

# EDITORIAL

## Same old story

Tuition fees will not rise next year, at least according to statements made by the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, Jim Horsman.

Unless, of course, the universities give the minister compelling arguments for demonstrating a need for an increase.

This statement may, at first glance, seem to be in the best interests of students, but when one looks more deeply at the issue, one finds the university caught between the proverbial rock and hard place. Just exactly what constitutes "compelling arguments" for tuition increases? More cutbacks?

The U of A has already declared that a 15 percent increase in funding is necessary to maintain the present level of services. If the government doesn't meet this request, will that constitute just cause for a tuition increase?

And university president Myer Horowitz has already said that unless a sufficient funding increase is granted, tuition fees will have to rise. This would mean students would once again be forced to pick up the slack left by government funding policies designed to throttle the universities.

It is ludicrous for Horsman to say he won't increase fees unless a convincing case is made when his department determines whether or not a fee increase is necessary by the funding levels they set. He cannot simply change hats at will, playing both prosecutor and jury at the trial of higher education.

Unless Horsman's commitment not to raise tuition fees is coupled with a commitment to fund the universities at a level adequate enough to at least maintain services, he is just making empty gestures of goodwill designed to pacify the students.

And empty gestures are not what are needed to prevent the quality of higher education in this province from slipping even further.

## CUP full of ads

Students' Council last night voted to join the Canadian University Press Media Services advertising network.

And this decision is designed to ensure the long term financial viability of the *Gateway*, and campus papers all across the country. Media Services is a member-owned and controlled advertising network that will solicit national ads for the *Gateway*. The revenue from these ads will reduce the costs of the paper to students, and will maintain our position as one of the lowest-subsidized papers in the country.

Needless to say, the staff of the *Gateway* are solidly behind the Media Services proposal. Councillors last night recognized both the benefits of CUP membership, and the important role played by it in providing newspapers with a solid service and financial base upon which to build.

Ultimately, we are convinced their decision is in the best long-term interests of both the *Gateway*, and the students on this campus.

Keith Krause

# the Gateway

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

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Three days and counting down to Reading Week: Michael Dennis Skeet will join the faithless in Vancouver;

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the rest of you - we still love ya but we'll never be the same. Jens Anderson prevailed and wrote four (count 'em - 4!) pieces of timeless prose. Welcome to the fold Rick Watts, and Charlotte Cooper, and back to the fold Russ Sampson. Glad to see ya again John Roggeveen; obviously Wes Oginiski coerced ya back into our special brand of social reforming. Thankya Elda Hopfe and Cathy Emberley for flawless typesetting, and Tom Freeland for flawless photos. Candy Fertile, meet Bruce Pollock (a five column head, yet!). Sorry, Mary Ruth Olson - next time we'll leave some work especially for you.

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000, 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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"Frankly, I'm on the horns of a dilemma: I can't decide which is more infantile - the Gateway railing against the engineers or the engineers bitching about the Gateway."

## No worse than anywhere else

As student councillor representing the Faculte St. Jean, I would like to clarify the article "Students air grievances" published in the January 20 edition of the *Gateway*. First of all, words like "fear" and "rage" do not "spring easily to the mouths of students" as was reported. Like in any and all faculties of the university, we have our bureaucratic problems, more unique and noticeable perhaps due to our small size and bilingual nature, but not necessarily more serious.

Before Christmas, there was concern among students due to apparent administrative problems. For this reason, an informal meeting was organized on November 28, 1980, to voice student complaints concerning our linguistic competence exams, French education program, calendar, and the inaccessibility of French textbooks. These complaints were then presented to our S.U. executive, who rewrote them in a list of grievances.

On December 5, 1980, at a formal general meeting with 54 present, students voted in favor of this list. Immediately after the meeting, the grievances were presented at a meeting of the "Exécutif du Conseil Académique", which consists of our dean, four profs and a student representative.

Contrary to public belief, this council was receptive to our complaints and has made changes. Recognizing students' concern about the validity of linguistic competency exams, the administration established a committee (2 profs and one student who has already sat through the exams) to study them.

Regarding our education program, the FSJ has always been oriented to an immersion program due to an agreement

with the Faculty of Education. Graduates from the FSJ education program are qualified to teach 90% of their course content in French, whereas education students from main campus are only qualified to teach 40 minutes/day in French.

Our course calendar is currently being revised and any course changes not mentioned in last year's calendar are legal, having been passed in a special motion at the GFC. The calendar was published before the changes were made, so in the future, pamphlets containing course changes will be published periodically. Concerning French articles and textbooks, most professors at the FSJ make an effort to supply them; however, in

some subjects French material is simply not published.

Therefore, in conclusion, I would like to clarify the fact that our problems, like any in a bureaucratic institution, have been caused by a lack of communication between students and the administration and further intensified by certain students with personal conflicts against the administration. Unfortunately, the *Gateway* published the opinions of this minority, not those of the majority of students at the FSJ, as indicated by the support to send this letter of 26 students at another general meeting today.

Monica Loughlin  
Faculte St. Jean II  
Student Councillor

## Safer than most things

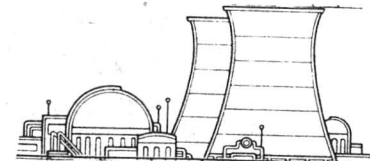
In regard to the letter of February 10, "Risks simply are not worth it", I feel obliged to respond with "What risks?"

There is reason to suppose that nuclear energy will not give rise to lethal diseases as yet unknown to us. The Nobel Prize winner Dr. Rosalyn Yalow has noted that the background radiation in Denver, Colorado is double levels around Three Mile Island during the accident. Yet this prosperous city suffers no strange endemic diseases. Furthermore, other inhabited portions of the globe can boast background levels up to 70 times those in Denver.

Should Mr. Cohen wish to check this, a copy of Dr. Yalow's informative statement can be found posted in the corridor joining the Engineering and Pharmacy buildings.

Incidentally, the Three Mile Island plant looks very benevolent in comparison to Mt. St. Helens. The former did not explode, injured no one, and did damage to nothing but itself.

As for my sources of information, every assertion can be checked in the April 9, 1979, issues of both *Time* and *Newsweek*, (including the safety record of the nuclear industry, something considered common knowledge in some circles).



Also, if anyone worries about nuclear waste disposal, there is an excellent article on the subject in the June 1977 *Scientific American*.

In closing, I must certainly agree that the press can be misleading. At the time of the accident, *Maclean's* published an infrared photograph showing "radiation pulsing from the crippled reactor." Of course, "infrared radiation" is simply heat.

Robert Morewood  
Science I