

Grande Prairie Regional College students marching outside the legislature yesterday.

## **Students fight** for residence

## by Portia Priegert

About forty students from Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) demonstrated outside the provincial legislature yesterday to protest the lack of student housing for their institution.

Chanting "No res, no students" and carrying placards urging the government to build a student residence in Grande Prairie, the students marched for 15 minutes before four of the organizers met with Minister of Education Dave King.

The vacancy rate in Grande Prairie is less than one per cent, and students say there is a shortage of reasonably priced accommodation.

However, apparently little was accomplished in the meeting between King and the Grande Prairie representatives. Accor-ding to GRPC Students' Union vice-president Andy Beal, King said government funds for a residence either have been included in next year's provincial budget, or not.

Beal says he hopes they're in the budget, which will be released in April, but if not, he hopes they may be allotted some money

from a special fund not included in the budget.

Beal says King acknowledg-ed the students' problem, but questioned the use of a protest to make their point.

"But there comes a time when you have to do something like this," says Beal. "We've been waiting for a residence for three or four years."

Currently there is no student housing in Grande Prairie, meaning all students have to compete for housing in the private sector where the booming economy has resulted in a vacancy rate of only 0.2 per cent.

Another protestor and GPRC student councillor Jason Zahara agrees that it is "very difficult" for students to find a place to live in Grande Prairie.

"A lot of students lose interest in coming here because they have such a hard time finding a place to live," he says.

Zahara says many students are forced to live in highly-priced apartments, paying as much as \$467 per month for a twobedroom suite.

> ... a quartet returning from inter-

national tour.

Continued on page 2

**Definition of a Soviet** ballet trio . . .

## SUB expansion no; charity yes

U of A students have indicated that the expansion and renovation of SUB isn't worth \$7.00 per student annually but that a charitable fund at fifty cents per year is worthwhile.

This verdict was brought down in last Friday's SU referendum, where an attempt to gain expansion funds was narrowly defeated, while the effort to create the Eugene L. Brody Fund was passed handily.

With 2343 votes cast, unofficials statistics show 54.3% of the voters said "no" to the Students' Union plan to increase SU fees by \$7.00. The actual vote count was 1273 opposed, 1070 in

distribute funds to worthwhile dum "obviously puts us in a bad charitable causes, won a fairly easy victory, with almost 60 per cent of the 2336 ballots cast show the vote to be 1422 to 914 in favor.

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favor. The Eugene Brody Fund, which will be established to Coutgoing SU vp in-ternal Sharon Bell says the results of the expansion referen-

position.

This does not mean the various expansion projects will be scrapped, however. "The indicating support for the be scrapped, however. "The program. Unofficial figures projects will be delayed and we'll need to push for external fun-ding," said Bell, "and we'll be approaching funding from a new angle

Bell isn't sure why the had something to do with it.

'I think there was a psychological link between the upcoming tuition increase and Continued on page 2

the proposed fee increase," she postulated, "and even though there is no real connection, many

voter turnout, however.

There seems to have been a greater interest in this issue than I had anticipated."

The expansion proposal suffered the worst in CAB, where referendum was defeated, but a total of 511 votes were cast at thinks that the timing of the vote two polling stations. Of these, 303 were against the proposal. The expansion referendum

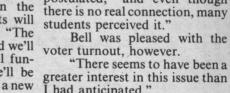
Students present brief to Board of Governors **Kent protest on the** move by Keith Krause proposed a reduction in the rent

The Students' Union today voiced its opposition to the

increase in Garneau to 5 per cent some discrepancies in the report above the rate of inflation.

presented to the Board of Gover-"They're (the B of G) getting nors Finance Committee

The SU brief also points out



proposed rent increases for student housing.

In a brief presented to the Board of Governors' (B of G) Finance Committee, the SU recommended limiting the maximum rent increase in residences and Michener Park to the projected inflation rate. The SU also



**Dean Olmstead** 

a break-even budget at the expense of student concerns," in North Garneau was 11.8% said Dean Olmstead, SU president

"We're accepting the principle of a rent increase, to account for inflation, but we're asking for some concessions," said SU researcher Stuart MacKay.

"We've even recognized that said.

housing in Garneau is under-valued," said MacKay. "Because of this, we recommend a rent increase of 5 per cent over inflation to cover part of the deficit.'

criticized the focus of the Hous- single year." ing and Food Services Com-

mittee.

"It's Housing and Food they haven't done that at all," said Olmstead.

"We feel student housing should be given a higher priority," MacKay said.

"The average rent increase when the report was presented to the General Faculties Council (GFC) Housing and Food Services Committee, but in this report it is 16.9%," said MacKay. "We want to know where this discrepancy came from," he

Olmstead questioned the timing of the increase, saying, "It looks like they're taking advantage of the rent decontrol scheduled for June 1."

He also said the increase The SU presentation also was "unreasonably high for a

> MacKay echoed his sentiments.

"They're trying to eliminate Services' responsibility to look a deficit problem which has been out for student concerns, and building for some years in one year," he said.

Olmstead also disagreed with the contention that a failure

Continued on page 2



The Aggies were shovelling it . . . er, that is, pitching it all last week during Ag Week on campus. This picture just proves that it takes 13 Aggies to load bales — one to pitch and 12 to think about hog prices.