

1977-78

by Alison Thomson

"We won't pay more for less," was the cry of over 5000 students who marched on the Legislature March 15, 1978.

Tuition fees were going up ten per cent, university funding was inadequate, and students were protesting, first by attending the Board of Governors meeting at which the decision to raise fees to balance the university budget was made, and then by marching on the Legislature where Bert, Pete and the boys were waiting with platitudes and police.

It was everyone's glorious cause; General Faculties Council cancelled classes for the afternoon, then-university president Harry Gunning agreed to march (and then, under pressure from the Board of Governors, met the students at the Legislature without joining the march) and *The Gateway* published a special issue urging students to protest the fee hikes.

And tuition fees went up anyway. Students' Union elections were hotly contested in 1977-78. The Young Socialists fared better than they ever had before, and activist Cheryl Hume

was elected SU president. The rest of her executive, however, was less than radical, a situation which set the stage for the next year's infamous executive split.

An interesting situation arose when Mike "Stuntman" Ekelund, defeated by a tiny margin of votes, protested the election results on the grounds that his nickname had been left off the ballot. The election was held again, and Stuntman was elected.

The 1977-78 SU executive was anything but radical. Students returned to classes in September to discover that SU employees had been locked out for six weeks during the summer. The executive, headed by president Jay Spark, had also appointed the notorious Manfred Lukat to the position of vp services. Lukat, who had run for office initially as Rene le Larke of the Conceptual Reality Alternative Party (CRAP), made up for a singular lack of productive work by appearing at the office in capes, aviator outfits and other extraordinary costumes, usually on a skateboard. He provided a little leaven for an executive which was solid Young Tory, in appearance at least.



Students and professors protest increased tuition fees and decreased university funding — who says students are apathetic?



New executive Dave Fisher, Ron Pascoe, Cheryl Hume, Stephen Kushner and Kaysi Eastlick. The beaming smiles didn't quite make it through the year, and neither did Roscoe — he was replaced by Mike "Stuntman" Ekelund in a by-election.



Anti-cutbacks committee chairman Nick Cooke leads a cheer of "Bullshit" at Premier Pete, while a few of Edmonton's finest keep the people from their government in the March 15 demonstration.



This sweetheart from Lister Hall lets it all hang out at annual res animal show Mac Country Fair — in the days before Ms. Brown.



Gateway drew some parallels between this butcher and his wares and Engineering Queen Week.



The Engineers let us know what they thought of our comments on their women — with one hundred pounds of raw meat in our office.

Residence security was tightened up in October, and when *Gateway* news editor Allen Young criticized the move — and residence life — editorially, dozens of letters from angry Listerites defending their home descended on the *Gateway* office.

The SU executive continued in its role as vanguard of the revolution by appealing the CUPE certification granted to part-time SU employees.

In another progressive stroke of genius, during a City Council discussion about by-laws regulating tax discounters, vp finance Dale Somerville sent a letter (endorsed by the executive) which opposed any regulation of discounters' activities. Students' Council, however, directed Somerville to retract the letter.

Students' Union General Manager Harry Goldberg introduced a motion to Council which would have investigated the power structure between the SU executive and management. It died for lack of a seconder, and Goldberg quit a week later. He later sued *The Gateway*, though, for an editorial titled "Harry

Goldfingers", which criticized his actions. Council settled the lawsuit out of court, to the great indignation of *Gateway* staff.

Along with SU elections, the Federation of Alberta Students ran referenda all over Alberta to increase FAS fees to \$1.50 from 50 cents. These were overwhelmingly supported, and the organization finished 1977-78 stronger than ever before.

The hockey Bears went to Japan for the Pacific Rim Tournament, and their Japanese hosts are expected to sit up and sip a little Chicken Broth any day now. Plenty of geisha girls also reportedly won't have financial worries again in this incarnation. But the Bears weren't so exhausted that they couldn't bring home the Canadian championship later that year, defeating Toronto 6-5.

It was a great year for *The Gateway*. People are still asking us to bring back columns like *The Prophet*, *Frank Mutton*, *Con*, and the cartoon *Bub Slug*.

And a good time was had by all.