

A pessimist is just
an optimist ...

The Gateway

with a little
more information.

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Confidential report reveals policy reversal

by Kim St. Clair

In their struggle for improved accommodation student organizations in Alberta have found support from an unexpected source. A confidential preliminary report on student housing, leaked to *The Gateway* Monday, revealed a reversal of the provincial government's view of the student housing situation.

The report, announced FAS (Federation of Alberta Students) president Terry Sharon, "states that there is a definite need for increased student housing, which is what FAS has been saying all along."

"It recognizes FAS's belief that poor housing plans discourage low income sectors of Albertans from attending university. And what's more, it also

lays responsibility on the government to improve the housing situation."

One of the conclusions reached in the report is that "as an established low-income group, students should have access to subsidized, low-income accommodation."

This view represents a radical change from attitudes previously aired to FAS; at-

titudes typified by a remark made by Bert Hohol (Minister of Advanced Education) that "students are a privileged class," and as such do not qualify for subsidized government housing.

In the past, he said, the Alberta government has continuously refuted allegations by FAS that expensive, low-quality housing (such as university residences) limit accessibility to university. Contrary to this stance, the report has found that "present on-campus student accommodation does not provide for the lowest-income students. Even though it is all subsidized in one way or another, it is often more expensive than off-campus accommodation."

"This is a major recognition in itself," said Sharon.

A move towards self-contained apartment-like accommodation and family housing is identified in the report.

However, these observations are just the product of a preliminary report and may not correlate to conclusions reached in the final version, which has not yet been released. Sharon's aims in releasing the preliminary report at this time are "to get the government committed to progressive student housing policy, and to pressure them into releasing the overdue final report."

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SU won't cover for engineers

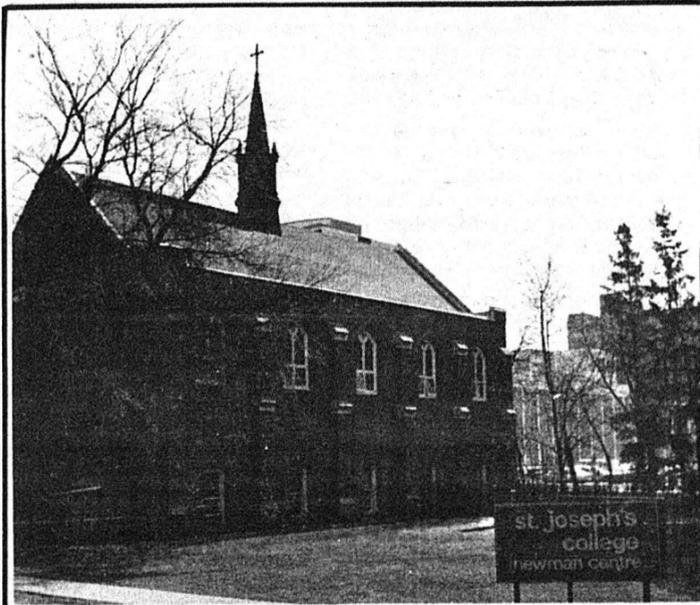
Since Students' Council's refusal to allow the use of SUB theatre as a classroom for an engineering course next year, the Faculty of Engineering is forced to go back to the university's scheduling committee for the much-needed classroom space, said Dr. Donald Quon at a GFC meeting Monday.

George Ford, Dean of Engineering asked during question period if the Students' Union had been allowed university facilities in the past, and if there had been any charge for such use. He also asked if the SU had ever been refused use of university facilities.

SU president Graeme Leadbeater replied that the SU uses University Hall for its Council meetings and had used Humanities lecture halls as well. Free of charge. Neither had the SU ever been refused use of university facilities for use related to SU business.

Just the same, Leadbeater reiterated that SUB should not be used for class purposes. "The Students' Union shouldn't have to cover up for lack of space in the university," he said.

As well, he said, the forums program was being considered for an increased schedule next year, on the days the theatre was to be used by the engineering faculty, so it would be impossible to accommodate both.



Students, alumni, and staff of St. Joseph's College attended a special mass commemorating the College's fiftieth anniversary two weeks back. One of the university's earliest landmarks, thousands of our grads trod its halls and worshipped in its chapel. Who says they don't build 'em to last? Photos Mary MacDonald.

I came back- to student government

If at first you don't succeed...

Students' Union vp (executive) Brian Mason has been elected - not as president of the Students' Union - but as one of six General Faculties Council (GFC) Arts Faculty representatives.

Also back for seconds is Board of Governors rep Joe McGhie, whose previous election to the position was disallowed by the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board. McGhie was president of the Students' Union during 1974-75. Runner up for the B of G position was Dwight Bliss.

Elected Arts Faculty Students' Council reps are Kim McKenzie and Ken Renyolds, while the Science rep to Council

was won by acclamation by Sandra Kavanagh.

Other GFC reps are Jim Carter, Marilyn Lee, David Sissons, Art Gorham and Lily Borchenko, all of the Arts Facul-

ty. Positions by acclamation have been taken by Bonnie Oxamitry, Guy Huntinston, Kim Smallwood and Randy Reid.

Over 1200 students voted during the Friday elections.

Rejects of the world unite!

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Approximately 50 bottom-of-the-barrel types attended a film showing at the University of British Columbia March 17 in an effort to join the newly formed Rejects Club.

Membership is open to anyone who feels rejected by every other group on the BC campus.

The film, *Mag Kidding*, rejected by every conceivable film distributor, was, according

to all who attended, perfectly awful. It was made last summer by a group of UBC students, many of whom are now involved in the Rejects Club.

One such would-be filmmaker is Rejects Club president Charles Foid.

Foid said it costs 50 cents to join the club because that is the minimum fee the club must charge if it is to be considered a

more REJECTS,
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FAS to return in the fall

Incoming Students' Union president Len Zoeteman said today it is very likely a referendum concerning U of A entrance into the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) will be held next fall.

Zoeteman said debate concerning the referendum will take place over the summer months but it is virtually a foregone conclusion that students will be faced with a

referendum (sometime in October) asking if they wish to join FAS at the cost of 50 cents per student.

"I think Terry Sharon will be an excellent president and will do a lot to consolidate the organization this summer," said Zoeteman, "and I think it's very likely that we will join FAS next year, especially if it continues to grow the way it has since its start five months ago."

Ethics in genetics

by John Kenney

"Possibly when you hear the word bioethics you think of terrifying problems like ... cloning ... genetic manipulation ... freezing human sperm ... freezing the human body so you can wake up like Rip Van Winkle."

But this kind of science fiction as described by John Habgood, is not what he wanted to discuss and it wasn't what the audience heard at the SU forum on Thursday.

Habgood, Bishop of Durham, England, and former professor of theology, physiology and pharmacology at Cambridge University, was in SU Theatre to speak on bioethics, or more specifically on biological problems that affect us now.

Habgood related how an "enterprising reporter" managed to get into a laboratory where they had a row of beagles smoking cigarettes 24 hours a day. The story received front page newspaper coverage and generated a great deal of anger among the public.

It raises questions, continued Habgood, about testing "for toxicity in various substances in case some silly ass goes and eats them. For instance, shoe polish, cosmetics, anti-freeze — did you know that these are all tested for toxicity by stuffing them down animal's throats until 50% of them die?"

The public is usually "protected" from such information he claimed.

His second example: there is a certain way of tracing cells by marking them with radioactive material which lasts 12 years. "This would be totally unethical to do with a normal patient. But the question is, is it

ethical to use it with a terminal cancer patient who is expected to die anyhow?" asked Habgood.

"How do we decide, given these practical considerations, who makes decisions, how they are made, and on what grounds?" stressed the Bishop. "I believe there are resistances within the scientific community from doing anything about it."

"There is a fear when one is talking about ethics," said Habgood, that one is bringing into the realm of science some extraneous form of authority." Habgood was interested in seeing assumptions and biases 'laid on the table' so as to examine and compare them. "Within the scientific community we've got to face the question of authority - not run away from it."

On the question of values, he said "... our pure scientist becomes a bit itchy." The Bishop of Durham pointed to "this frightening rapid spread of untested techniques ... which come into the public consciousness to create anxiety and suffering."

He advocated "informed public debate over the issues that are going to affect us in the years to come."

The inevitable questions concerning abortion, euthanasia, and hospital authority followed and the Bishop answered, or rather responded, to them all with the same patient, and deliberate manner which had earlier characterized his talk.

Habgood concluded by stating, "Perhaps ethical discussion will make us no more than pause and that in itself, is a good thing."