

# the Gateway

## EDITORIAL

### The Tory Front

"The government will, in its wisdom, make the final decision."

John Schlosser  
Chairman, Board of Governors,  
voting for indexing  
tuition at last Friday's  
Board meeting

The phrase, 'in its wisdom' has so often been used sarcastically that to hear John Schlosser say it earnestly last Friday was to confirm that the Board of Governors is shamelessly a Tory front.

This, in itself, is no surprise. By approving and thus recommending the tuition-indexing proposal to the minister of Advanced Education, the Board has stood once again on its record. It has told the government what it wants to hear.

Tuition fees will rise next year. They would have risen even had the Board not recommended that the minister follow his already-preferred indexing plan.

The Board of Governors, after all, is only an advisory body to the minister, who, in his wisdom, will heed or reject that advice.

Why, then, does the Board continually play up to the government? Why, when forwarding a long-term policy recommendation, would the Board not endorse the very best, the ideal policy, that of no tuition at all?

But the Board insists it must not take its autonomy too seriously. After all, previous to Friday's meeting, the minister had said clearly that 'no tuition' was not an option open to universities. Thus if the Board had gone on to endorse 'no tuition' (an idea several Board members said they preferred but wouldn't vote for), the government would have punished the university for its irresponsibility by cutting back even more next year.

Following this rationale, when the minister says next year that sufficient funding is not an option open to the university, the Board will not object. Instead, it will whimper pathetically, and then, as is its custom, it will find areas to cut back and places to generate new revenues, such as higher tuition fees.

This rationale is self-defeating. It puts the Board of Governors in the position of an underling eagerly lapping up such entrails as the government would afford to discard.

It is not the challenge of a strong, united and autonomous university community taking a stand as befits the historic role of the university as a leader in society.

The Board of Governors is not leading. It is weak. It lacks initiative and direction because it is run mostly by government-appointed hacks whose chief aim is to balance the budget.

Peter Michalyshyn

### Student Activism

They put out a leaflet.

The combined forces of the Federation of Alberta Students (\$3.50 per student this year), and the Students' Union (\$40.50 per student this year, but subtract two or three dollars per student at the outside for the *Gateway*), managed to produce only a little pamphlet to advertise to students that the Board of Governors last Friday would recommend tuition fee increases next year, and every year after that.

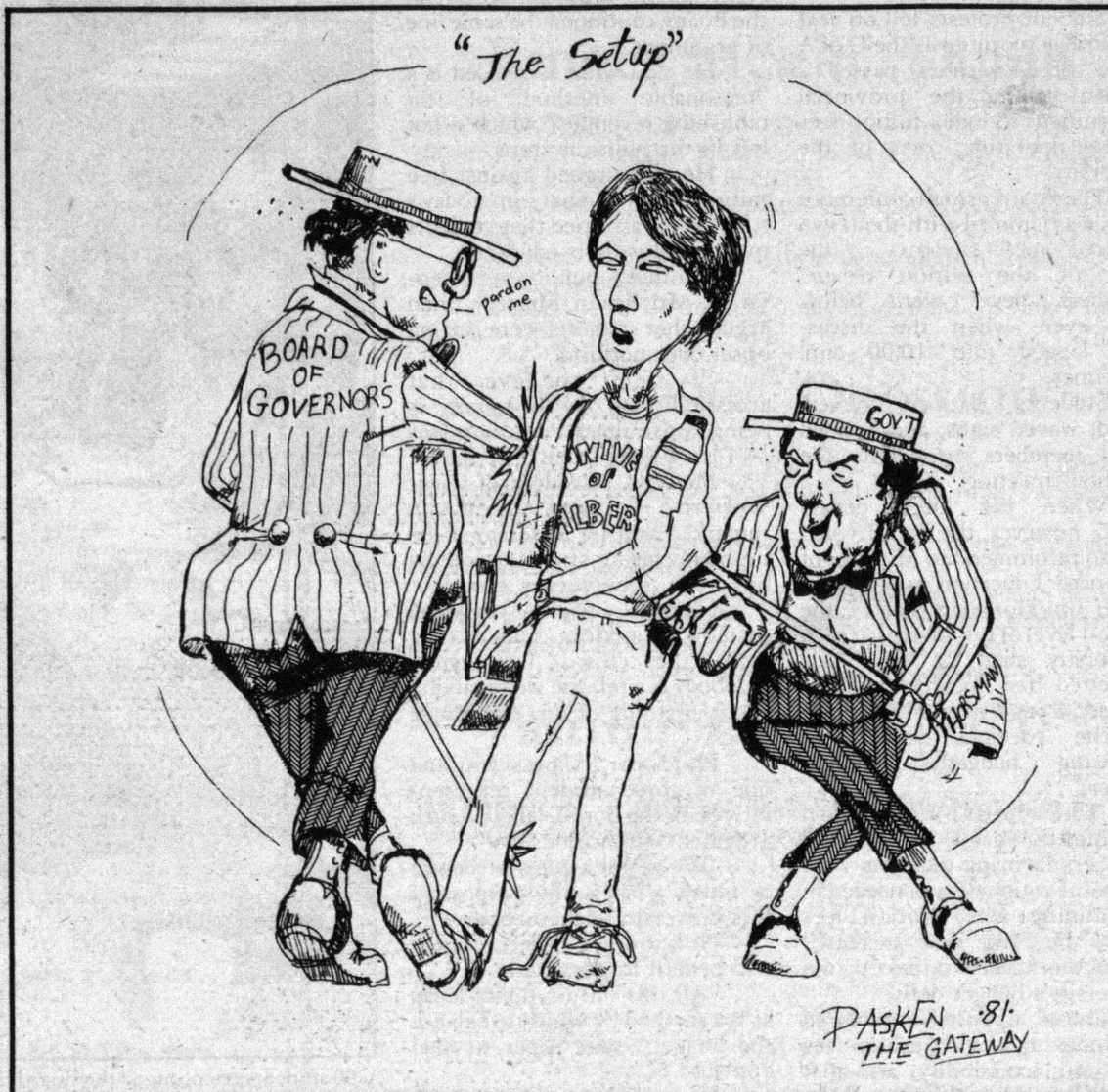
By chance a few individuals managed to put up a few posters, but they were a sorry excuse for banners which should have been erected in half a dozen campus buildings, announcements that should have run every hour or so late last week on CJSR campus radio, and a concerted effort that could have been made to raise student awareness through the student newspaper and the commercial media.

(The student newspaper, incidentally, included in its Thursday edition 16 separate references to the Board meeting, largely on its own initiative because that way things get done.)

The Student Movement types around second floor SUB, who did very little but show up at University Hall to jeer childishly at the Board members, are happy with the 200 person turnout for Friday's meeting.

But after they finish slapping one another's backs, they had better re-evaluate the effectiveness of their logistics.

P.M.



## SECOND WIND

### Strangulation as usual

by Jens Andersen

The University has been starving for money for some time now. Two years ago tight funding almost caused the Faculty of Dentistry to lose its accreditation. Last year it caused the Computing Science chairman to resign in frustration because of his overworked, underfunded department. University libraries have had to chop staff, and cannot get nearly enough of the books they need. Faculties training people in high-demand fields (e.g. Engineering and Commerce) have quotas, and are forced to turn away qualified applicants who could satisfy that demand.

This year the U of A will use up about half the money in its operating surplus — a buffer reserve carefully hoarded over the years — merely to maintain the present "anemia" (to quote the word used by University vp Finance Lorne Leitch). All this because of inadequate cash inflow.

To get the money it desperately needs, the University controlling body, the Board of Governors, has two choices: a) grovel before the provincial government and beg for a larger operating grant, or b) grovel before them and beg for higher tuition fees.

Having just had a long and unsuccessful grovel to obtain a larger grant, the B of G has finally concluded that it is easier to get the

blood out of students than from the stoneheads in the legislature. Hence the recommendation passed by the B of G last Friday asking the provincial government to index tuition fees to the operating grant.

If implemented (as seems likely) the indexing policy will mean a 10-15% increase in tuition will occur as regularly as the autumn leaves (this year the Board asked for a 15% increase in the operating grant, and got 13.1%).

On top of the indexed increase will be a second: a 5% increase for almost all students until such time as the students are footing 10% of the cost of running the University (vs. the present 9%). This will probably take at least a year or two.

So don't be surprised if your tuition jumps 20% next year — say from \$600 to \$720 — and 15% the year after — to \$830. The Board is confident you can take time from your studies to earn this extra amount. And don't be surprised if the meager 1-2% increase this funnels into University revenues leaves all the present problems still festering.

It is all part of the provincial government's policy of "a budget surplus today for a brain deficit tomorrow."

Better to invest in real estate.



We need cartoonists! The *Gateway* is putting together a cartoon issue but we desperately need the talents of young, aspiring ink-slingers. Contribute your stunning and artistic *magnum opies*. Reasonable facsimiles (i.e. stunned and autistic) will be considered.

Deadline: 12 noon, October 13, 1981.

No triflers, please.

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Staff this issue: A study in conjunctions and modifiers. Kent Blinston searched for Mr. Peak while Lloyd Takeyasu went out but Luis Pena wasn't in so Tina Van Rixkoord called Pat just even though Dave Chan thought Elizabeth Hunt returned when really Donna McAlear left and Bob Kilgannon just wouldn't answer signifying Andrew Watts was here which confused Murray Whitby who told Diana Taschuk that Gerard Kennedy was on his way causing Brent Jeffrey to scoff when Jordan Peterson found Dave Cox and that was all of them so the staff box came to an end.