



editorial

Priority on luxury

One of the touchiest subjects around the coffee tables on campus this year is student services.

Why? Because student services are the luxuries we allow ourselves while at university. If you don't recognize them, here's a list of a few: Students' Union Building, Student Health, the Gateway, Radio CKSR, Student Help, and Freshman Introduction Week. All these and more are financed by the student-at-large.

A number of factors such as gradual decreased enrolment, inflation, and the HUB Mall project has seriously decreased the operating budget of our Students Union to the point where a system of priorities must be instituted to guarantee the best mileage for our money.

During the last year, some services have been cut completely, others have had to increase their admission fees, and one that planned to expand is now left with only partial operating budget. Short of increasing the students' union fees, money for services will be scarce for a while.

The people who administer our financial affairs are the Students' Council. Their phone numbers are listed in the University Handbook. It is their duty to represent each of us in our best interests as students. Don't worry about being shy, or bothering these people with phone calls. They have committed themselves to their elected tasks, and have an obligation to each member they represent.

Find out how they've voted on the issues, and why. Check their individual attendance records since their terms began in May to see if they're attending Council meetings. In short, make them aware of your needs and opinions in the hope that their decisions will make the quality of life on this campus more enjoyable.

by Bernie Fritze



Special status students

So, here we are back again, another summer behind us, another job we've sworn never to take again, another rueful examination of whether or not it's all really worth it, or expectant fibrillations of the heart at the prospect of first going to university. We're back.

Back to what? Back to an almost bankrupt Students' Union? Back to a campus with either cut-back or cancelled services? Back to in-person registration, students hotfooting the sidewalks rushing to beat everybody else at the line ups? Back to frosh "happenings" that are "all in fun"? Back to the apathy and "don't give a damn" attitudes of both instructors and students?

No, we've returned to better than that.

We've returned to an institution that sets us apart from the thousands of other people who don't get a university education. Not better, but definitely apart.

We've returned to an institution that was built for those who want to receive the best possible, with no expense spared, in order to improve themselves and the world around them. We may not all use it for that purpose, but that's what universities are built for.

No other single group of people, no other minority ever receives the best in the way we do. Take a look around; what do you see?

We are surrounded by services and aids in a way that no other group of people is. We have been designated as "special" by both government and society.

Ask yourself a personal question. What are you doing with your special status? What do you intend to do with your status as university student?

One thing you can do is be like some of your fellow students; you can take your status and piss it up against the wall. Or you can do something special with it.

We're back, we're special, we've got a choice. Let's take good advantage of the services provided. On campus they're almost all free to students. Play handball, or tennis, or any of the recreations provided free. Take in a football game, or a council meeting. Listen to music, or shoot pool in SUB: they're all here to serve you.

Participate in these services. There are at least a dozen that could use some volunteer help, (*Gateway* included, of course). There might even be a paid job on the loose here somewhere.

Find out who the representative of your faculty is on Students' Council. Ask that person what he or she does on council for you personally. Maybe you could do better, or you know someone who could, or maybe you might even be satisfied.

There are many students who come to this campus only to sit in a classroom, do their homework, and nothing more. Don't be one of them - that's throwing away an important part of your status here.

Be a U of A student in the total sense, be part of this campus and the service it provides. Make your "special" status count to yourself and the rest of this campus.

You'll find that we've returned to a pretty good place.

by Greg Neiman

Fourum Five is your page to express your opinions and views on just about anything that could ever possibly come to mind. Here is a space reserved especially for you to say what you feel about this campus, your community, your friends, your enemies, your ideas. This campus needs to know what you feel; tell us in a letter to the editor and sign with your name, faculty and year.

Please keep letters to a length of 200-250 words. We do not guarantee that all letters will be printed.

Drop us a line in rm 282 SUB, or come in and talk with us. Without you it's no paper.

Savings now mandatory for student loans

The new Forced Summer Savings Guidelines will give "preference to the student who saves" but the board "will still support" those that don't save said Paul Tietzen, chairman of the Students' Finance Board.

The new savings requirement for post-secondary students qualifying for funds from the province's Students' Finance Act, was announced May 3, 1974.

Under the criteria a student must save an amount equal to 45 percent of the provincial minimum wage between regular sessions. A three week holiday period is exempt.

Male university students should save \$600 over a 15 week period. Females are expected to save less since they are less likely to obtain high-paying employment. A high school student would be expected to save \$300 prior to his first year of studies.

Rural and independent students (those out of high school for three years) can figure out their savings by subtracting their living expenses (estimated at \$230 per month) from their wage. This is necessary when students are receiving only a minimum wage. Those students that really need assistance will get it.

Students can make up for their savings during the school term or during the next summer if they get permission from the board. Students with reasonable contributions will get credit, said Mr. Tietzen.

If students cannot get employment they should keep records and present them to the board, said Mr. Tietzen. If no savings or no reasonable explanation is presented many students will get 75 percent of their loan compared to the 100

percent.

These new guidelines "increase benefits for students coming in" and "puts protection into the system" said Mr. Tietzen.

Speaking about married students, Mr. Tietzen said "we'll only support the student." The Students' Finance Board will require a contribution from the spouse of a married student if possible. This will reduce the long term indebtedness of the married student.

This new criteria was accepted by all provinces under the Canada Students' Loan Plan. (Quebec is the only province not in the plan.) Most resistance of the plan came from Alberta, explained Mr. Tietzen. On average, students from Alberta saved quite well, he said. The change should affect about 40 percent of the applicants. Previously 60 percent of the applicants saved more than the minimum without any formal requirements.

Before the board's policy had been to provide the necessary funds even if a student had no savings. Those students who did not save adequately were penalized in terms of remission (the non-repayable portion of their loan). Under the new policy, if a student is expected to save \$500 and does not do so, he or she will have reduced loan eligibility of \$500. The student will have the right to appeal decisions not to provide funds in lieu of adequate savings.

One major reason for the board to revise its policy was because of concern about cases of unwarranted debt on the part of the student, especially in the case where a student has repeatedly not made a serious attempt to cover some of the costs of his or her education.

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The new loan application which was released June 15 includes a complete explanation. The board has developed a provision for a savings review if this change in policy creates a problem for some students.

Students who have questions about the change should contact the Students' Finance Board or their Awards Officer.

by Dorothy Schenk

letters

An open letter to all students applying for loan assistance in Alberta:

The Students Finance Board, and the Students' Union of the University of Alberta offer the following clarification with regard for eligibility for loans granted to Alberta students under the Students Finance Act.

There has been some speculation that the Board will not receive applications from students who have not saved adequately during this summer. We jointly would like to state that this is not the policy and the Board will receive applications from all Alberta students at any time.

Students who are worried about financing their education, should contact either their Students' Union Awards Officer, or the Students Finance Board.

Where a student has not attempted to work or save without good reason, the Board will not replace the task of saving. In most cases this will not prevent the student from attending, as the student has three alternatives: 1) work part-time, 2) request additional funds from parents, and 3) appeal the Board's decision.

The Students Finance Board
The Students' Union, U of A.

