

Restructuring students' body

Structuring and more restructuring.

At the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) conference this weekend in Lethbridge, motions were passed to restructure the provincial students' organization internally.

To do this, FAS will have to increase its fees from \$1.50 to \$3.50.

Each member institution will hold a referendum to approve this fee increase. U of A will probably hold the referendum this year before the spring conference, says SU president, Nolan Astley.

Changes to be implemented include a larger paid staff: with an extra field worker and a communications officer.

FAS will also establish a council of representatives, one from each member institution. This body will meet once every two months. Five executives will be elected from it by the membership.

FAS, however, is in poor financial situation.

"I didn't think anybody could be in worse financial condition than us but they nearly are," said Astley of FAS.

He said FAS is nearly \$6,000 under this year. A mandate was given to the staff to cut the budget wherever possible and to try to get a loan from member institutions.

Other positions adopted by FAS:

-It approved in principle the restructuring of the National Union of Students (NUS)

-It protested the precedent set in the *Pappa John* rape case.

-A women's conference has been tentatively planned for a month before the spring conference. Women only will be participants in this conference at which delegates will discuss women's issues on campus and in general.

-A motion was approved to launch a campaign this year to focus on student loans and tuition fee indexing.

-A campaign to support improved daycare was approved.



Aw, c'mon. Admit it! We may not be beautiful, but we're unique.

photo: Ray Ciguere

Pipeline fight goes on

Analysis by Larry Lutgendorf

The northern pipeline debate intensifies.

During the past 3 weeks, the National Energy Board (NEB) has been holding hearings on the Interprovincial Pipeline (IPL) application to build an oil pipeline from the Norman Wells oil field on the Mackenzie River south to Zama, Alberta (north of Edmonton).

Tension has filled the public hearings, which began October 7 in Edmonton. Both sides in the debate have a good case; however, there is a bitterness between the two seemingly irreconcilable views.

The committee for Justice and Liberty (CJL), which supports the views of the Dene Nation, has

two basic arguments. The CJL claims the NEB does not have jurisdiction over this issue because it is a federal organization, and the federal government through the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development owns one third of the Norman Wells oils fields.

Another claim put forward by both CJL and representatives of the Dene Nation is that the Norman Wells pipeline would directly contradict the 1976-77 Berger commission. Berger recommended a moratorium on development in the north until aboriginal rights and land claims disputes have been settled.

In response to the first claim, IPL lawyers argued if one cannot trust an independent board to make a good decision, one could

just as easily not trust similar independent government organizations, such as the Supreme Court. I discussed the second claim with an IPL representative in Edmonton. His answer revealed a vague noncommittal attitude toward the Berger Commission.

Two other accusations were made against IPL. The first is that they failed to provide adequate research information into the environmental impact of the proposed pipeline. They did not provide fully detailed engineering plans for pipeline river crossings. IPL has also been accused of not being able to handle building a northern pipeline because of its lack of experience building in the north (see October 10 *Edmonton Journal*).

The IPL representative responded to these criticisms. He said limited environmental and engineering plans were submitted because the company did not want to spend upwards of \$100 million on such research if they were not sure of getting approval to build the line. He also said the company is doing its best to limit environmental damage by proposing to build most of the line on existing survey trails.

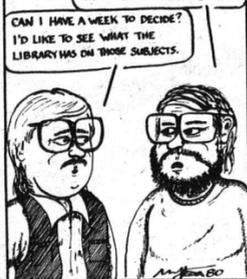
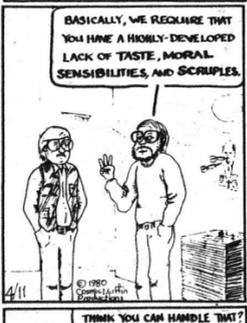
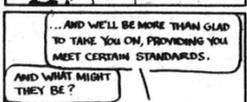
An argument in favor of the pipeline is that each barrel of oil it pumps is one less barrel that will have to be imported. This will mean a slight decrease in foreign exchange payments.

Also, a lengthening in the life of the Norman Wells field will mean an increase in exploration which may result in increased security of supply for Canada. If the project is delayed by land claims and other issues, construction costs can only go up and there will be competition for labour and materials from other projects.

The questions surrounding the construction of the Norman

Continued on page 10.

Baz by Skeet



Incompetents learn

by Geoff McMaster

By now, most students are probably dying to find out how the writing competence flunkers are getting along.

Don't hold your breath. "It's really too soon to tell," says Dr. Larry McKill, chairman of the U of A Committee on Testing and Remediation, "as the remedial seminars do not include formal testing. We will not know how they've improved until the final test at the end of November."

The first test was written by students in the home economics, dentistry, pharmacy and commerce faculties during registration week. Fifty-two percent of them failed and were then required by their faculties to attend remedial seminars.

This month education students and selected science students will take the test for the first time along with the students who have completed the remedial course.

"This prevents bias in marking," says McKill, "as the markers won't know who has taken the course and who hasn't. Everyone will be marked by the same standards."

The seminars are a 17 hour course covering 8 basic writing categories: content, structure and organization, paragraphing, sentence errors, grammar, diction,

spelling, and punctuation. McKill says the teachers are not allowed to assign homework. "Nevertheless," he says, "one hopes the students will have learned enough by the end of the course to get them a passing grade on the November test."

The response to the course has been good, McKill says. Most of the students attend every class and seem genuinely interested in learning how to write properly.

"After class," he says, "I hear students in the corridor discussing the construction of their thesis statements and the organization of their essays." He says even students from faculties other than those tested have come for help. Most, however, were turned away for lack of space in the classes.

This is the first time a remedial course has been available at the U of A for students who have writing problems. Some students were tested at the beginning of last year, McKill says, but there was no remedial program to follow it up.

The U of A has been late in initiating testing and remediation in comparison with other Canadian universities, he adds.

In any case, we shouldn't let ourselves get too drastically depressed about the poor results of the writing test. McKill says University of Toronto students didn't do much better on a similar

test written there this year. It was reported that over 50% of the students who wrote it could have benefited from a remedial course.

bouquets and brickbats

by Deacon Greese

A weekly wallow through the wild, wide world.
Nicest Cafeteria Staff: Fifth Floor Humanities. A bunch of people you want to call Mom.
Surliest Cafeteria Staff: RATT (does not include bar staff). There's a whole list of things I'd like to call those people.
Most Useful Degree: Nursing. We've got enough lawyers suing each other and engineers explaining why their buildings fall down. The world is going to hell and it's making me sick.
Least Useful Degree: Canadian Studies. Soon to be part of the history department.
Best Intramural Sport: Hockey. An embodiment of everything we hold dear, bloody mayhem. The original punk sport.
Silliest Intramural Sport: Co-rec inertube waterpolo. I suppose they take the water out of the pool, too.
Professor of the Week: J. (Jock) McStrapp, Phys Ed, who instructed his students to wear ski masks to keep warm while jogging and to carry a bag of first aid equipment at all times. This week seven were arrested on suspicion of holdups.
 When the shit hits the fan you don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows. If you think this analysis of Sino-Soviet affairs is in error, then write to the *Gateway*. Help us to better ignore what you think.