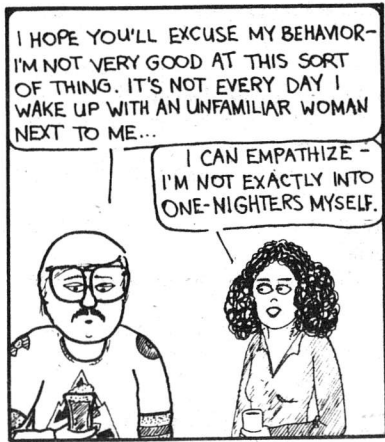




photo Bill Inglee

Just a reminder it's still winter. Bill Matheson (ITV) says the early spring is almost over.

**Baz** by Skeet



## Good lobbying costs good money FAS inflation hits

by Mike Walker

Someone else besides the university, the government and the Students' Union wants your money: the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) is after a fee increase too.

On February 6, U of A students will decide in a referendum to be held in conjunction with the Students' Union elections if they want to pay FAS \$3.50 per year instead of the current \$1.50 per year.

Does FAS deserve this money? Will students get a return on their additional investment?

FAS representatives say students and Students' Unions across the province want much more from FAS now than they did in 1975 when it was founded.

"The main purpose for forming FAS was to get statutory student representation on the Student Finance Board," says Kris Farkas, U of A Students' Union vice-president external. "This year we finally got that."

Now, though, "a lot of the conferences are demanding more research on a lot more things," she says. Student loan ceilings and

eligibility, rent decontrol, tuition fees and the government's tuition fee indexing proposal are all subjects far beyond the original goals of FAS.

"A report on rent decontrol (and its effects on students) was mandated for the next conference in March, as well as one on high school standards," Farkas says. "These papers won't be done."

Farkas says there just aren't enough staff people and just not enough money and time to do this kind of in depth research needed to lobby the government successfully.

Part of the proceeds from the fee increase are slated to go into improved research, Farkas says.

FAS fieldworker Anne McGrath agrees that increased research is needed: "The kinds of things coming up in education (such as tuition indexing) are going to have serious effects on students," she says.

"Students are going to need a strong voice... a strong body monitoring the things government has in mind.

"It's important to have really solid research to back you up," she says.

"The average student probably won't notice immediate changes," Farkas says. "After all, it took five years for the change to the Student Finance Board, and another year to adjust the loan guidelines.

"People with student loans will probably be affected first by the increased research," she says. Much of it will also eventually be used to apply pressure on the government to increase the level of funding for the universities and colleges.

In addition, Farkas says FAS can already take credit for halting two tuition fee increases. "Maybe we can stop tuition fee indexing (tying fee increases to the consumer price index)," she says.

"For \$3.50 a year, you could save a lot. A 10 percent fee increase is \$60."

But there is more to it than research. Improved communication between students and FAS will improve the job FAS can do for them, says Farkas.

"A lot of students just really don't know about FAS," she says. In addition, students' councils will get more direct representation

continued on page 6

## Strong support for Center

U of A women now have a place of their own.

About 40 women from all faculties turned out yesterday for the first organizational meeting for the U of A women's center, which was established by Students' Council last week.

"The women were really enthusiastic," said SU vp external Kris Farkas, who proposed the idea to Council. "There are a lot of people who had been looking around and decided this was a good place to put their effort."

"It'll be a center for a variety of different groups," Farkas said, including political, support, and educational groups. Some of the women present were concerned that the center would be a haven for political activists, to the exclusion of milder groups. But, said Farkas, all interested women

will be able to use the center's space and support.

Farkas thought the good turnout for the meeting was closely related to the recent furor over Engineering Week.

"I'm sure Engineering Week got women thinking about it," she said. "I think this is something positive that's come out of Engineering Week. It shows people really were concerned about what was going on."

The center doesn't yet have space in SUB since all available space is occupied. But it should be physically established by the summer or fall.

The U of A is the first campus women's center in Alberta. But until this week the U of A was the only university of its size in Canada without such a center.

Men as well as women will be welcome in the center, but women

only will be involved in its operation and decisions. Its

membership will include faculty and staff women as well as students.

The next women's center meeting will be held Sunday,

February 15 at 2 p.m. in room 270A SUB. At that meeting a

steering committee will be set up to direct the development of the center and apply for federal government funding. All interested people are welcome to attend.



photo Ray Giguere

The support was obvious Wednesday for a Womens Center on campus. There's another organizational meeting February 15 in SUB 270A at 2 p.m. Everyone's welcome.

## "We want more" Tough Fight ahead

by Peter Michalshyn

The Association of Academic Staff at the U of A (AASUA) have entered the annual budget fray with a request for a 16 percent salary increase this year.

They join the Non Academic Staff Association (NASA) which is asking for a 20 percent increase in wages.

But the university administration, with whom the staffs bargain annually, is only asking the government for a 15 percent operating grant increase.

University v.p. Finance and Administration Lorne Leitch says the administration never expected more than a 15 percent increase.

"We're expecting some reasonably tough negotiations," Leitch says.

But both the AASUA and NASA are going to be tough; they say their salaries are well behind those of the City of Edmonton and the provincial government, and they think it's time to start catching up.

Last year AASUA settled for an eight percent increase, and NASA settled for 8.6 percent; provincial employees got a 14

percent increase last year.

"University salaries in Alberta are not keeping pace with the Alberta economy," says AASUA president Dr. V.G. Gourishankar.

And the university is virtually the only segment in the public sector that followed the provincial government's guidelines during the past year, he says.

"The result has been that we have not only failed to maintain our purchasing power, but our settlements have been lower than those for other groups including those groups paid directly by the government," Gourishankar says.

George Walker of NASA earlier said that it would be hypocritical for the government to expect the university to stick to wage guidelines the government itself doesn't follow.

He said NASA's major concern was the role of the provincial government, which grants about 80 percent of the university's operating budget, and thus may restrict bargaining from the outset.

The average salary for non academic staff at the U of A is about \$18,353; for academic staff, salaries for lecturers start at \$16,637.

## bouquets and brickbats

by Deacon Greese

"I don't stay out late, nowhere to go/ I'm home about eight, just me and the radio."

Am't misbehavin' to the nth degree? Is your social life lacking jazz. Quit whining; mine's so bad I have to write this stuff.

Best Time to Go Jogging at the Ice Arena: Wednesday about 3:30. (For youse guys in vocational faculties like engineering, that's pm, in the afternoon like). Loud music and talented figure skaters to watch.

Worst Time to Go Jogging Over There: During the Golden Bear games. People keep throwing stuff at me. I don't know why.

Best Substitute for a Cold Shower: Sit in on a first year med anatomy class.

CONTEST: The Gateway will present the coveted George Orwell Newspeak trophy to the first person to submit a definition of the word newspaper so broad that it can encompass the Edmonton Sun. The winner will be required to submit to drug tests; i.e. no dramamine!

"I'm just mild about Harry/ and Harry's mild about me." Are you laid back, mellow, ready to take life as it comes, too young to commit yourself to an uncertain future? You're shit, buddy. Who says Briks and Bouqs doesn't offer constructive criticism?