



Storm builds for year

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Having returned from holidays only a few days before the dismissals became publicly known, Greenhill said that the only cuts of which he was aware were a number of administrative employees who were to be dismissed with the introduction of new office procedures at the service.

The university health service committee meets early next week to elect a chairman and it is expected that the recent reorganization of staff will be discussed.

Compounding the internal problems, students are for the first

time this year being asked to pay a \$10 fee entitling them to the use of the health service. A special "opt out" card is included in the registration packet for those students who choose not to subscribe to the service.

Greenhill commented, however, that "No doctor or nurse is going to say to a student 'did you opt-in or opt out?' If students don't come and fees cannot be generated, financially the service will not be viable."

Non-university funding of the service comes from fees paid by the

vote by the student body accompanied by a financial penalty for each participant if he votes in a particular manner, namely in favour of the continuance of the service."

"Apart from the questionable morality of such a vote," the letter continued, "the action itself denies the existence of the Joint Committee, negates its deliberations and dismisses its report before that report has even been prepared, never mind presented.

Cookson also noted that the rescission of the first motion of the Board had not removed the threat to the continuance of student health which was made explicit in the original resolution.

Only weeks ago the service received national attention and publicity as a model of the type of comprehensive community health care facility strongly supported by the Hastings report, the recommendations of which were recently released by the federal department of health and welfare.

Greenhill found it ironic that at a time when increased attention was being focused on community health care facilities like the university service and also when other major universities like Saskatchewan and Western Ontario are expanding their university health care centres, that the University of Alberta was making cuts.

Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission for the medical services provided by UHS doctors. Doctors at the service, unlike doctors in private practice, receive a sessional salary, with the extra fees-for-services being applied toward the health service's other types of care.

In addition to regular medical services, student health provides under the same roof psychiatric, gynecological, preventive dental, and occupational health care, an infirmary and a pharmacy.

It was the provision of services not covered under the Alberta Health Care Plan that drew fire of critics last year who felt that with the payment of health care costs by the insurance scheme student health had become redundant.

This led the Board of Governors in May to pass a resolution which imposed the \$10 fee and made the continuance of student health conditional on the participation of a "specified minimum percentage of eligible students." Later the Board rescinded that decision and replaced it with one that recommended "in principle" that the service operate on a "break even" basis and that the optional fee be charged with no reference to the effect non-participation of students might on the service's future.

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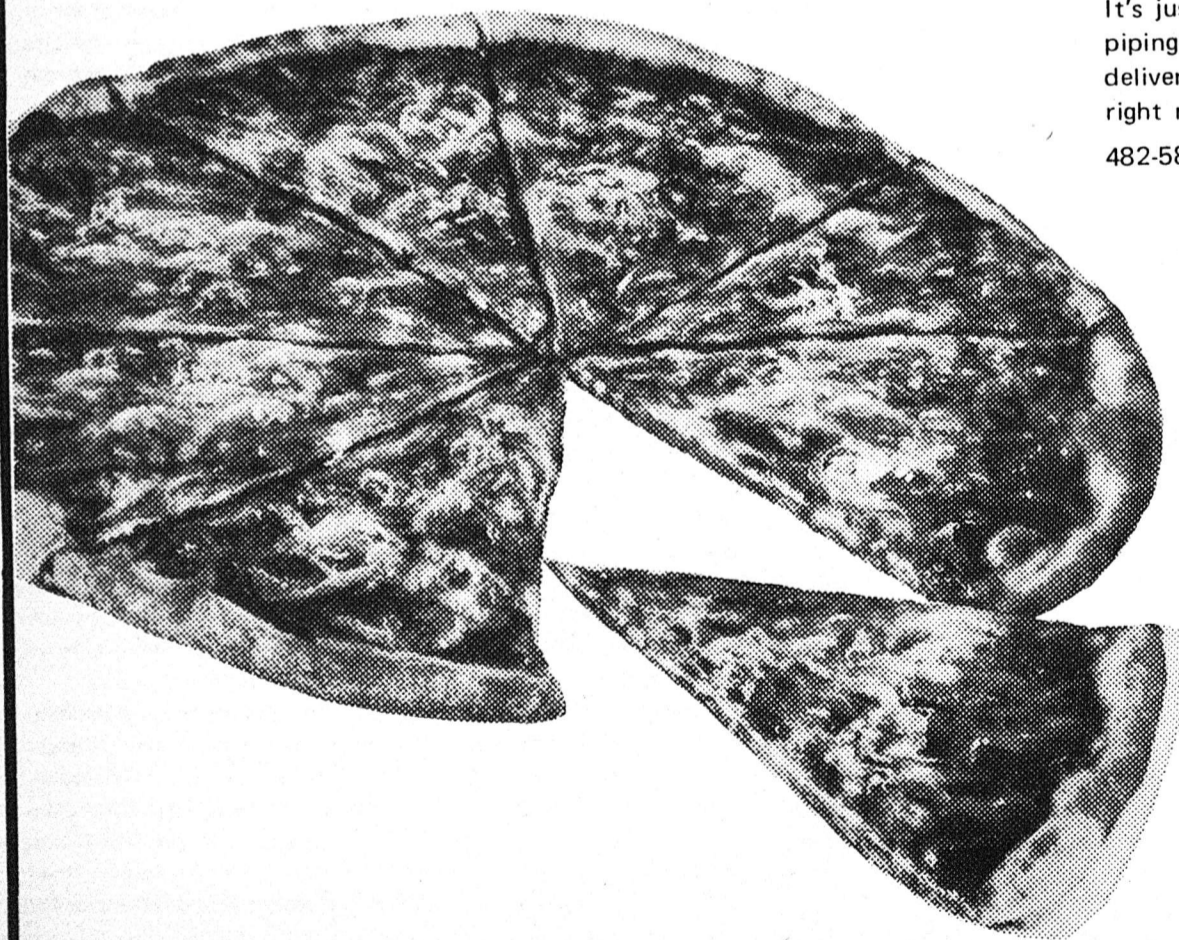
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