

The Gateway

Gabrielle Roy's
autobiography
**Enchantment and
Sorrow** reveals
her love for the
world.
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WISEST promotes women

by Roberta Franchuk

WISEST—Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology—is more than another university alphabet committee. Its goal, says the committee's ex-officio chairman, is to support and encourage "the participation of women in decision making roles" in society.

Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour, of the Department of Chemistry, has worked with WISEST since it began in 1982 with the encouragement of the then-VP Research, Dr. Robert James. The first role of the new committee, she remembers, was to gather statistics.

"We knew that 5 percent of the faculty in science is female," she said. "We took a look at the grades of all students over (the academic years) 70-71 to 81-82, and found that girls were doing as well or better than boys in all faculties."

To check for "self-selection",

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A cartoon in *The Gateway* left a nasty impression over the Christmas break. P4

MUSIC

The Housemartins new album *The People Who Grinned Themselves to Death* contains lyrics which demand thought and respect. P6

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Wall Street is an entertaining and enlightening picture which depicts the power of greed. P7

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

The instant replay rule, love it or hate it, is a sportswriters dream. P9

No more petitions

WCT stays admission test

by Rod Campbell

Passing the Writing Competence Test will remain as a requirement for students seeking an undergraduate degree at the U of A if the General Faculties Council accepts recommendations made by its executive committee.

The GFC is the highest academic authority on campus.

The committee also suggests that the existing petition process be discontinued. According to the report students spend too much time petitioning for extensions rather than improving their writing skills.

Students currently registered at the University will retain their existing time limit to pass the WCT's requirements.

where only very well-qualified girls enter a field, they examined the business faculty. There the enrollment of women had increased dramatically over that ten year period, but the grade results remained the same—girls did as well or better than boys.

Despite the abilities of women in university, says Armour, the representation of women steadily decreases in higher academic levels. To combat the trend of women stopping their education before men, several programs were begun by WISEST.

One of these is UAYs, a "support, networking and information group." The acronym stands for University of Alberta Women in Science and Engineering, explained Armour, but since a group named "WISE" already existed, that portion of the acronym was changed to "Ys."

UAYs sponsors panel discussions and workshops to exchange information such as how to choose a graduate school. Membership is not limited to women, but includes men as "they're the ones who will be making some decisions in the future."

"We recognize that the institution puts tremendous pressure on students who are here," says Armour. "UAYs offers role models, information, and support."

The group is now working on a "buddy system" to pair first year students lacking in confidence with students who have taken the same courses already and who can offer support. Response has been strong, says Armour, and they hope to have something in place in September.

Another program that WISEST sponsors is a summer high school research program. Eleventh graders from Edmonton schools are placed in non-traditional research positions—girls in Science and Engineering projects, boys in Home Ec and Nursing. Knowledge of the program has grown since it was introduced four years ago. Last summer 100 applications were received for 20 positions.

Conferences are also an important part of WISEST's agenda. Guest speakers from universities across

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Should the GFC accept the recommendations at their Jan. 25 meeting, the new proposals will come into effect Sept. 1989.



The seat of power glows in the warm and good spirits of the holiday — Budget committee meets Thursday.

University funding equitable

by Ken Bosman

A University of Calgary claim that they are underfunded by \$28.6 million a year relative to the U of A has been rejected.

"I am inexorably driven to the conclusion that the claim of the University of Calgary is unfounded," said J. Stephen Dupre, a University of Toronto Political Science Professor who authored *Post Secondary Operating Grants in Alberta: An Equity Study* at the request of Alberta's Advanced Education Minister David Russell.

The U of C had based its contention of underfunding upon the total operating grants per full time student provided by the provincial government.

In fiscal 1986-87 the U of A received \$8041 per full time student while the U of C received only \$6593, for a total alleged underfunding of \$28.6 million.

"In each broad category of expenditure it is apparent that the University of Calgary has significantly fewer resources than the University of Alberta," stated the U of C

submission to the Dupre inquiry.

Dupre rejected these arguments however and accepted the 1977 provincial government funding formula, advocated by the U of A, which assigned a weighted value to the various types of student, providing more money for graduate and honours programs than first and second year students, as well as recognizing the high cost of some programs such as agriculture and dentistry.

"I am satisfied that the cause of

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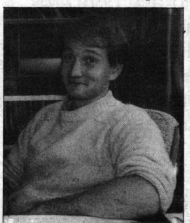
SU bond fund blasted by ex Pres

by Ken Bosman

"It's downright irresponsible — you don't gamble with other people's money," charges 1985-86 Students' Union President Mike Nickle over the current SU investment of \$650,000 in a London Life Mutual Bond Fund.

"Nickle's attitude ignores the loss we'd take if we sold now," responds current SU President, and former VP Finance Tim Boston. "Besides, we have a Students' Council mandate that says we can't pull out till it gets to \$77 per unit."

"It's gross fiscal mismanagement



Ex President Mike Nickle

— it costs the students over \$5,000 a month in lost interest to do nothing," counters Nickle. "The fund has dropped \$38,000 in value since they bought it. If they had stuck the money in the bank, like every administration has done before, they would have earned \$62,000 in interest. This game of Boston's has cost the students \$100,000."

Nickle was Boston's campaign manager in 1986 when he was elected VP Finance, and again in 1987.

This controversy results from the SU spending \$400,000 on November 26th, 1986 and another \$250,000 on March 27th, 1987 to purchase 8283 "units" or shares in the mutual fund.

The value of these units varies week to week as London Life bond managers buy and sell assets within the fund on the world markets. Recent economic developments have pushed global bond prices downward and the London Life fund has remained virtually unchanged in value for the last 4 months.

The SU paid an average of about \$77 for each "unit" of the fund, but the most recent value of each of



Current President Tim Boston

these units has dropped to \$73.96 — resulting in the SU sustaining a paper loss of about \$37,400 for the Students' Union which includes broker commissions.

SU Business Manager Tom Wright would like the SU to sell its bond fund investment. "I recommend to council we discuss the fund before Christmas and give consideration to selling — nobody made a motion. I can only recommend. My re-

BOND FUND p.2

The only sin is wasting time

Bob Geldof