

EDITORIAL

The real reason?

Students' Council last night approved a referendum on a \$5 Students' Union fee increase for full time students and a \$2 increase for part-time students. The reasons given for the increase are credible: student services are underfunded and need to expand; and the SU needs to start a capital reserve fund for future expenditures.

To these ends, the SU executive says \$2 of the increase will be spent on student services (such as the exam registry and CJSR) and \$3 will go in a capital reserve (for such things as SUB Theatre seats and SUB furniture). This proposal sounds reasonable and well-planned not to mention forward-looking.

It's not. The executive isn't stating the real reasons.

The executive wants a fee hike because after last year's disastrous \$320,000 deficit, the SU is in debt up to its eyeballs.

And although president Nolan Astley says he's still hopeful this year's breakeven budget can be met, vp finance Pat Haws is "not optimistic", she says.

But even if the SU doesn't lose any more money this year, it will still owe the university well over \$300,000 at the close of this fiscal year.

If the executive came clean and admitted it needed a fee increase to remedy its financial losses, it would deserve a hearing.

If the fee referendum is passed, there is certainly no guarantee that the SU next year will spend the \$40,000 more on student services the executive proposes. On the contrary, it is almost certain that this \$2 per student will NOT be spent on expanded student services. Every penny of it will inevitably wind up covering the losses of this year or last year.

Further, there is little reason to believe the \$50,000 to be earmarked for capital reserve will ever reach a reserve fund of any kind. What we will see is \$50,000 washed down the drain to pay for the mismanagement of last year and the year before. None of this money will ever be spent on capital until it first erases the SU's debt.

Astley admits he cannot make guarantees on how the money will be used. But he claims that any successful candidate who supports the fee referendum will be morally obligated to honor the promises of the referendum campaign.

This is a spurious claim at best, a deliberately misleading one at worst. Astley must know from his experience this year that next year's executive will be under intense financial pressure, especially from the university.

Students should not be taken in by this executive's approach. A fee increase might be justified but not on the grounds cited by the executive. The only important ground is looming financial disaster: they know they need more money and they know the easiest place to get it — from students.

Astley says he wouldn't feel comfortable going to the students and asking for more money without telling them what it will be spent on.

He knows what it'll be spent on. All he has to do is tell the students.

Mike Walker

the Gateway

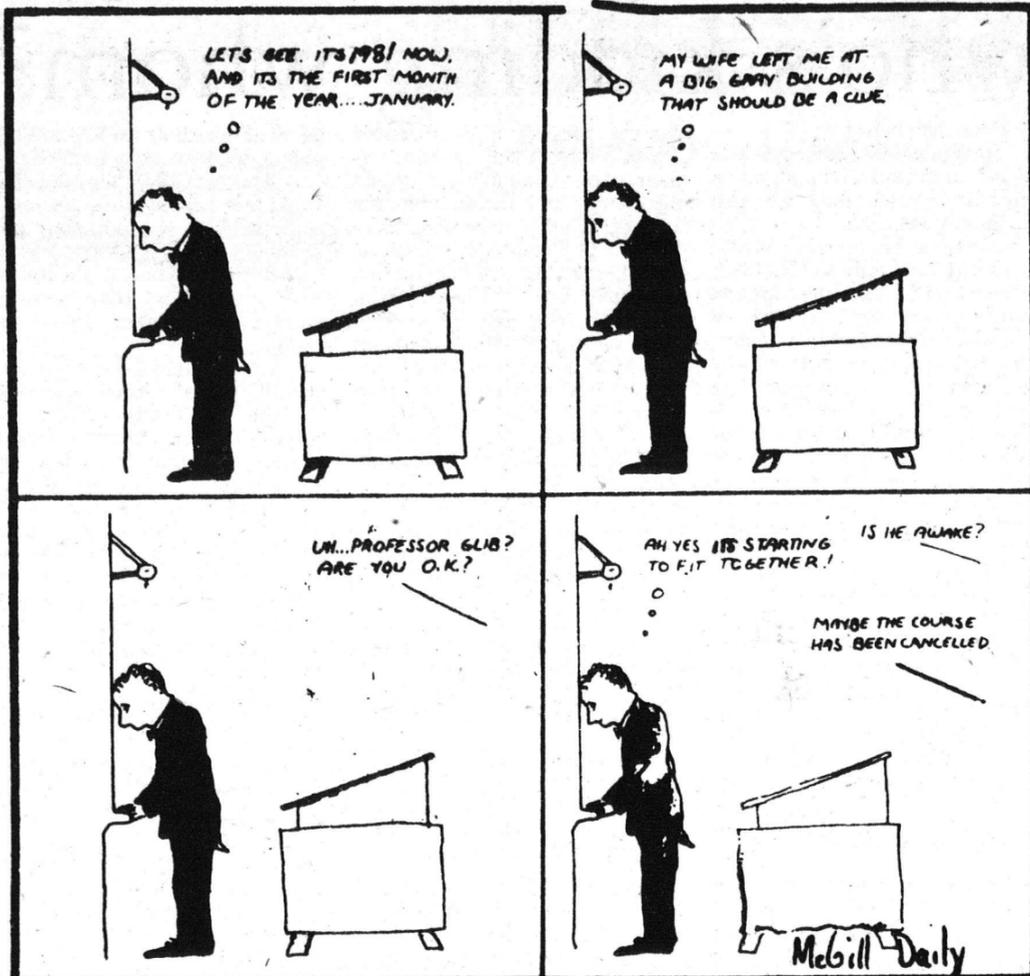
If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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Cough, cough! Hack, hack! The noise rang through the newsroom as Gateway staffers did their bit to assist the efforts of those evil little viruses to reduce all to abject misery. Garnet duGray, Maureen Laviolette, Dick Hancock, Elda Hopfe and Karl-Ann Quinlan sniffled along, moaning and cursing quietly. To cheer everyone up, Cathy Emberley quoted from Albert Camus' *The Plague*, while Gordon Turtle mumbled that it was a sign you had to serve somebody. Michael Skeet and Jens Andersen revelled in the strangeness of the whole thing. Meanwhile, Alison Thomson insisted that only uneducated people get "common" colds. In the face of all this unreality, the burn-out toll continued to mount, and the staff could only gaze fondly out the window and dream of robins. Sigh... hack, hack!

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. Newsroom 432-5168 Advertising 432-3423



Garneau is irreplaceable

Campus Co-op is deeply concerned with the plans, secrecy and uncertainty surrounding proposed development within the North Garneau community. We take this opportunity to make our concerns and aspirations known to you.

At present North Garneau offers a unique opportunity for students to become involved in co-operative living. Garneau's strong sense of community with its individual historic architectural styles, tree lined streets and large yards gives the area a spirit and character all of its own. This type of neighbourhood cannot be duplicated. North Garneau needs to be recognized and accepted in its importance and value as a stimulating and social environment. The report of the university Senate task force in 1973 has documented the value of the community, and this, in a city lacking in historical perspective, has increased in the interim.

The report to the Board of Governors by Woods-Gordon consultants in 1979 shows that to the student, North Garneau is the most highly rated and acceptable of all University housing. The popularity of Garneau relates of course to the location, but also to the type of accommodation, an alternative to commercial apartments and the institutional housing of halls of residence. The large houses with large common areas, back yards and accommodating up to seven students allow for a co-operative lifestyle in an environment ideally suited for it. The advantage of such a lifestyle has been documented by both the Woods-Gordon report and the 1973 Senate report.

The physical appearance of the area is a welcome sight in Edmonton, where older housing is being rapidly destroyed in favor of high density, poor quality, development. The university has traditionally taken aesthetic and historical values into consideration in its decision making, rather than considering simply the economics of the situation, and it was this that prevented the destruction of Garneau in the early 1970's. It is to be hoped that

the same values will be considered in the decisions to be made regarding Garneau in the near future.

It has been proposed that Garneau should be replaced by more "space efficient" student housing complex. We would recommend that:

1. Renovations to existing houses be considered rather than destruction.
2. Housing density could be increased in a manner that would maintain the essential character of the area; by developing only empty lots, those houses in extremely poor physical condition, and the houses accommodating less than three students; by returning houses currently used as office space to their original function as student accommodation; and by considering alterations to existing houses to increase the number of rooms.
3. If one single housing complex is required, serious consideration should be given to other sites.
4. The short term pressure with regard to the World Student Games should not take priority over the long term needs of the university community.
5. Any new housing development in the area should be designed so as to encourage the co-operative lifestyle typical of the area. Thus housing units should have between 5 and 8 bedrooms, large dining/living areas and large kitchens.

We would be glad to discuss this matter further at any time and

LETTERS

Letters to the Gateway should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed, though we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

would hope to be involved in any planning discussions. For further information, please call 432-7986.

Nora Casey,
Occupational Therapy
for the Board of
Campus Co-operative

Love's all you need

I am presently confined at the Ossining Correctional facility and I would be very grateful if I could perhaps establish a correspondence with anyone wishing to do so.

Please understand — first because I'm in prison doesn't necessarily mean I'm a criminal.

We all can make a mistake because imperfection is due to anyone who's not perfect.

But nothing can really change a particular situation — unless there's a will to do so. Is God the only one who forgives?

I hope it hasn't been accounted presumptuous if a man so low and humble station has ventured to have a friend.

Alphonso Hayes 74 - A - 232
Ossining Correctional Facility
354 Hunter Street
Ossining, New York 10562
U.S.A.

Evil doors everywhere

Doors are starting to annoy me. In particular, those which are locked. Such as a) when access to a building on a weekend is through one door at one end of the building, and through no other (e.g. Agriculture); b) when vast multiple arrays of doors are provided, but only one is open (e.g. Phys. Ed., sometimes); c) when even the emergency fire doors, specifically designed to let one out of a building at any time, are locked (e.g. CAB).

T. Redunzo
Geology Department