system had become increasingly unable to meet the needs of its clients.

"It has failed to achieve its humanitarian goals. It deprives its recipients of dignity and provides no incentive or rewards for those who wish to escape poverty," the report stated.

There have been changes since then; times have become harder for those living at the subsistence level.

Almost daily we read about the hardships facing welfare recipients.

Something is wrong with the system when a triple amputee has to separate from his wife in order to get proper assistance from social services.

The government has consistently maintained its Victorian attitude that personal hardship is a result of moral failure.

The route to financial success for the individual is found by expanding one's employment opportunities, we are told regularly from the Legislature Building.

Try telling that to someone who can't find enough food to fill his belly.

The poor are often the most undereducated members of our society; they certainly are not organized politically.

Rather than deliberate on the merits of collecting for the food bank, the SU should channel their energies into lobbying on behalf of a voiceless minority who face deprivation every day.

Rod Campbell



Charlie Fleet is a local freelance cartoonist.

Act assesses cuts

During the summer the Anti-Cutbacks team has been industriously at work attempting to assess the effects of a three percent cutback in funding to post-secondary education in this province. Our preliminary findings reveal that much damage has already resulted from the cuts, and that the shock waves have far from subsided. There is good reason to suspect that the good quality education available to students on this campus and students all over Alberta is being jeopardized by cuts in funding.

The Anti-Cutbacks Team (ACT!) is a volunteer organization constitutionally assigned the responsibility of addressing the following issue areas: the quality of post-secondary education; accessibility

of post-secondary education and any other issue area deemed relevant. Clearly this mandate is an ambitious one. Without the required volunteer support these responsibilities will remain unfulfilled. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to invite all students concerned about the future of education in this province to get involved in the Anti-Cutbacks Team. Interested Students may contact Andrew Fredricks the External Commissioner and Chairman of ACT or Paul Lagrange, VP External in room 256 SUB.

Wade Deisman
Interim Research Co-ordinator
ACT!

Michigan inmate seeks correspondent

I am presently confined at the State Prison of Southern Michigan, and I'd be very grateful if I could perhaps establish a correspondence with anyone wishing to do so. Please understand, just because I'm in prison; that doesn't necessarily mean that I'm a criminal. We all can make a mistake. But nothing can change a particular situation unless there's a will to do so.

I hope it hasn't been accounted pre-

sumptuous if a man of low and humble station has ventured to have a friend.

Alphonso Hayes
#179535
State Prison of Southern Michigan
4000 Cooper Street
Jackson, Michigan, 49204

You and the Gateway

We are the Gateway. We are here to keep the students of the University informed, enlightened, and entertained. To do this we need you.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome.

If you have a concern, idea, or comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, phone number, and student ID number. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Mail or deliver your letters to room 282 SUB, or drop them at any SU Information booth.

The Gateway



Editor-in-Chief: RHODERICK (ROD) J. CAMPBELL
Managing Editor: SHERRI RITCHIE
News Editors: ROBERTA FRANCHUK, KEN BOSMAN
Entertainment Editor: ELAINE OSTRY
Sports Editor: ALAN SMALL
Photo Editor: BRUCE GARDAVE
Production Editor: JEROME RYCKBORST
Media Supervisor: MARGRIET TILROE-WEST
Advertising: TOM WRIGHT

Contributors: BORIS ZVONKOVIC, JENNIFER HYNDMAN, BRENT FENNELL, JOHN WATSON, DRAGOS RUIU, GLENN ST-GERMAIN, ANN LYNAGH, MICHAEL MAITLAND, STEPHEN NOBLE, NEIL HEDLEY, TRACY ROWAN, MATTHEW HAYS, AND SPECIAL THANKS TO BARB.

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm. 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm. 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.



Photo Barbara Catling

1987-88 Gateway editorial staff (from L to R): Jerome Ryckborst, production manager; Roberta Franchuk, news editor; Sherri Ritchie, managing editor; Ken Bosman, news editor; Rod Campbell, editor-in-chief; Bruce Gardave, photo editor; Elaine Ostry, entertainment editor; Alan Small, sports editor.