

Olivia Butti's Diary

Dear Diary:

Oh my, summer is over, the kids are back in school and I've gained 15 pounds. Pety says my pink pantsuit makes me look like a drunk's nightmare.

Now that wasn't nice (and I'm sure he'll realize that when he finds out I've starched his undershorts) but I do have to lose some weight. After all today's women are sleek and fit. I read in Time magazine where women all over North America are running and playing tennis and

even lifting weights. They eat right and they look so healthy...well diary, from now on that's going to be me.

But no running. I'm not going to make a spectacle of myself all over Wolf Willow at 6:00 in the morning. And in a couple of months it gets too cold; I don't want to get frost bite on my lungs.

I don't think I'll play tennis either. You get one big arm and you meet icky women like

Billie Jean King and Martina somethingorother.

Weight lifting is definitely out. It is just not feminine. Anyway I put my back out when we rearranged the furniture last year and I'm not taking any chances.

I am definitely going to eat better though. No more of that rich, starchy, fatty stuff. I'll have salads and iced tea without sugar and cottage cheese and alfalfa sprouts and all that other stuff that tastes like that. Actually, I don't think Pety would put up with that. He'll still want pyrogies and holipche and baked potatoes with sour cream and fried chicken. Well I can't be expected to run this place like a restaurant now can I diary? I'll just take smaller portions.

Council comes up NSF

analysis by Gunnar Blodgett

Third reading of a motion to raise Students' Union fees for the 1985-86 University year will take place September 14. The motion proposes this increase in addition to the annual consumer price index (CPI) adjustment and, if passed in council, will be taken to the students by referendum later this year.

And just what are we getting out of these additional fee increases, the last of which was approved by students during the general SU election of February 1981? The executive elected then was responsible for several significant cuts in service, such as the closing of the SU music store (anybody remember it?) and the curling rink.

Furthermore, the council which is now asking for the fee increase has closed down the SU art gallery, and has also laid off some 10 per cent of its staff during this recession, while executive salaries were raised.

Actually, the SU - partially because of sloppy past management, partially through inflation, is getting less, in real terms, from the 48.50 it's getting from each regular student than the 27.50 it received per student in 1970. Two-thirds less.

At the same time, it is attempting to maintain expanded (and creditable) services and bail itself out of a \$900,000 loan from the University. That loan is due January 1, 1985, 2 1/2 years from now. If the Students' Union is to retain financial independence, that loan must be returned.

In addition to the debt, some \$4 million is required for general upgrading and renovation. In the past few years much of SUB has been allowed to fall into disrepair rather than incur the expenditure of maintenance. As a result, places like SUB Theatre and RATT are now in need of much work and, while the conditions of these facilities has deteriorated, the cost of maintenance has not.

Given this situation, the present executive has been forced to make some rather unpopular decisions to streamline and cut the fat from a previously rather sluggish operation. Non-essential and redundant staff positions have been cut, while student retail outlets must turn a profit to continue operating.

As well, much of SUB's space is rented to the University. However, University-used space doesn't necessarily provide student services, and as a service-oriented organization, the SU prefers renting to groups like the bookstore and Java Jive. Since we need both books and coffee to continue studying here, the decision provides for essential needs as well as bringing revenue from the businesses.

The SU could cut costs marginally by suspending operation all subsidized services, such as the exam registry, radio and

newspaper. Yet that is no solution; it wouldn't pay the debt and it contradicts the terms of reference of the SU. Streamlining maintains the integrity of the SU and turns it into a more efficient, independent operation. In order to turn the necessary \$400,000 profit per annum towards its debt and maintenance charges, the SU's retail outlets must be kept open.

SU president Robert Greenhill says, "The increased SU fee is a necessary first step. Though the next two years are crucial, there is no reason why we shouldn't maintain continuity."

The efforts of the last three SU executives towards reducing the SU debt and maintaining SU services have produced results. Instead of the projected \$1.2 million deficit projected last June (usually the month in which

business is at a slump) a \$9 million deficit was recorded. The executive succeeded in their attempt to renegotiate the date of payment of debt installments from June to November, when their bank balance is highest. However, streamlining and efficient managing can't achieve everything without that essential 20 per cent received from the increased fees. It is unfortunate that the present student body should have to pay for previous mismanagement, but the situation is turning the SU into a more professional organization.

Two and a half years from now, this new all-new professional organization may be free of the debt incentive which formed it. Will the SU slip back to its former apathy? Or will it expand into something a little greater than student service?

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