

## Administration devalues students

by Randal Smathers

You're being devalued and deceived. The University of Alberta administration has consistently blamed the provincial government for the lack of funding for the university residences. That's simply not the entire truth.

There's no question that the residences need money. According to David Bruch, director for Housing and Food Services, everything except HUB needs "substantive" renovations. According to our new president, Dr. Paul Davenport, the residence situation is a "crisis".

The Students' Union has gone along with the party line for a couple years now, agreeing with the Administration that the lack of funding was an "equity" situation: Calgary got money for residences prior to the Winter Olympics, where they were used as athletes' villages, so the U of A deserved money for residences as well.

It's been very easy for the Administration to merely complain about government cutbacks in funding for the last few years, but that ignores the fact that the University does not have residences at the top of their priority list.

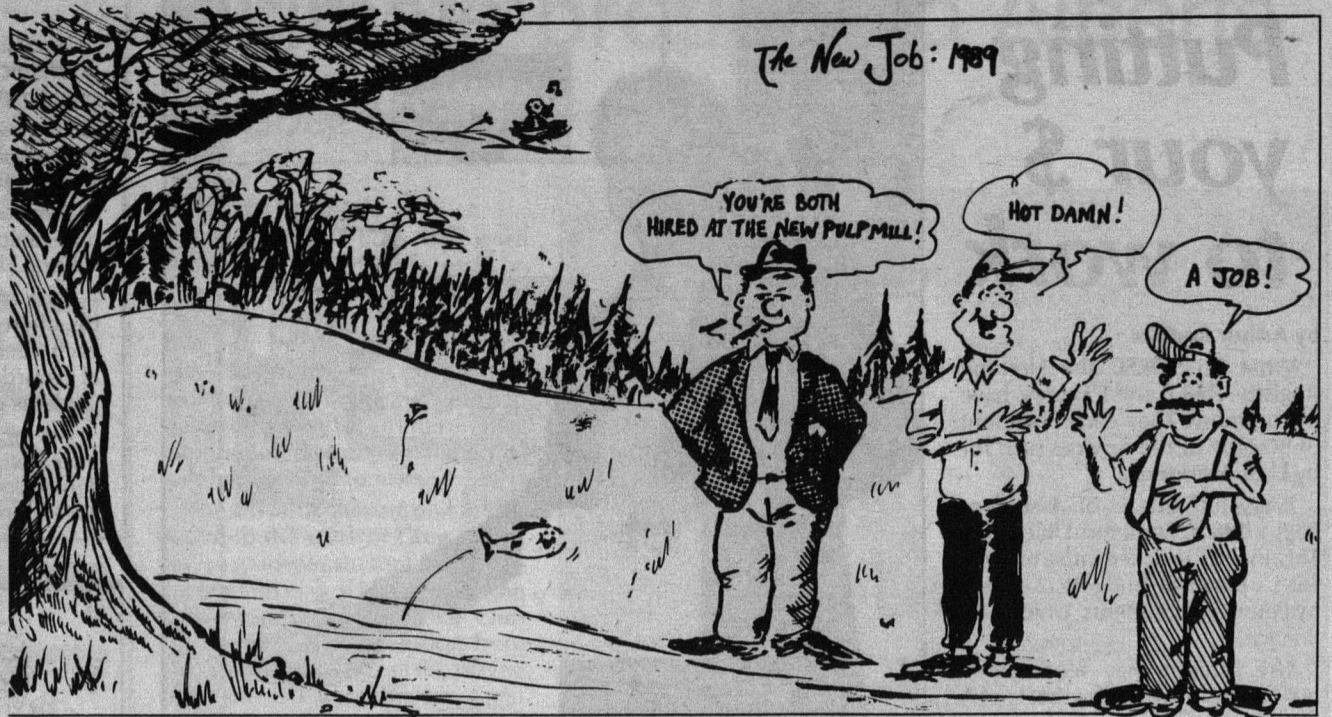
Like most bureaucracies, the University has a "wish list" for funding. The number one item is the library system. Fair enough—SU vp external Wade Deisman cites the study which shows that our library slipped from seventh in North America to eleventh—but in an overcrowded, underfunded institution, isn't everything under pressure?

The problem is that the University doesn't think that first and second year students are all that important. They're focussing more on grad students—not a surprise either, because they say so in the planning document, "The Next Decade and Beyond". Ask yourself who a marvellously arcane and diverse library helps, then ask yourself who lives in residence (for the most part), and I think you'll see why the library system is the biggest priority.

So where do residences rate on the University priority scale? Right now, they don't. On the "wish list", drawn up four or five years ago, housing doesn't appear.

In researching the Faculte story (see the front page) for this issue I was told that, until the University makes residences a priority request, funding of any kind is unlikely. The administration knows that, too. This year they'll get around to re-evaluating their capital priorities list, and then eventually the government will provide some money, but until then students will have to live in unsafe and uncomfortable residences.

We're waiting.



## LETTERS

### Environmental awareness missing on U of A campus

To the editor:

An idea dawned upon me last March and, as all good students of procrastination, I have waited until now to share it. It was on that March evening when I walked through the pedway leading into the Fine Arts building. I was heading towards the Law Library to scrounge up research material for a political science paper. On my walk I passed garbage cans stuffed with styrofoam and window sills decorated with Coke cans. I had been thinking politics... but was I living politically?

I challenge our University to "lead the way" in an environmentally sound institution. There is a need. I am ashamed of the amount of garbage we produce everyday, and yet, I am optimistic. I have noticed efforts to save recyclable paper in the Humanities building. Wouldn't it be great if each major garbage can on campus, or at least in Hub Mall, could be twinned with a container for bottles and tins? Or, students could be made aware of "paper throw-away" centres. If there were more opportunities to act conscientiously, I'm sure most of us would.

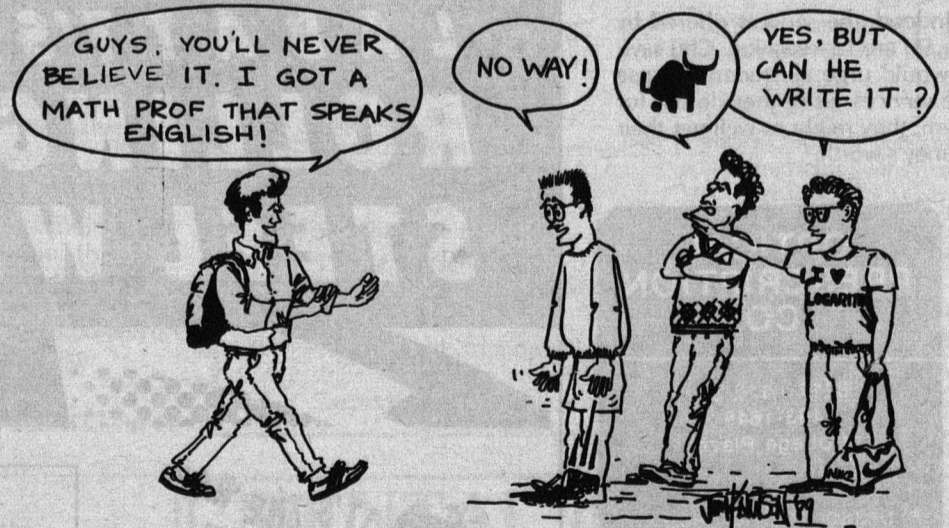
Kathryn Elford  
Arts IV

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To: Mr. Randal Smathers, Editor-in-Chief of *The Gateway*

Lo and Behold! It's *Gateway* day again. I know this not by the day of the week, but rather by the volume of half-read papers scattered around campus. The mess, of course, is an irritation. But, moreover, the waste of paper is an atrocity — I believe those are my Students' Union fees lying on the floor. Two issues per week, multiplied by some forty pages per issue, multiplied again by thousands of printed papers. That's a lot of paper — in fact it's an obscene amount considering none of it is re-used. Come on, *Gateway*, recycle your newspaper! In respect for our depleting environmental resources, or even in respect of our tuition fees, set up special bins on campus to collect your papers in order to print new ones. Recycling is our responsibility, therefore I am confident campus support would be overwhelming. I would hate to think that a tree was lost for each time I was to skim through your paper. Frankly, if that's the case, I would definitely have to pass.

May Alhussaini  
Science II



### The Gateway

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