

1976-77: news in review

If there was one major political issue on campus this year, it had to be the yet-unresolved question of higher tuition fees for foreign students.

Apart from that, there was little spectacular activity on campus — a few chills from loose concrete slabs swinging from the clinical sciences building, a minor ruffle over labor's day of protest over wage and price controls, and a student-funded course guide students never saw, were a few stand-outs.

Here is *Gateway's* month by month encapsulation of major news events, compiled by news editor Don Truckey.

SEPTEMBER:

The perennial housing shortage facing students peaked during the first weeks of classes, with the Students' Union Housing Registry facing a last-minute push of students trying to buck Edmonton's 0.1 per cent vacancy rate.

CKSR, the U of A radio station, went city-wide on cable TV, expanding to cover several university buildings as well.

Sixty-one picketers many of them university students, were arrested by Edmonton police when they refused to leave a cricket pitch where the touring Robbins 11" team, financed by a South African industrialist, were set to play an Edmonton district team. The **Edmonton 61** were jailed overnight and charged with a number of minor offences, which were dismissed in court in December.

Discussion began over putting in a parking lot in the Corbett Hall playing fields in March 1977 when the construction was to begin on the \$86.4 million Health Sciences Centre. After a couple of switch-arounds by the Board of Governors, a motion of censure from the Students' Council, and extensive lobbying from SU president Len Zoeteman and U pres. Harry Gunning, the university allocated spaces from already existing parking facilities on campus for the project. The Corbett Hall fields remain recreation area, not asphalt.

The SU executive announced it would not support the upcoming Oct. 14 Day of Protest calling the move "possibly illegal." Labor groups were protesting wage and price controls with a nationwide demonstration. The **Alberta Federation of Labor** called the

exec. "Young Tories."

Debate began over increased library hours. The executive supported an increase, and when the debate was over, hours had been extended.

OCTOBER:

The **Board of Governors** allocated \$10,000 for the production of a course guide. The SU still sank \$5,000 into the deal for the guide available only to professors.

The U of A students voted 69.8 per cent in favor of joining the **Federation of Alberta Students** though only ten per cent of the student population voted in the referendum.

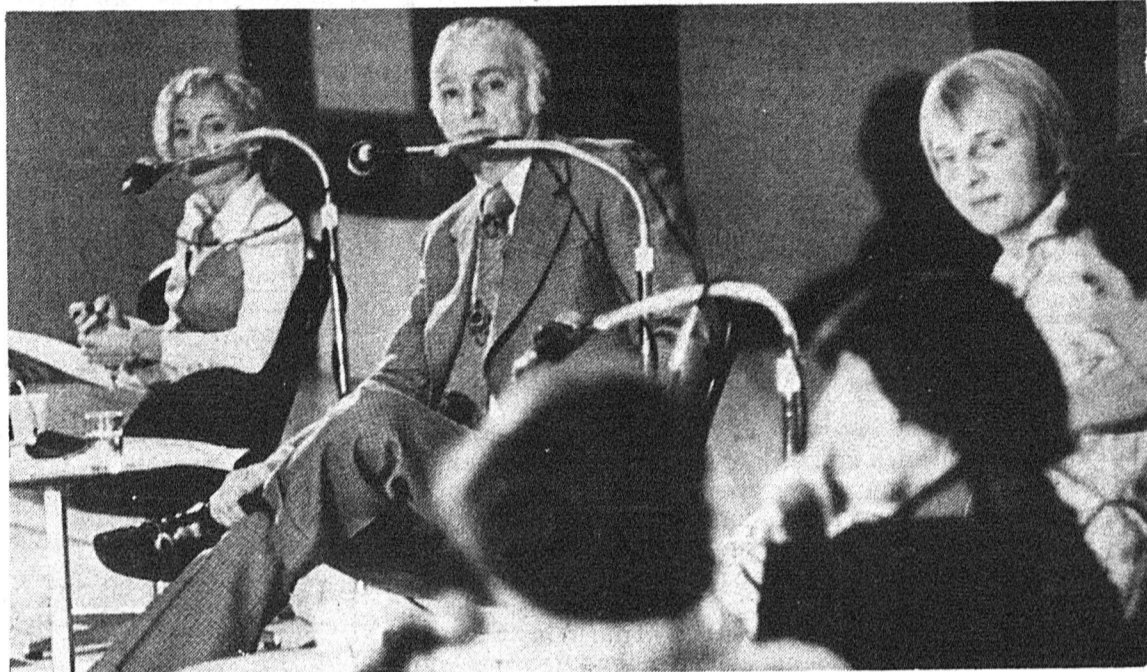
Students' Council and General Faculties Council (GFC) voted approval of the **Forrest report** which recommends sweeping changes in literacy standards for Alberta schools and universities.

Some students left their classes to support labor's **Oct. 14 Day of Protest**, but for the most part the U of A ignored it.

A restructuring of the Student Affairs Office by the B of G produced a **Dean of Students** (Dr. Burton Smith), but a proposal for a university **Ombudsman** was quashed. *Gateway* responded with its own ombudsman, psychology prof. Dirk Schaeffer.

NOVEMBER:

Disaster hung in the balance — or in the wind, if you prefer — on Nov. 2 when several pre-cast concrete panels atop the **Clinical Sciences Building** south facing wall broke loose from their bottom moorings and swung precariously in a high wind for several hours. \$50,000 was spent on an initial investigation; costs may soar as high as \$1.5 million if



Hohol speaks to the students... Nov. 9, National Students Day, adv. ed. minister Bert Hohol (centre) spoke on a panel chaired by SU finance vp Eileen Gillese (left); one of four panelists was SU pres. Len Zoeteman (right).

the entire wall must be resurfaced.

The **Seventh National Northern Development Conference** swept into town, wherein representatives from oil companies from across Canada met at the Macdonald Hotel to discuss strategies for carving up the north. A counter-conference was organized across town and **Chief Justice Thomas Berger** told both sessions the same thing — that his inquiry will present both sides of the northern pipeline issue to the federal government.

National Students' Day, Nov. 9, was a flop. **Bert Hohol** showed for a 100-person session in SUB Theatre, but earlier panel discussions had as many panelists on the stage as students in the audience. Hohol went back to the Dome without reversing his stand on foreign students fee increases.

The oil era is over, former U.S. secretary of the interior **Stewart Udall** told a SUB audience. Udall was brought to the U of A for an exclusive speaking engagement by the Alumni Association.

The U of A **Senate** voted opposition in principle to two-tier tuition fees.

The **chairmen's committee** released a proposal to restructure the power-pyramid on campus, and "ballots" were distributed to the academic staff asking for them to "vote" on the proposal. **AASUA** and **Arts Fac. Exec.** censured the motion; the university's dept. office of institutional research later declared the referendum's results inconclusive. The proposal was violently opposed by many students and staff who believed its "streamlining" would make the campus power structure more elitist. The proposal is now in limbo and another proposal for power restructuring has been brought forward by the president's committee in GFC.

DECEMBER:

A *Gateway* questionnaire revealed a disconcerting sentiment on campus: roughly 60 per cent of respondents indicated they supported higher tuition fees for foreign students than for resident Canadians.

But the **Board of Governors** voted unanimously to reject Bert Hohol's suggestion for tuition increases for foreign students. Hohol responded by saying the proposal will be implemented for the fall session. And there it stands; the issue will likely be decided over the summer.

JANUARY:

Fourth-year Dent. students boycotted their mid-term exams (a fact not reported by *Gateway* till Jan.). Meetings in January with Dent. Fac. Council eventually resolved the problem and the students were not penalized for their actions, which the students say arose from a misunderstanding with their professor, and a refusal to accept screw-ups in the exam procedures.

Plans by the faculty of Education to increase **practicum programs** to one full semester were put into limbo when the provincial government announced it wouldn't follow through with funds promised for the expansion.

Dr. Anthony Vanek received a recommendation for reinstatement from a tenure appeals committee, but the Board of Governors turned it down at a later meeting. Vanek called the move a breach of faith and is now pursuing legal action.

Students' Union employee **Govind Sundram** was relieved of his duties in SUB. Cries of union-breaking (Sundram has been an active member of CUPE) were followed by a labor-relations board investigation into a possible reinstatement. The decision has not been released to date.

FEBRUARY:

Fears that sexual assault was mounting on campus were translated into **Night Watch**, a patrol of university buildings and grounds designed to discourage assault and allay the worries of U of A women.

A statue erected for **Engineering Week**, portraying Pierre Trudeau awash in a vat of French P.E. soup tended by Rene Levesque, caused some adverse publicity for the west in the Montreal paper *Le Devoir*. But it seemed the Quebecois willfully misconstrued the icy witticism, so *Gateway* ran a clarification story and mailed it to our friends in *la belle province*.

The Board of Governors reaffirmed their opposition to increases in **foreign student fees**. The board's vote was 10 to 2; a previous vote on the same issue in December had been unanimous.

In lieu of a student ombudsman, the SU created a new position, **Student Advocate**, to investigate grievances. Poli. Sci. grad student Don Spandier was named to the post for next year.

The **Spark slate** swept the SU elections, despite strong and

bizarre opposition from the **Conceptual Reality Alternative Party (CRAP)**. The election result was roundly appealed by the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board, but the result was upheld.

Arson was suspected in a fire that gutted the bedrooms of a two-person unit in **HUB**. An eyewitness to the fire said he saw a man leaving the apartment minutes before smoke was first noticed. No charges were laid in connection with the blaze — except a few in this paper concerning jammed emergency exit doors and inadequate water pressure in fire hoses. A relief fund for the victims netted over \$400.

An **informational-picket-cum-protest** at the opening of the Legislature failed to lure Bert Hohol out of the building, but the 150 protesters left feeling they had made their point. A later protest in April met with locked doors at the assembly when picketers tried to enter the building.

MARCH:

The U of A's director of campus security **C.A. Breakey** was "replaced," as university vp planning and development R.E. Phillips put it, in accordance with a decision by the B of G to de-emphasize the "police" image of the force. Breakey's policy of refusing to talk to the news media had earlier been circumvented in GFC by prof. Fred de Luna, who used GFC's questioning power to have statistics released which had earlier been denied *Gateway*.

Living costs in the Lister Hall residences were raised 10.6 per cent.

Edmonton-Norwood MLA Catherine Chichak jumped into the foreign fee debate with claims that government grants and loans would cover any difficulties foreign students might have in raising the extra cash. Sort of like robbing Pierre to pay Bert.

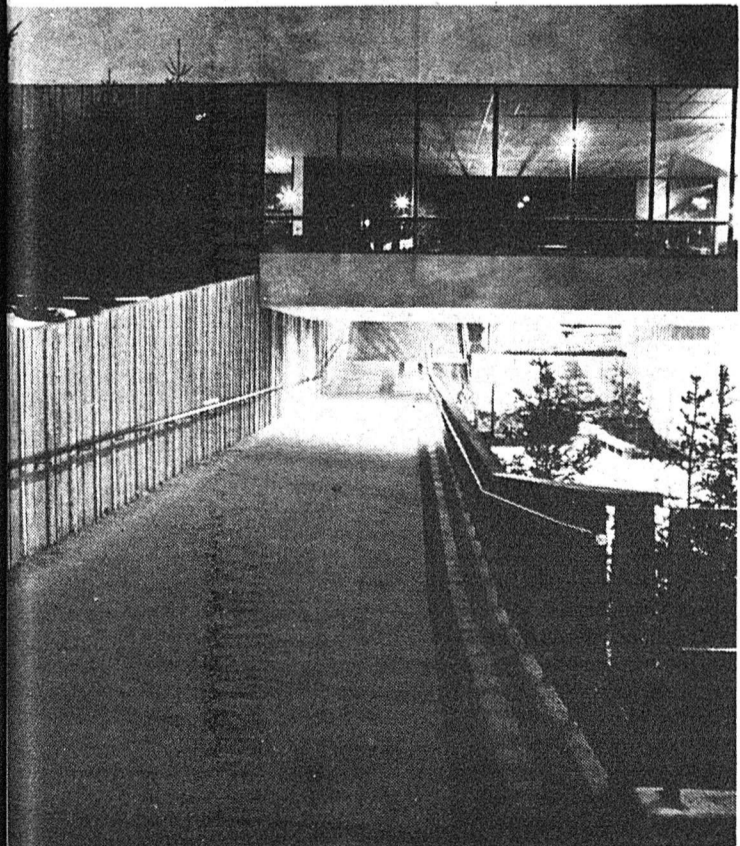
A proposal to cut the size of **GFC** began circulating around campus. Students' Council expressed agreement with the idea, but, if implemented, the change is still a long way off; nothing expected until next year.

A **three million dollar break-even Students' Union budget** was brought down by SU vp finance Eileen Gillese.

Native Land Claims Week featured a week-long series of speakers in SUB Theatre, including Larry Pratt, who warned of U.S. intervention in the pipeline debate.

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Night Watch...

Fear of sexual assaults in the night's darkness prompted the U to begin a patrol to protect the campus community.