

fourum five



educators, is that what Albertans want? Is that what they should have? Is that what's going to be rammed down their throats?

It was not that many years ago when a guy by the name of John Harr came to Edmonton to take over as President of the then non-existent Grant McEwan College.

They had no students and no campus, Harr said they'd get the former but the latter was no sweat. So what did John Harr do. No new buildings for him. No one campus either.

He picked up an old Loblaw's store on 118th Avenue that no one wanted. He acquired the former Assumption Centre in the downtown area plus the former Scona High on the south side and the old Central Elementary School in the west end.

In other words, Grant McEwan College is really four campuses in four areas of the city. They have taken those buildings and adjusted to them.... rather than making the public or the students conform to them.

And isn't this the approach that the government and educators must be looking at? When Grant McEwan College gets more students and requires more space they will then obtain yet another campus situated in a building which no one wants.

If the Universities of Lethbridge and Calgary are to increase in size, they must do so on merit and the calibre of teaching. Not because the U of A has imposed an arbitrary enrolment limit.

Then, too, who says the U of A has to confine itself to just one campus on the south side.

But even more important that what I think, is what the public of this province thinks. Especially our young people, many of whom look at the university as nothing more than a glorified adult babysitting service.

I'm concerned that what on the surface appears to be only tentative can very suddenly become policy ... and everyone will wonder how it happened.

Bruce W. Hogle
News & Public Affairs Mgr.
CFRN Radio

Limited enrolment

I can't say I'm exactly overjoyed over what has been called a "tentative agreement" to set enrolment limits on the University of Alberta and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and its counterpart SAIT.

Now I know the educators and government people will tell me that this is only tentative. Nothing more.

Well, so was income tax when it was first implemented by the federal government. For the first six months of this fiscal year, Canadians paid Ottawa 3.6 billion dollars in income taxes and it is now thy biggest single income item for the government.

So that is my initial fear about a tentative agreement becoming a fait accompli as far as enrolment limits are concerned at the U of A and NAIT.

However, desirable this may be for the government and

Defender of the faith

This note is an attempt briefly, to explain the very difficult situation in which your Students' Union finds itself, and the very uncomfortable choices which that situation has presented for the Executive and Council. It is a situation which may well continue for many years.

Four years ago, the Students' Union Council decided to build and operate HUB. They committed the Students' Union to a long-term housing and commercial project because they felt that low-cost housing could be provided to University students through a break-even project.

Because circumstances beyond the Students' Union's control changed (i.e. University construction, inflation and interest rate increases), subsequent Council's have extended nearly \$800,000 to HUB to complete and operate it. These expenditures exceeded Students' Union reserves, to the point where we now owe the University money we simply cannot repay, without closing the Students' Union, or turning it over to the University.

The current Council, an; Executive, when confronted with the seriousness of this situation, was forced to consider the best way of escaping financial insolvency and consequently, the loss of a University of Alberta Students' Union. It appeared to us that our current difficulties are short-term; if we can weather them, our financial picture will brighten in 3 - 5 years, as HUB comes nearer to break-even. However, without serious thought, we might not survive the interim. We believe that, by sacrificing parts of the program we currently offer our members for a short time, we might be able to convince the province to assist our long-term finances, and thus assure our continued viability.

Thus Students' Council is faced with a very important and difficult question: Should our Students' Union sacrifice the short-term needs and interests of its members to attempt to save the Students' Union for the future, or should we recognize the current wants and needs of today's students, and risk the future of our organization?

We must recognize that University students are here only 3 - 6 years, and that today's students will only lose, not benefit, from a Students' Union which looks ahead and sacrifices today's needs. At the same time, the Students' Union has contributed much to building the University of today and could contribute much benefit to thy lives of future students, if it were to survive.

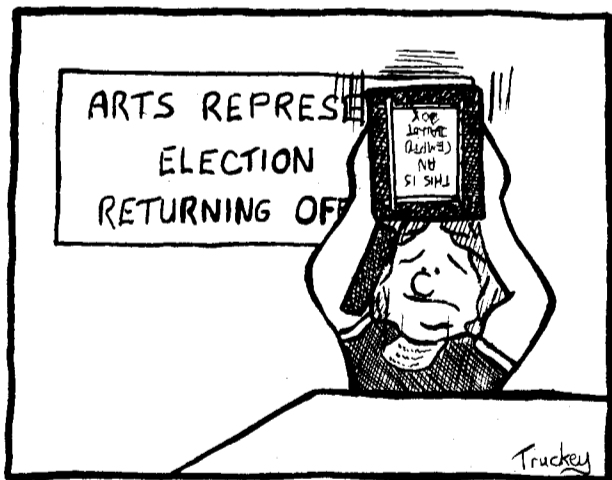
The answer which the Students' Council and the Executive have given to the question is that we should do all we can to save the Students' Union, in the hope that, in future years, it will again be able to provide the many services which the students want and pay for. This answer, which to this point has been implicit in Council decisions, has meant increasing prices, increasing rents, curbing CKSR, and generally operating more and more on business principles. I believe that to operate this way is wrong for a Students' Union; I also believe that Students' Unions should not invest in commercial housing developments. However, our Students' Union has built HUB, and we must now do our best to save the Students' Union, so that some day it can again perform the functions it was created to serve.

I sincerely hope that while we are recovering from the debt with which HUB has presented us, our students will not lose faith in the Students' Union, although I know that the kind of sacrifice required is difficult to accept.

I will close by saying that, at the same time we suffer under financial inability, we are continuing to represent student concerns on University governing bodies and committees. This important aspect of our purpose continues to result in decisions more favorable to students, and is a privilege many other Students' Unions have not been granted by their Universities.

We welcome comments on any aspect of our policy or our activities.

Sincerely,
Joe McGhie
President



Berry wesGateway

The circumstances surrounding the enclosure of the Nuclear Research Station with a fence seem to be more serious than first reported. After getting a barrage of phone calls about my earlier story, I decided to have Hank check into the whole matter a little more.

Hank now reports the fence is being erected for totally different reasons than previously reported. Apparently, the blame has to go to the Agriculture faculty, whose building is also in that vicinity. Their sheepherder (someone called Wild Rosie) has been letting the chickens, pigs

and goats escape her immediate attention and these animals always wander over towards the Research Station.

The reason for her inattention seems related to her recent trip into the country to buy bales of grass for feed. It seems one of the bales wasn't the same as the others: it smelled like it came from Mexico.

At any rate, Wild Rosie has been doing some extensive testing of this new grass in the hopes of discovering new and improved ways of making farming a more profitable livelihood. It's another example

of science in action. Hang in there Rosie.

Next time you're up in RATT, gaze a critical eye over the northwest corner of Edmonton and see if you can identify Con-Force Products Ltd. They're the ones who are spewing and belching all that smog into the air.

On a good day with the wind from the west, the downtown section of Edmonton will look like it's experiencing thunder showers from the dark thick clouds, all gratis, mind you, thanks to Con-Force. How does that grab your hardhat?



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