



"Please release me..." It wasn't Engelbert Humperdinck singing the blues Tuesday night. SU president Dean Olmstead and the four other members of the SU executive look mournfully at the camera and rattle their chains as the result of an Engineering Week prank at Tuesday's council meeting.

photo Russ Sampson

Appeal: In law...

the Gateway

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to put the dice into the box for another throw.
Ambrose Bierce

Is a simple meal the same as a free lunch?

MLAs invited "to open channels"

The Students' Union (SU) will hold a University Night for MLAs "basically to get some communication going between us and them," some time after the spring session begins.

The proposal, which comes from vp external Tema Frank, was approved at Tuesday's Students' Council meeting.

Frank said the evening, intended to orient MLAs to what the university is about, will consist of a campus tour, a "simple meal," and possibly some other evening entertainment. The MLAs are to be accompanied by a student host, to be selected by the External Affairs Board.

Frank said she had spoken to Dr. Horowitz, university president, and he had agreed to

pay for the event if the SU organized it. She also said she spoke with an MLA, Rollie Cook, who was "very positive" about the proposal.

The proposal presented to council says, "The event would hopefully re-open some of the channels of communication that have been shut for the last several years, help answer some of the questions MLAs might have about the University, and help give our provincial politicians a more realistic, and presumably, more positive view of students in particular, and the University community in general."

Arts rep Alan Fenna said he was "astonished" at the suggestion. "Do we consider MLAs underfed, or is this a computer dating service?" he said.

"It is probably a good opportunity for the SU executive and specially chosen people to make useful political acquaintances," he said.

SU president Dean Olmstead said the 1978 demonstration had been a political step backwards. He said he expected this event to help repair some of the damage that had been done.

The motion was carried 20-2.

Council also considered a report by Margaret Coates on the report of the Writing Competence Committee. Coates said students should not be blamed for their lack of writing skills. She suggested a series of remedial English courses for university freshmen, to be given for credit.

Science councillor Steve Cumming pointed out that university is not the place to be

teaching "remedial anything." Arts rep Kate Orrell added that people whose English skills are inadequate should not be admitted in the first place. A motion to accept Coates' report was defeated.

The Faculty Association grant policy was amended to remove the ceiling on the amount which associations can receive. This would mean more money for the Education Students Association in particular.

Executive all tied up

Engineers shoot up Council

by Alison Thomson

An Engineering Week prank provided more excitement than originally planned at Tuesday night's Students' Council meeting.

Three electrical engineers burst into the meeting firing blank shells in .303 rifles. Dressed in army fatigues, they chained the five SU executive members to the pillars in the Council Chambers.

Showing remarkable restraint, the executive stood tamely as the chains were padlocked about their waists.

The engineers' demands? Council would have to pass a motion to give \$100 to the Robin Hood School for Retarded Children, to be matched by the electrical engineering club, before the hostages would be released.

With a surprising lack of regard for the welfare of the executive, Council tabled the motion until the next meeting, to be held in two weeks.

Fortunately, for the smooth and efficient running of the Students' Union, Council reconsidered their decision, and granted the money to the charity.

However, someone in the building, apparently becoming apprehensive at the sound of the shots, had called the Edmonton City Police.

To the accompaniment of cries of "Where did the engineers get the police uniforms?" the police ushered the engineers from the room.

The police detained the engineers for over an hour-and-a-half, explaining to them the violations of the law involved by

this prank and the possible consequences, according to SU president, Dean Olmstead.

No charges were brought against the three students. According to Olmstead, the violations included carrying guns which could have fired real ammunition, and wearing Canadian Armed Forces insignia.

Olmstead commenting about the prank said, "Well, it was for a good cause."

Campus Security refused to comment on the incident.

Scholarship changes have minimal effect

by Lucinda Chodan

Increased money for some existing scholarships and bursaries was announced by Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower James Horsman yesterday.

The changes, effective immediately, affect Province of Alberta graduate scholarships and fellowships, supplemental grants, part-time students and some special scholarships.

However, it was a case of "The more things change, the more they stay the same" for most students. Except for increased amounts, alterations to The Students Finance Act do not significantly modify student aid in Alberta.

The largest change involves undergraduate scholarships for students leaving the province. Students who attain high marks in Alberta but want to study elsewhere are now eligible for scholarships. Previously, students were not eligible for

funds if their undergraduate program was available in the province of Alberta.

Maximum amounts for Province of Alberta Graduate Scholarships and Fellowships were increased to \$5,400 from \$4,800, and to \$6,000 from \$5,400, respectively, and supplemental assistance grants for students with special needs rose to a maximum of \$6,000 from \$4,000.

Maximum for Vocational Teacher Development Grants increased to \$7,000 from \$6,000 and Government of Alberta scholarships for graduate study at the U of A and University of Calgary were upped to \$7,000 from \$5,000.

In addition, money available for attendance at the United World College of the Atlantic and the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific was raised to \$10,000 from \$5,000.

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Was it the Baader-Meinolf gang? Nope, only the engineers.