

A sportsman is a man who, every now and then...

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...simply has to get out and kill something.
Stephen Leacock

Horowitz can't accept cuts

by Dean Bennett

U of A President Myer Horowitz cannot believe the provincial government could even consider effecting a five or ten per cent decrease in next year's education budget.

"It (the cutbacks) would destroy the university," he said. "No government, including the present government, would want to do that. The university is an essential element in trying to turn the economy around."

Provincial Treasurer Dick Johnston is presently looking at scenarios that include no increase, a five per cent decrease, and a ten per cent decrease in the education budget. If there is a decrease Horowitz feels the entire university — not just specific parts of it — would suffer.

"Everything would suffer," he said. "It's all tied together. The general quality of the institution would decrease dramatically and quickly. Society depends on a high quality university."

Horowitz does not see drastic increases in tuition fees as a viable way to make up for the potential shortfall of cash.

"In the past I have supported modest fee increases... Fees should be reasonable so all can benefit from advanced education

but a dramatic increase in fees would affect the ability of some people to go to university. Asking a ten per cent decrease in the budget to be looked after by a fee increase is counterproductive and dangerous."

In the event of a decrease the U of A may have to look more closely at using private income directly in the operating budget. Right now income from private citizens and alumni are used for what Horowitz refers to as "essential extras". For example the money is used to create scholarships for graduates and undergraduates. Putting this money in the operating budget is an alternative Horowitz would not want to pursue.

"McGill University is forced to use a large percentage of gifts they receive just to operate. We want to avoid that, for obvious reasons. I don't want to be critical of my colleagues at McGill. They don't have any alternative."

The U of A has only to look as far as the University of British Columbia to see the effect of government cutbacks in their operating budget. Over the past few years, UBC has gone from being one of the highest-funded institutions per capita to one of the lowest.

Horowitz does not believe UBC can be used as an example of a



President Horowitz is concerned about looming cutbacks.

photo Rob Schmidt

university surviving and operating despite drastic cuts.

"It's a myth that UBC could deal with the draconian cuts. The entire university suffered. They were not

able to deal with the cuts. In the short run the U of A was benefitting from what was occurring. If a super scientist decided to leave British Columbia we made every effort to

obtain him. But in the long term universities need each other. Many qualified people have left British Columbia and not just UBC."

Education students angry over marks

by Faith Gray

A third year Elementary Education student has circulated a petition protesting the grading system used by the Education Faculty.

Tim (surname withheld by request), a graduate student from the University of Athabasca, initiated the petition.

The petition was circulated in early November and states: "Are you satisfied with the grading system used in this class? If not you can help change this by signing below."

Students in Math Ed CI 216 and Art Ed CI 236 expressed their dissatisfaction with the grading techniques. In fact, well over one-third of the class of third year Education students signed the petition.

The petition and a formal letter were sent to David Russell, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education. Craig Cooper, SU VP Academic, was also given a copy which he forwarded to Dr. Meekison, University VP Academic.

Cooper says that according to Article 16.2-2a of the U of A calendar, "Profs must state at the

beginning of the course the marking system they will use."

Tim and his classmates cite two main problems with the present grading system. First, the profs must ensure that no Education course have a class GPA higher than 6.5.

Secondly, in the Math Ed department, a strict bell curve grading system is used. Students are also not sure whether their grades are based on stanines correlated to the percent scale or on unit tests.

One disgruntled student found it possible in an Ed course to obtain 50% on a test and receive a mark of "2."

Tim argues that grades should be based on individual ability and not on a competitive rating of the class members.

"I came to school to learn to be a good teacher, not to compete," he says.

He feels the unfair techniques stem from the lack of quotas in the Education Faculty. He also suggests interviewing potential students to make sure that those who "really want to teach" are accepted.

Trent Bryski, president of the

Education Students' Association, holds a different view of the situation. "We don't recognize this petition as a formal complaint on behalf of the Education students," he said.

However, most of the profs won't give any straightforward answers when students ask how they are graded. One student called out in

class, "How can I get 55% and fail?" The prof answered, "This isn't high school."

Tim sees many students as apathetic. Several students in his courses were afraid to sign the petition. Tim has only been at the U of A since September ('86), but decided the time was right to initiate

such a protest.

"The petition probably won't create a revolution, but at least a bang," says Tim. He hopes this will make a start to change the grading system and possibly help future Education classes.

As yet, Tim has received no formal answer to his complaints.

Nfld: UI way of life for many

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — The unemployment rate in Newfoundland has been so high for so long, many young people expect a life of joblessness, says the student union president of Memorial University.

"Things don't change very much out here," said John Reid. "Unemployment is so familiar that people see it as a way of life."

Reid is critical of government employment programs, including Challenge '86, the federal summer job creation and subsidy plan.

"Government aid programs are just not meeting the challenge of

unemployment in the Atlantic, particularly in this province," said Reid.

Statistics Canada reported the unemployment rate for Newfoundland returning students this sum-

40th Bar None sold out

by Cameron White

The U of A Agriculture Club celebrates "Country Living in the City" this week, with the 40th annual Bar None.

With a sell-out crowd of 3500 this year's event, held in the But-terdome, promises to continue the Bar None tradition of a great western bash.

Since the dance was instituted in

1947, people have come from all points of the province to participate. 400 people from out of the city are expected to attend this year, coming from Olds College, U of Lethbridge, and Vermilion.

The dance was granted a liquor licence in 1981 and according to Bar None director Reg Shandro there have been few security problems.

The liquor licence holds attendance to 3500. In 1969, a "pre-licence" year, Bar None set a Guinness world attendance record for a dance, with a crowd of 7,000 in the Kinsmen Fieldhouse.

The dance which will be held this Saturday has been preceded by a rally, parade, and smaller parties throughout the week.

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