

Chancellor honorarium requested

The University of Alberta will approach the provincial government for information about its policy of paying persons appointed to public board and commissions.

The decision was made Friday as the board of governors considered a request from the executive committee of the

university senate that the chancellor be paid an honorary fee.

With the expanded role of the chancellor as head of the senate, it was felt that compensation was needed for the time taken up by the job.

The chancellor acts as the titular head of the university,

who attends social and public functions, confers degrees at convocation ceremonies and sits as a member of the board.

Often a businessman, the chancellor must spend time away from his occupation during his four-year term and is unpaid.

A member of the senate committee that chose Utilities executive Ronald Dalby as new chancellor last fall told the board that several qualified candidates declined nomination because of the tremendous workload of the job.

Max Wyman, university president, said it was about time that board members look into the possibility of being paid for their services. Wyman said the chancellor, as a member of the board, should not be considered as separate.

Wyman told the board he had heard the government was studying the idea of paying the persons appointed to public bodies and commissions. One example cited was the new advisory committees on university affairs established by the department of advanced education.

The board emphasized that in making the enquiry it was not expressing the opinion that it should be paid but only wanted to determine what the government's policy was.

Burke Barker, law professor, argued it would imply that all board members were seeking payment for their services.

Louis Desrochers, outgoing chancellor, said after the meeting that he supported some sort of honorary payment for the chancellor.

Pembina report

A report on the future of the campus' three oldest student residences will be made public in a few weeks, says the vice-president for planning and development.

Walter Neal said after the board of governors meeting Friday that the report will be made available to gauge public reaction.

The future of Pembina, Athabasca and Assiniboia Halls, all built more than 60 years ago, has been under study for several years.

At present, Pembina is occupied by about 100 senior and graduate women students, a good number of them from foreign countries. The other two buildings used on a limited basis for administration and office space.

The board Friday declined a request from George Mantor, students' union president, to endorse the support of continued use of Pembina Hall for residences after repairs are completed.

Mantor said the request was made to ensure that Pembina Hall didn't sit idle after closing as did the other two residences.

Members said it would be premature to make such a statement until the study of alternative uses and the costs involved are finished.

They had ordered in December that Pembina Hall be closed down as a residence April 30 to bring it up to current fire standards. The move was protested by residents, who feel the building serves their special needs of central location, a quiet place to study and an easy going atmosphere that eases adjustment of foreign students to a new culture.

Max Wyman, university president, said he wanted proof of cultural shock referred to by residents in their protest of the board's decision.

Wyman noted that if the board had acted on the fire marshal's recommendation, the residence would have been closed down January 1.

Registration grant

The board of governors has approved an expenditure of \$24,750 to complete the advanced registration program, scheduled to begin March 1.

The additional sum was required for the 1973-74 phase of the program. An amount of \$43,000 has already been spent on the project this year.

In a report, the board's finance committee said to complete initial development, operational costs and other work, \$59,000 will be required for 1974-75. Each following year the system will cost about \$47,300 to maintain.

It was also reported that the University has received more than \$433,000 in gifts between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 1973. The money will be used for research,

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HILLEL - JEWISH STUDENTS

An important meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7 in Rm. 280 in SUB at 8:00 P.M.

Ernie's STEAK PIT LTD

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Diamond Rings just for you



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Status and career patterns of Women employees

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Do undesirable sex biases exist in the University community that should be eliminated?

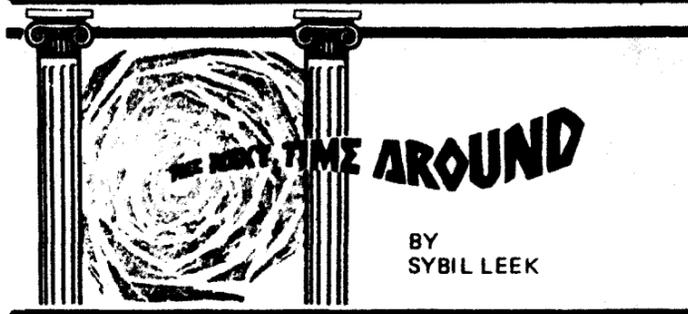
Does sex significantly effect hiring, advancement, salary or the working environment?

A Senate Task Force invites your view, men and women alike, of the status and career patterns of women employees at the University, both academic and non-academic.

Written submissions or personal accounts are sought. Or, you may wish to discuss your concerns personally with Task Force members at a convenient date in February. Confidentiality will be respected if requested.

Please contact:

Task Force on the Status of Women Employees
Chairman, June Sheppard
The Senate
The University of Alberta
432-1268



Superstition, fact or fancy ?

Advances in education, the opening up of travel between countries, and the all-prevading influence of television, radio and the cinema are supposed to have broadened our minds. Yet at what seems to be the apex of sophisticated life, belief in signs and omens, and in the value of charms and talismen, still persists. While condemning superstitions we still condone them, using them as easily as we breathe.

There are businessmen on Wall Street who carry "worry beads" as well as a nutmeg or an acorn in their pockets as a charm against rheumatism -- and the sale of copper bracelets has never been higher. They are rarely worn for adornment, but as a form of sympathetic magis to keep arthritis and bursitis at bay. Mascots on cars are supposed to be an aid against accidents and it is not unusual to see medallions of St. Christopher, the former guardian patron saint of travellers, appearing on charm bracelets. If money is turned over in the hand when there is a new moon, it will increase as the moon progresses to fullness; and of course it is wise not to see the new moon through a window, or leave knives crossed in the kitchen.

No one talks much about these quirks of the mind and if they are mentioned, the people concerned may look sheepish. Some deny that they are superstitious but they rarely give up these little mannerisms. Between the private practice of superstition today and the universal believers of unknown centuries ago, there is a link of custom which has gathered about itself an immense accumulation of taboos, portents and auguries concerning every aspect of human existence. How they originated is lost in the mists of time. We cannot even be sure that they grew out of fear and fantasy, from the uneasiness of the learned or the uncertainty of the unknown or even the natural instinct of the countryman to be cautious in matters he did not presume to understand. Anyway, none of these reasons is truly valid today, and the continuance of superstition remains a phenomenon in a world that has enough technical know-how to put a man on the moon and still is unable to forget its mystical influence. Neither is superstition an exclusive commodity, as it once was, of the countryside dweller. The interest in it is just as great in Manhattan as it ever was in remote English villages.

If your head itches, is it a sign of rain? If your tooth aches, are you right in thinking your lover is untrue? Twitch your eyebrows and will you indeed meet a dark, handsome stranger? Does knocking on wood really avert a curse in a world renowned for its ability to produce almost anything in plastic -- making even the finding of real wood today something of a rarity!

Should you have a child born with a caul over his head, he is not likely to get drowned and stands a great chance of being exceptionally psychic. In Europe, cauls are often kept for a lifetime, being as carefully preserved as a miser's gold. In the normal pattern of life there is birth, marriage and death, and all have their specific superstitions. There is even a belief in the mystical power of human spittle. Touch the eyes of a newly born child with it, and it will have good eyesight. Contracts can be made with spit on the hands, and bargains sealed by spitting on the money.

Few brides risk getting married without "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue", and there is the grim belief that death goes in threes; hear of one death and you anticipate the next two, and no one can say why -- especially when it is so often true!

The fact is that we accept superstitions as part of our everyday life: our personal insurance against "bad luck".