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# the Gateway

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1979

## Board plans for 8.25% more

Green Lennon

Although another 8.25% increase in the provincial government's grant to the university is expected this year, this translates into an increase of only 7.5% in total revenues.

This was the conclusion reached by VP Finance Lorne Leitch in the university's preliminary operating budget proposal for 1979-80. The proposal will be discussed at the Board of Governors at its regular meeting April 6.

However the \$136,800,000 budget is still speculative because there has been no word yet from the provincial government regarding its annual grant to the university. That grant, which is necessary for accurate budget

projections, is not expected to be announced now until late May or June.

But, while it is possible to go into the fiscal year without a budget VP Leitch explained that a further deferral would have interfered with important decision-making (eg staffing) that is tied to the academic year.

At the April 6 meeting the Board finance committee will present the preliminary budget based on the 8.25% increase in its regular report. Under these conditions a \$2,100,000 shortfall is predicted.

The finance committee will recommend that the shortfall be accommodated this year by continuing the freezing of thirty-two academic positions and by the imposition of a 1% tax on almost

all university budget units. A \$400,000 cut to the Physical Plant budget is also suggested.

According to Leitch's assistant Dave Norwood, there is still not talk of a tuition fee increase.

The April 6 Board meeting begins at 10 am in Rm 315 University Hall and is open to the public.

## Controversy continues over VGW attendance

by Margaret Donovan

Almost all the figures are in, but controversy still surrounds this year's Varsity Guest Weekend (VGW).

## Call for unity

# HUB tenants fight rent increase

by Lucinda Chodan

The HUB Tenants Association (HTA) announced Wednesday it planned to join with other university housing units to protest proposed rent increases. Despite an HTA presentation to the Board of Governors' (BoG) finance committee Tuesday, the committee approved the rent increase suggested by Housing and Food Services.

The HTA brief detailed the HUB tenants' opposition to the rent increases, which will raise

rents 6% to 8% in HUB units September 1.

The quality of housing in HUB, subsidization of HUB merchants and other housing units by HUB tenants, and the financial difficulties of foreign students already hit by differential fees were some factors protested by the HTA in the brief (see story in March 23rd's *Gateway*).

The brief was presented to the B of G finance committee in the presence of Housing and Food Services representatives Gail Brown and Mel Poole. "We seemed to have been well-received," said John Sinton, vice president of the HTA. "As we left, Harry Gunning said it had been a good brief."

The finance committee approved the rent increases after the HTA delegation left the meeting, however.

In an official statement for the HTA, Sinton said, "The HTA is very disappointed that the committee approved the increase, especially when the board members have little idea of the suitability or liveability of the units. If they had come to see the HUB apartments, maybe they would have had an idea about what exactly they were raising the rents on."

The HTA has planned no further action until a meeting with other university housing units has been arranged. "We hope a wider voice will be heard by the Board," says Sinton.

The finance committee's recommendations on the rent increases will be heard at the B of G meeting April 6.

## Assiniboia may be destroyed

A first step has been taken to determine the fate of Assiniboia Hall. Long known as "the trap," it was finally condemned last September and scheduled for demolition at the end of 1978.

A motion to demolish the 42-year-old structure was passed at a meeting of the Campus Development Committee (CDC) Tuesday. That recommendation will now go to the Board of Governors' Planning Committee and the

University Planning Committee for further discussion.

The move by CDC is considered to be an indication that Assiniboia Hall will not survive the latest threats to its existence.

Assiniboia Hall is located south of the massive Biological Science Building, the northernmost of three U-shaped structures lining the west side of the quad. One of the oldest buildings on campus, it is the last of the three halls to be considered for

renovation by the university.

Pembina Hall, a female residence, was renovated in 1975 and is now a residence for mature students. Athabasca Hall was gutted and entirely rebuilt from the inside. It reopened in 1977 and now houses University offices including Student Counselling, Community Relations, the Office of Student Affairs and the Senate.

Assiniboia, also a former

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