

Sometimes
a cigar...

The Gateway

...is just a cigar.
— Sigmund Freud

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academics speak: *University not just vocational*

by Allen Young

The sole purpose of the University of Alberta is not to prepare Albertans for jobs, said four U of A academics at a meeting of the university Senate last Friday.

Dean of Law, Frank Jones, Arts dean George Baldwin, Nursing dean Amy Zelder, and Medicine's immunology chairman Erwin Diemer, addressed the premise forwarded to senate last spring that the primary purpose of the U of A was to prepare Albertans for jobs.

The four were of the general opinion that the premise was inaccurate, but differed on some specifics.

"I do not think that the primary purpose of the University of Alberta is to prepare Albertans for jobs," said Law dean Frank Jones.

"It is to instil in its students a respect for, and an intelligent perception of knowledge which can be turned into judgement."

He pointed out that the legal profession, as is the case for other professions, is not an end in itself, and that to only prepare students for jobs would quickly make the university redundant.

"Lawyers, perhaps as much as any person in any working profession, tend to shift their jobs," he said.

"A job is not the end result we seek; rather, a mode of thinking, or a method of approach to problems is our goal."

Dr. Erwin Diemer said mass education has discriminated against the gifted student. He said he doubted whether Albertans were aware of the difference in standards among universities or that entrance examinations here tend toward mediocrity.

He suggested research should not be discarded as a criteria for appointments and promotion.

He said there should be a

review of all department members by an outside group of peers. "The quality of a university," he said, "hinges on the academic abilities of its students and staff."

Dr. Amy Zelder warned the Senate, while it is not enough the university pursue the goal of providing Albertans with jobs, it should, since it is involved in teaching, make certain its graduates are fit for the job force.

She pointed out, however, that the university may find itself preparing students for the unknown.

"Present graduates," she said, "will be at the peak of their career in the year 2,000."

"Therefore, what is needed is flexible thinking, logic, intuition, and continuing education."

"Whatever we are going to be doing, we must do it well. We will be limiting ourselves too much if we only concentrate on providing jobs."

Dean George Baldwin said general education, or the training of minds, is, when properly pursued, a contribution to society and the only criteria needed for a purpose of the university.

In supporting research, he said, society is providing its best thinkers and their "apprentices" with a place to creatively seek new knowledge.

He argued the Senate was not going to get a clear picture of the University and its purposes by examining it faculty by faculty.

University President Harry Gunning, commented on the nature of research and education in the question and comment period. He said there was a unique baptism in learning how to do research. The experience of research, he said, is the cutting edge of the advancement of society, and it requires great individual sacrifice.

SU appeals BIR decision

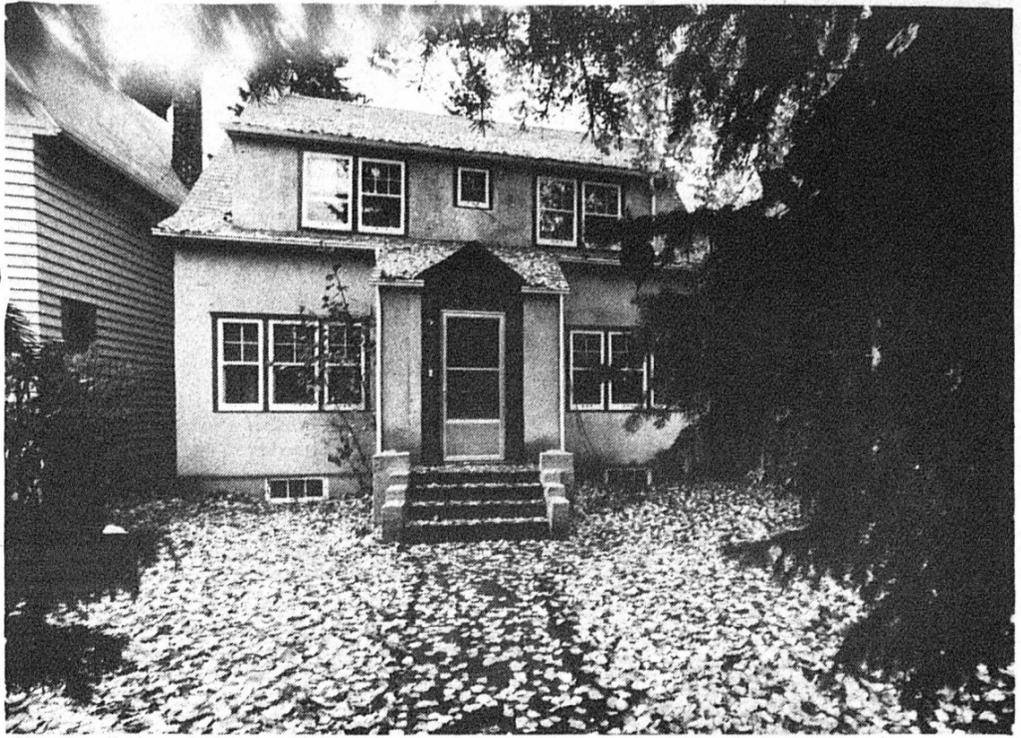
The Students' Union has elected to appeal the August 26 decision by the Board of Industrial Relations to certify CUPE 1368 as a bargaining agent for 150 part-time SU employees.

In an announcement made yesterday, SU president Jay Spark stated the reason the SU is appealing the decision is the application for certification occurred when the number of employees was small in relation to the number employed during the winter session.

This argument was

presented to the Board in August in an extended form. SU lawyer, Brian Thompson, argued CUPE was using support of full-time employees to organize the part-time employees.

The Board ruled that, although they did not condone this approach, it had to look at the majority of support of those already in the bargaining unit. The Board added it found some relief from the situation by looking to other provisions of the Alberta Labour Act dealing with revocation.



Someday there could be a rapid transit station here...

photo Shirley Glew

City hall administrators recently revealed the latest elements necessary to complete the city's rapid transit plan. It includes a transit line branching off the major south line, running through the North Garneau area to service the University of Alberta. Though there is not yet any funding for this segment of the rapid transit plan, commissioner Alf Savage says this route may cause the most concern for residents and city officials.

Save the Clinical Sciences Bldg. Fund

The university will make a special request to the province's department of advanced education and manpower for \$330,000 to fund repair work to the Clinical Sciences building.

An investigation of the building's exterior has determined that many of the concrete panels which line the walls were not anchored properly when the building was constructed in the late 1960's.

The investigation stemmed from an incident on November 1, 1976, when five concrete slabs near the top of the 13-storey

building were loosened by gale-force winds. The slabs were secured later that day.

There is no danger of any of the panels falling because they are securely fastened at the top says Ronald Phillips, vice-president (planning and development) of the university.

In a report to a recent meeting of the building committee of the university's Board of Governors, Mr. Phillips recommended that corrective action be taken in the summer of 1978.

Many of the pins at the

bottom of the panels are too short and others are missing, Mr. Phillips explained. The panels can be re-anchored from the outside and it will not be necessary to remove them, he added. Concrete anchors, bolts and washers will be used.

The Clinical Sciences Building was built at a cost of \$7 million by CANA Construction Company Ltd. for the provincial department of public works. The building was opened in 1969 and its ownership turned over to the University of Alberta early in 1976.

BACUS Calendar changes?

Commerce students should be concerned with the latest developments in the debate over a possible change in the date for withdrawal from courses, Werner Nissen told *Gateway* last week.

Nissen, president of the Business Administration and Commerce Undergraduate Society (BACUS), recounted the outcry that resulted from the Commerce Council's approval of a motion last February from the Undergraduate Studies Policy Committee (USPC) moving the last date commerce students may withdraw from courses from November to October 7.

USPC screens items going to Commerce Council.

Nissen said one of the things that bothered BACUS most was the backward way the decision was made.

He said the commerce administration sent calendar changes to the executive committee of the General Faculties

Council (GFC) for approval November 15.

The suggested changes were heard by the USPC and sent to the Commerce Council for approval November 17.

Finally the Commerce Council approved the USPC motion February 15, but the calendar changes had been approved by GFC executive four months earlier.

Over 500 letters were sent to *Gateway* last year protesting the change, and the acting Dean of Commerce decided to withhold implementation of the change for this term, Nissen said.

Last Tuesday, USPC reconsidered and recommended the Commerce Council rescind the motion on the change of withdrawal date.

This goes before Commerce Council October 5, said Nissen.

Faculty representatives suggested BACUS make efforts to see commerce students better informed in making their

decisions on course registration and course changes.

To this end, Nissen said, BACUS has made a computer comparison of commerce courses, sections, professors, and average grades. Nissen said the program gives students a better understanding of the difference between individual professors, but that it has not been received all that well by some faculty members.

One professor, he said, threatened marks would drop in his section if the motion to rescind the decision to move the date of withdrawal from courses ahead carries.

The professor later qualified this, he said, with the statement it would be a necessary course of action to prevent his section from being swamped with students.

Nissen said any other faculty or student association is welcome to use the computer program.