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# The Gateway

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the precipitate

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## SAB decisions questioned . . .

### Awards system defended as not catering to privileged groups

By DICK NIMMONS

Discrimination in student loans on the basis of sex, age, and social class came under attack in SUB theatre Tuesday.

About 125 students heard Al Stein, Cathy Fraser, and Cal Merkley discuss student assistance.

Mr. Merkley, chairman of the Students' Assistance Board, was repeatedly asked to defend the present system of student awards. Both the other members of the panel and the people in the audience challenged its equitability and rationale.

Cathy Fraser, law 3 and an official of the student awards office on campus, raised several points supporting the claim that the system is discriminatory.

She said people under 21 and wives are treated as chattels in that they are considered dependents. Married women are allowed a maximum award of \$900 while their husbands can receive up to \$3,500. Miss Fraser said that combined income should be looked at rather than simple marital status.

In addition she felt that students under 21 were often excluded from an education because their parents would or could not contribute to their child's education. She suggested that students in this category should receive special consideration.

Finally, she pointed to the fact

that single students were eligible for much less than their married counterparts, even though they might be in equal need of funds.

Mr. Merkley said that student assistance worked on the premise that both students and their parents should contribute to the students' education.

He defended the present system and said that he felt that it did not cater to privileged groups.

In the case of married people, Mr. Merkley said that money was being provided for the one who was going to school.

Mr. Stein, president of the Alberta Association of Students and member of the Worth Commission on Education, also tore a strip from the present system.

"There seems to be enough money available," he said, "the problem is that it is not coming fast enough to be of any use to students."

Mr. Stein pointed to an incident in Lethbridge Junior College where students were forced to leave because they did not get their loans in time to allow them to continue their studies.

Mr. Merkley said that the students in Lethbridge should have made a special appeal to have their loans expedited.

Mr. Stein claimed student loans tend to go to those who don't need them. He claimed that students from upper income groups (\$7,000 plus) receive more per capita from students' assistance than those in lower income brackets—in addition, he said, more higher income students attend.

Mr. Stein added that students from families in the higher income brackets were more likely to get better paying jobs than others and thus were put in an even better position.

One student from the audience asked what was the budget the assistance board considered adequate for a student to live on through the school year. Mr. Merkley replied that it was \$1,900.

When asked about terms of repayment, he said the present interest rate on loans, with charges beginning six months after leaving university, was 8.8 per cent, but the rate could fluctuate depending on the price of government bonds. He said that the interest rate could only be kept as low as it is due to the fact that past borrowers had a very low defaulter rate—less than one per cent.

### Xmas dip strikes Santa's Anonymous

HO HO HO—Where did all the toys go?

Will the person or persons who took the toys and food from Santa's sleigh in SUB please return them or leave a note in the sleigh saying why you took them.

Thank you.

## DIE fines ESM for illegal lit sales in SUB

The ESM has been fined ten dollars for illegally selling Maoist literature in the SUB Art Gallery.

At a Nov. 6 hearing held by the Disciplinary Interpretation and Enforcement Board (DIE) the Edmonton Student Movement was charged and found guilty of breaking an art gallery rule against selling literature.

The ESM questioned the legality of holding a hearing, and claimed that they had not been informed of the charges against them long enough in advance to have prepared a defense.

ESM said in a written statement that it intends to file charges against DIE board president Bob White for his actions at the hearing. They claim that he was responsible for withholding a statement of charges from them, and misleading the rest of the DIE board as to what the charges were.

"His attitude is consistent with that of the other reactionaries pressing the charges in flagrant disregard for people's democratic rights," they said in the statement.



WELL, HERE'S TO ANOTHER CHRISTMAS

. . . says your friendly local neighborhood Happy Finance Company owner. Gateway itself is loaded with commercialism today as we cut back to two issues this week in preparation for exams next week. But Merry Christmas anyway and remember there is more to the spirit of Yuletide than giving presents.

## Grads ask for more GFC reps

Graduate students on this campus will be asking for increased student representation on the General Faculty Council.

At a meeting Tuesday night, the Graduate Student Council voted ten to nine to ask that the total number be increased to 20, with a proportion of four graduate to 16 undergraduate students.

In other business, Bryce Schurr, psychology rep, was elected by acclamation to fill the post of vice-president left vacant when Bob Newell moved up to fill the president's chair. He will hold this position until the elections of March, 1970.

Only about 20 people have signed up for the Christmas trip to London, according to Darryl Walker, the GSA charter flight co-ordinator. The flight is still leaving as arranged, and further applications will continue to be accepted as long as space is available.

In a discussion on the next GSA budget, treasurer Darryl Walker

warned council that a fee-hike will probably be necessary. Next year's budget, for instance, will probably have to include such major expenses as \$1,500 for housing, \$1,900 for secretarial help, and \$750 for the welcoming committee. Council asked Mr. Walker to present his recommended fee increase to the next meeting.

In the longest discussion of the evening, council attempted to formulate a list of proposals to GFC concerning the role of departmental chairmen. It was felt by members of the council that now, terms of reference outlining the duties of departmental chairmen are seriously lacking in many departments.

Mike Eurchuk, education administration rep, who had prepared a preliminary report on the matter for council's approval, asked that he be given additional time to consult individual faculties to obtain existing directives on the duties of departmental chairmen. Further consideration was given

to the possibilities for changes in the type of assistantship offered to graduate students. In light of impending cuts in assistantship, particularly in intersession bursaries, it was felt that perhaps a plan extending assistantship payments over a 12-month period would become necessary.

### Bye - bye

This is the final edition of Gateway for 1969 and the first new year's issue hits the street Thursday, Jan. 8. To keep you in suspense, just a hint that subjects to be treated after the holidays include housing, increased student representation on university governing bodies, tenure, SUB expansion, students' union priorities. And we'll still be out three times a week. Ho, Ho, Ho!