

Councillors geared up for battle



photo Ray Giguere

Lisa Walter

by Wes Oginski

Interpretation is a fine line. The interpretation of bylaw 2800, clause 6A, will be challenged this evening at Students' Council.

"The Bechtel/Kavanagh motion," says Students' Union v.p. External Lisa Walter, "would amend the part of the clause saying any funds spent on an External Affairs Board campaign will be ratified by council."

"The External Affairs Board (EAB) felt the amendment would restrict our actions," Walter adds. She is chairperson of the EAB and will lead a strong protest against the motion.

Brian Bechtel, SU v.p. Internal, says council should have input into the EAB, just as it has with any other Board.

"I don't think there is enough input on Board decisions," he says.

EAB is one of Students' Council's major standing committees with student representation. Most SU boards report to Council and have every decision ratified by council.

"All of our boards constitutionally do not require council ratification of their fiscal decisions," says SU president Phil Soper.

"However," he adds, "convention would have it that all of the boards bring these sorts of decisions for ratification."

There are two ways of looking at the Bechtel/Kavanagh motion.

"I think what bothered some councillors is that they were not getting their input into expenditures of our funds," Soper says.

"Some councillors want input on the themes of the campaigns themselves," he adds. "I can see their point."

So does Walter. "External Affairs Board would keep more in touch with council," she says and agrees this is a positive aspect.

"It would also have the opposite effect of limiting External Affairs Board's actions," she adds.

The EAB is supposed to educate students on campus, according to councillor and Board member Terri Gonzales.

"We (EAB) introduce them (students) to things of how the world is reacting to them," Gonzales says.

"We (EAB) are beginning to react to things that happen on campus," she adds. "If we had to wait for council to ratify though, we would not be able to react."

It is the bylaw itself that is causing consternation among the councillors.

"The bylaw says that External Affairs Board can make recommendations to the ex-

ecutive," Bechtel says.

"I don't think the Board is operating within that bylaw, he adds.

"Political policy is sensitive enough to justify Students' Council input."

Walter, however, says the current controversy is partly a result of the EAB fulfilling its mandate.

As well, "I think it (the amendment) was a way to administer some control over our content," she says.

"This is an issue the External Affairs Board doesn't take to kindly."

Some councillors feel the selection of the EAB members is the way council can control content.

"I feel we were all picked carefully," says board members Gonzales. "This process represents Council's views."

Walter will present a counter-motion at Council which will recommend tabling the Bechtel/Kavanagh motion. The original motion would then be referred along with the existing bylaw, to the Bylaws and Constitutions committee.

Walter says her motion represents normal procedure, and it would ensure the implications of a EAB amendment are thoroughly examined.

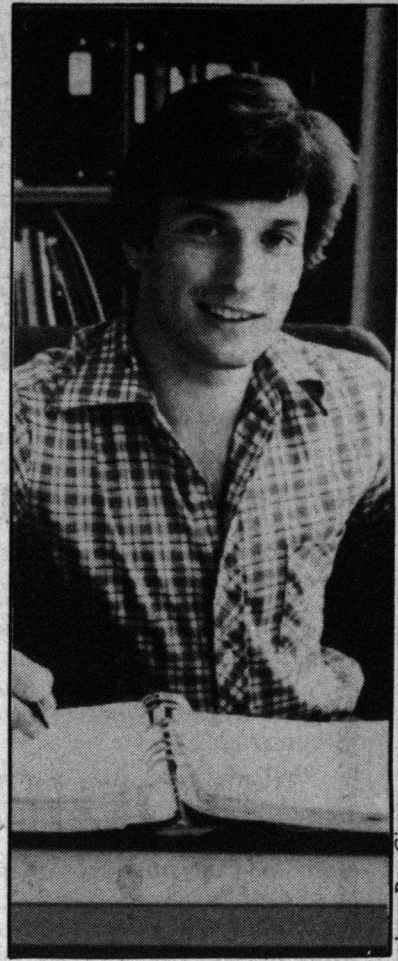


photo Ray Giguere

Brian Bechtel

The incredible shrinking housing project

by Peter Michalyszyn

Very soon construction will start in North Garneau to prepare housing for the 1983 World University Games.

Last Friday the Board of Governors approved almost \$3 million in utilities and services contracts. As well, the Board approved spending \$400,000 to renovate five houses in North Garneau, and another \$6 million to build two housing complexes.

For that sum, 325 new beds will be available for student housing after the Games. The Board originally had proposed housing for 650 persons, but lack of funds cut the project in half. However, the university says it hopes eventually the additional housing complexes and renovated houses will be built; service corridors are now being built to

provide for that future construction.

The Board approvals represent the implementation of a North Garneau housing policy hammered out last year by the university administration in the midst of constant student protest.

Much controversy surrounded the issue of putting tennis courts and a parking lot in part of North Garneau. As well, students pressured the administration to design housing that would 'maintain the integrity' of the North Garneau community.

Now student interest has receded; whether their protests last year had any tangible effect on university plans is difficult to tell.

For example, the university says it is committed to preserving the North Garneau community by building housing complexes that

rise only three and half stories (though 11 old houses will have to be destroyed to make way). The complexes will be designed to look like individual units, rather than drab apartments. As well, the renovated houses are being thoroughly refurbished so they will last another 75 years, say some university officials. However, these same people preface their statements with the warning: the university is equally committed to staying on budget.

Already the administration has had to cut North Garneau plans in half because of lack of funds from the government. Cutbacks due to inflation and high interest rates on a \$3.3 million mortgage could further transform the housing project.

"We've gradually been able to hammer some of these things back," says university v.p. of Design and Construction Ron Phillips, of 'minor' design changes

in the two housing complexes to reduce costs.

However, SU president Phil Soper is afraid very many such 'minor' changes could turn the housing units into drab, grey apartments. Phillips assures everyone he thinks the overall look will remain unaffected.

Rents in the new housing will be the highest in the university's housing stock, but still below market value.

Drab apartments still possible

The number of houses to be renovated in North Garneau has crumbled to five.

Originally the university planned to renovate 13 of the 'high quality' old houses in the university neighborhood east of campus. The number sank to 11, then 6, and now, because one has been determined structurally unsound, only five.

Asked why an alternate house could not be renovated in place of the planned sixth unit, university v.p. Design and Construction Ron Phillips said funding was not available. Ostensibly, funding would have been available had the original sixth house not been structurally unsound.

Last Friday the Board of Governors approved an extra \$150,000 to supplement an existing \$250,000 for renovation to the five houses, bringing the unit cost to \$80 thousand per house. The \$150,000 came from a special North Garneau trust, made up of excess rents accumulated over the years. It was intended as a renovation fund.

The fund was created after a university Senate Task Force in the mid-1970's recommended the

university maintain and upgrade the North Garneau community.

The Task Force originally was struck in response to a university initiative to pave over part of North Garneau to increase parking space.

Until last year the Board supported a moratorium on construction in North Garneau, but the recommended renovations never took place. Meanwhile, the reserve fund was used for only "very basic maintenance", according to Phillips.

At Friday's Board meeting,

public member Erwin Mertens suggested the university continue to renovate North Garneau houses with the reserve fund.

Ron Phillips agreed, but added the North Garneau area still figured in future academic expansion plans.

As well, Phillips noted the density in North Garneau is still very low. Even if houses were renovated, the density would be more appropriate for single family dwellings rather than student housing.

El Salvadorian to speak

A student leader from El Salvador will be speaking on campus on November 20. He is currently on a Canada-wide tour promoting awareness of the current situation in his war-torn country.

Previous to the coup of October 15 he was a member of his university's Students' Council.

The universities in the country were closed in June of 1980. They are currently being used as

barracks for the military.

His visit to the U of A is sponsored by the Edmonton Support Committee for El Salvador.

Information booths on El Salvador will be set up around campus on Thursday and Friday and all of next week.

More information about his visit and the war in El Salvador will appear in subsequent issues of the Gateway.

BAZ par **SKEET** et **Nielsey**

Skiffy!

Pass me a slice of back bacon, eh?

Why does the Finance Board want a 15% increase in student fees?

Do you have any idea how much it costs to send a hockey team to a tournament in Barbados?

It's INHUMAN TO CLOSE THE MUSIC STORE, BAZ! IT'S REPRESSIVE AND UNFEELING!

C'MON, LINDA! IT'S LOSING MONEY- AND YOU MUSIC STUDENTS ARE A PRETTY TINY MINORITY!

the Gateway rules OK!

LAUNDRY TAKEN IN and never returned.

42

I wanna quit 'er harping down there?

PTOMAINE PANTRY

SU MUSIC STORE

SO TIE IT IN WITH THE U of A BOOKSTORE IN SOME WAY! HOW IN HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET OUR SHEET MUSIC NOW?

WHY NOT BUY ONE OF EVERYTHING AND A BIG PHOTO-COPIER?

SALE! EVERYTHING MUST GO!

SPECIAL PRICES on PHOSPHOR!

BUY NOW! YOU'LL PAY LATER!

AND BREAK THE LAW? SURELY YOU JEST!

10-11 SKEET81

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Caricatures

Not available at press time.