

"The SU final budget is not unrealistic."
Nolan Astley



University turns up the heat SU debt pressure mounts

by Keith Krause

The Students' Union is teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. And SU officials are pulling out the stops to resolve the situation.

According to SU president Nolan Astley, the university has suggested it may not be willing to carry the Students' Union debt load for much longer. This means the SU either has to pay off its debts, or look outside for another banker.

But, says Astley, "they're not really putting the screws to us."

"If worst came to worst, they'd ask us to go it on our own," he says.

The university has also suggested a time frame for the repayment, though nothing formal has been agreed upon.

"They were suggesting the end of August next year," says Pat Haws, vp finance.

Astley doesn't consider one year a realistic time frame

however.

"It's going to take an awful lot of work to get out of debt in a year and a half," he says. "I think it's almost unrealistic."

If the Students' Union follows the final budget approved in Council Tuesday night, it will still owe the university thousands of dollars by April 1. And, the summer is also traditionally a time when losses mount, making the end of August a difficult time to break even.

"Unless something could be done about gearing down in the summer we couldn't eliminate the overdraft," says Haws.

The difficulty in gearing down though, is that the SU is tied into a union contract that doesn't allow it to lay off full time employees indis-

criminately.

"The union is not exactly being co-operative," says Haws.

More drastic action is also being considered as a result of university pressure. Fridays restaurant in HUB has been targeted as a possible business to be eliminated.

"If areas don't look like they'll be producing by the end of

the year, then maybe we'll have to analyze whether or not to keep them," says Astley.

"We both feel Friday's should either make money or be disposed of," echoes Haws.

The university, according to Haws, has also expressed doubts about whether or not "the SU should even be in businesses", especially unprofitable ones.

If the university decided to discontinue its banking services, the SU would have to either seek an outside loan or pay off its debts.

But, "rather than pushing us off, they (the university) would probably step in gradually," says Haws.

"I don't really like to think about such a possibility," she adds.

Sharp rise in new students

by Jim McElgunn

A sharp increase in the number of full-time students at the U of A has pushed total enrolment up for the first time in four years.

The nearly eight percent increase in new student enrolment is the biggest since 1968-69.

Preliminary October figures show total full-time enrolment at 18,559, up 0.7 percent from last year.

The largest increases were in the science, engineering and arts faculties. For the first time since the 1960s, science and arts have large enrolments than education.

Associate Dean of Science J. Kuspira says one reason for the increased enrolment in science is that more students are taking computing science and geology. Also, he says many students who are rejected by engineering switch to science until they can apply to engineering again.

Kuspira does not think this year's increase is a long-run trend, because science enrolments fluctuate continually.

In engineering, most of the enrolment increase is among re-enrolling students, says Associate Dean T. Hrudehy. The number of new students is fixed by a quota, which has kept the faculty's size down despite heavy demand for engineers.

"The total number of applicants was over 1,200 versus the 500 quota positions in first year," says Hrudehy, "though of course a lot of those applicants are not serious."

Education enrolment, on the other hand, dropped by 7.3 percent to 2,945, the lowest in more than a decade. Since 1976-77, enrolment in education has fallen about 30 percent.

But the steep decline in

education enrolment is ending, according to Associate Dean of Education Patricia Browne. She says, "we're still feeling the impact of that bulge we went through four years ago, but we're holding our own or actually increasing a bit in first and second year."

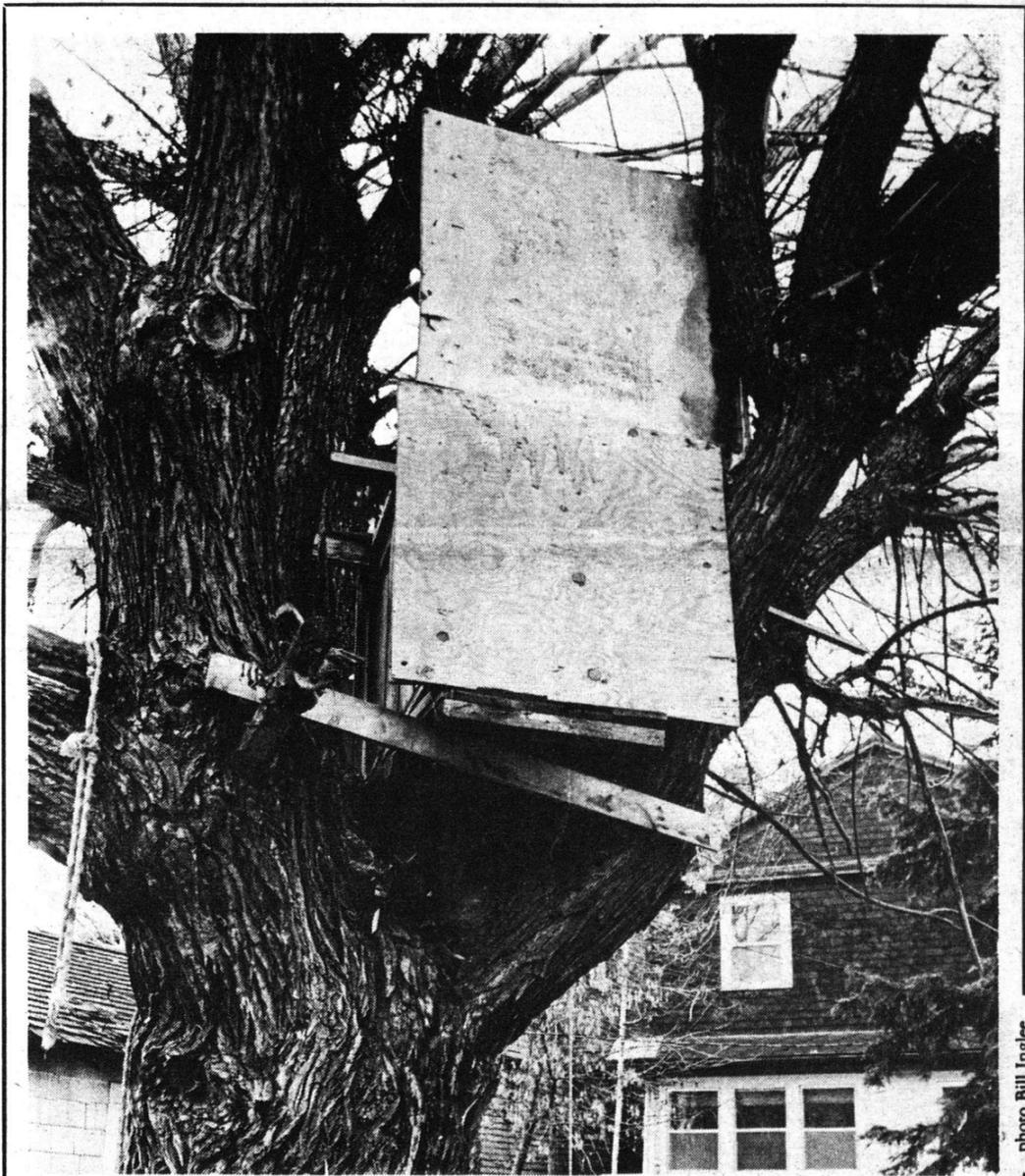
"This could be the year we stabilize," she says.

The number of part-time undergraduate students climbed rapidly, increasing from 2,306 in 1979-80 to 2,566 this year.

Almost two-thirds of part-time students are enrolled in education and arts. Large numbers of part-time students are also enrolled in science, commerce and nursing.

Among graduate students, the number of part-time students was 712, almost unchanged from last year.

See enrolment table page 3.



For rent

Have you been evicted from your basement suite recently? The Gail Brown Housing Agency has available this modest one-room unfurnished apartment in beautiful North Garneau. Fire escape guaranteed operable.

photo Bill Ingles

Student tenants demand facts

by Mike Walker

Students living in university-owned North Garneau still don't know which of them will be served eviction notices next month.

Two weeks ago, the *Gateway* reported the university fire marshall had found the basement rooms of about 30 North Garneau residents unsafe to be used as sleeping accommodation.

The North Garneau Tenants' Association joined forces this week with the Students' Union to demand an end to the university's silence on the fire marshall's report.

In a joint statement delivered to Housing and Food Services director Gail Brown, the two groups requested the following actions:

- A list of the houses affected by the report be released along with an account of the problems with each.

- Students be given the option of remaining in their accommodation until after final exams in April.

- The university contribute, through cash or equipment, to the cost of moving students to new homes.

- Annual fire inspections of

North Garneau houses be performed in the future.

SU president Nolan Astley said it is time the university cleared the air over the issue.

"Let's get everybody out of the dark," he said Wednesday. "We feel the university's got a responsibility to come out and tell the students which houses are affected."

Are you the head of a major corporation, nation, world religion, or other such organization? If so, have we got a magazine for you. See page 7. For everyone else: That BA really isn't worthless. See page 11.

But the university insists it has good reason not to release all information immediately.

"We're waiting for so many pieces of information to come together," Brown said. "I really don't know if all those students will have to leave." Some of the offending houses may be renovated. *continued on page 14*