

Money talks

On March 21, students will be asked to vote in a referendum to decide if they want to pay an extra \$7.50 per year in students' union fees. Seven dollars of this is to be used exclusively for the development and expansion of SUB and SU facilities.

Aside from the unfortunate poor timing of the referendum, coming as it does hand in hand with the announcement of another tuition increase, there are a number of issues that have to be frankly discussed before an intelligent vote can be cast. Obviously, the need for the increase and the desirability for the growth of the Students' Union are not assumptions that can be made.

Bylaw 700, Section 13 of the Students' Union constitution states that a "Building Reserve Fund" shall exist and "be used for the construction of an extension or internal expansion of the Students' Union Building". The section also states that "an amount of money equal to one dollar for all part-time students and three dollars for all other students shall be added to the SUB expansion reserve each year."

Since very little expansion, internal or otherwise, has occurred in SUB in recent years, it's difficult to say exactly where that constitutionally protected fund has been funnelled. What are the guarantees that the proposed \$7.00 increase will be used for its designed purpose? If the Students' Union runs into financial difficulties, rest assured that that fund will be the first to feel the effects.

Besides this concern, the general performance and size of the Students' Union should be examined. It seems that the SU bureaucracy has reached its limit, and serious doubts exist as to whether more business can be handled by them. Another licensed bar is questionable when the two currently operating are under a barrage of criticism.

CJSR expansion to city-wide FM status is a nice idea, but the proposal is a long way from completion, and the granting of an FM licence a mere dream at the moment.

A covered courtyard, increased information desk facilities, and re-structuring of RATT and Friday's are all luxuries that should be questioned in this era of fiscal caution. All of these services are relatively unimportant compared to the need for more club funding and a better-funded cutbacks campaign. These should be priorities for spending should the Students' Union find it has extra money lying around.

But if the students decide that the extra luxuries are worth it, then strong steps had better be taken to ensure that the extra fee money is set aside expressly for the purpose of expansion. Constitutional protection is not enough, nor is the promise of the outgoing executive.

The students should have this guarantee before they fork over more money to an already suspect Students' Union.

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

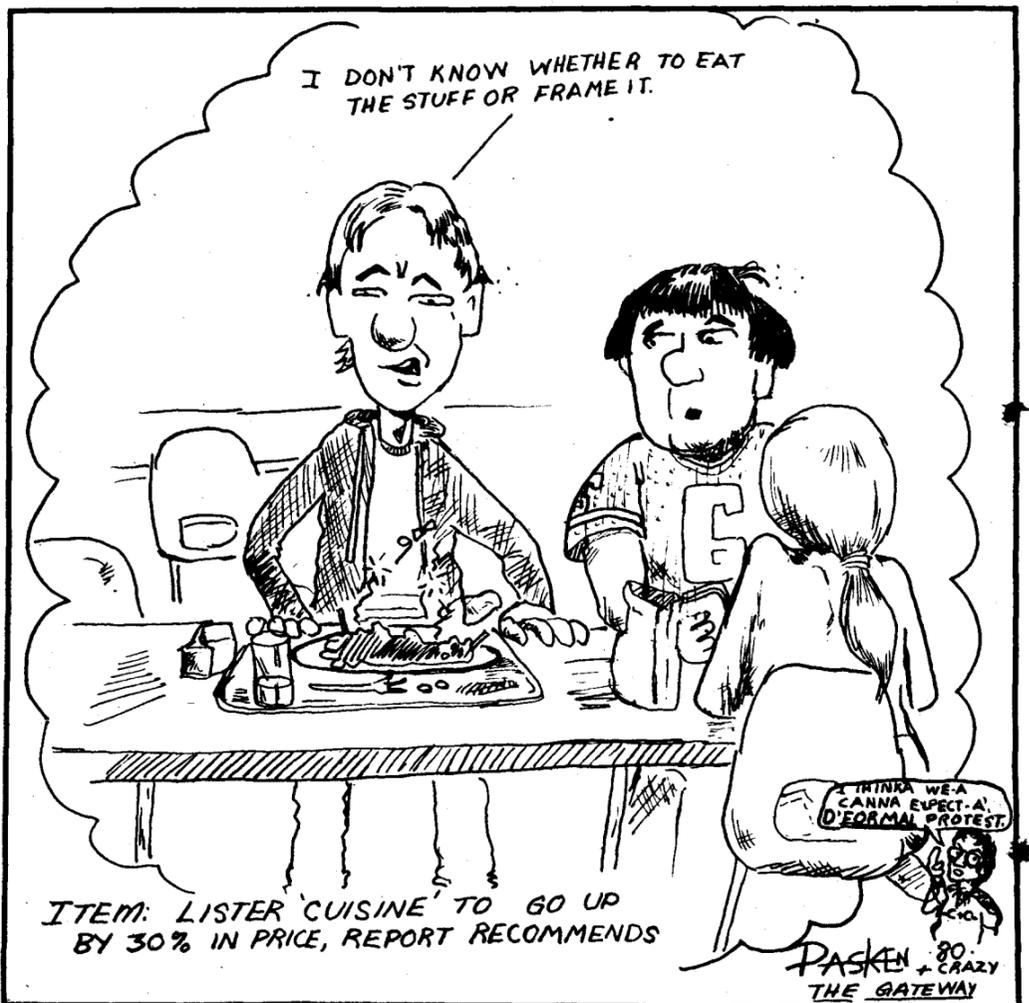
VOL. LXX NO. 44
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1980
TWENTY PAGES

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a circulation of 18,500, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.

Newsroom 432-5168
Advertising 432-3423

Editorial Staff
EDITOR - Gordon Turtle
MANAGING - Keith Krause
NEWS - Lucinda Chodan
Portia Priegert
ARTS - Bruce Cookson
SPORTS - Karl Wilberg
PHOTO - Rick Lawrence
PRODUCTION - Mary Duczynski
CUP - Alison Thomson
FEATURES - Julie Green
ADVERTISING - Tom Wright
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS -
Margriet Tilroe-West
DISTRIBUTION - Brad Keith

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Peter Michalyszyn, Nina Miller, Bruce Pollock, Gerard Kennedy, Kent Blinston, Greg Harris, Bob Fedun, Louis Riel, Beno John, Russ Sampson, Dora Johnson, Ken Daskewech, Alexandra Milner, Riff de Meed, Garnet DuGray, Shaune Impy, Mike McKinney, Brad Keith, nice try Sue, Maxine Murphy, Nancy McGill, Barb Horricks, only seven papers left hope you're all here ... Scottie ... beam us up.



Government policy unjustified

I was astonished to find in your article entitled "Tuition hiked 10 per cent," (*Gateway*, Tuesday, March 11), that tuition fees make up only \$13 million of the University's \$149 million budget. It seems also that the new tuition increases will only account for \$1 million in extra revenues. In light of these figures, I can find no defence for the government's position. Since it is willing to grant \$136 million already (and taking into account that it has a \$300 million budgetary surplus and the Heritage Trust Fund), why can it not loosen its purse strings for an extra million. To me this is a gratuitous display of its power and shows a disregard for education in the province.

As it stands, another \$2.3 million will be lopped off the U of A's budget through cutbacks in staff and services. As you said, we are playing more for less. The government is forcing the University to cut back its services. Why? It is obviously not interested in promoting talent here in Alberta. It feels that it can import its technicians and its technology from the U.S. I feel that in the near future, if this trend continues, this University will become only a place of learning for the rich with little ability; the rich with ability will recognize this University's mediocrity and go to big-name American colleges or to Toronto.

The government's differential tuition fees make no sense either. Not only are they discriminatory but they are economically unsound. There are long-term benefits from training foreign technicians in Canada, (I refer to all students as technicians because science and money seem to be the only concepts neanderthals can grasp). When foreign students return to their homelands they are used to Canadian methods and technological products. If they rise to positions of decision making and must buy foreign equipment it seems logical that they should turn to us first. Even putting human decency aside,

the government's position is remarkably short-sighted.

We are now celebrating Alberta's 75th anniversary. The government is willing to spend \$75 million on it, yet it cannot find the extra \$3.3 million the U of A needs. The quality and reputations of universities around the world are one of the marks of great cultures; not how much one can blow on a birthday party or on commercials such as

the "You came and you stayed" one which gives a relatively small amount of people an ego trip. If such stupid pride and vanity as "Can we trace a family tree back to 1905?" is the government's idea of heritage and culture, then why am I surprised at the government's position?

P.S. I hope Gordon Turtle appreciates this!

Nicolas Dimic,
Arts I

Students shaft students

Should students agree with people who say there is "no" money? If they do, then certainly they would not be in a position to ask for adequate funds to operate an accessible and quality university. It is astonishing that not one of the students on the GFC Housing and Food Services Committee realized this when they all voted in favour of increasing student housing rents and scrip requirements. Some of these students even ran for or were in positions to represent students "responsibly."

Raising barriers to a university education is not a solution.

Provision of an education, no matter how poor in quality, to all who are academically qualified should be the *priority* of the university. Singling out students to bear the burden of government policy is begging the issue. The rest of the university must also express its concern over inadequate funding and accessibility.

I would like to encourage more concerned students to sit on GFC committees to ensure this will not happen again.

Darrel Rankin
vp academic-elect

FAS lobby organized

A steering committee has been established to organize for the FAS lobby of MLAs on Thursday, March 27 to express concern over the inadequate funding the university has experienced. MLAs will be informed of the problems this creates for students trying to enter university and to get a quality education. The committee will also continue the ongoing task of organizing and coordinating the cutbacks — tuition campaign over the summer. Two workshops were planned for students wishing to meet their MLAs Sunday, March 23, 1 - 3:00 p.m. and on Monday, March 24, 3 - 5:00 p.m. Five students were elected to the steering committee, which is

responsible to the regular meetings of students interested in the campaign. The next general meeting is on Wednesday, March 19 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 142 SUB. The committee is now composed of the chairperson, spokesperson, the education coordinator and an SU executive liaison. Information materials concerning the mass lobby will be available shortly. Information is available also at the Students' Union executive offices (Room 259 SUB or phone 432-4236).

Bob Kirk
Darrel Rankin
Mary Ann Gillies
Kris Farkas
Tema Frank