

Monique

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The provincial policies represent, Begin said, an "erosion" of medicare that must be arrested. This theme was picked up on by all the speakers as they presented similar speeches to the forum.

Sally Hall, a representative of the Edmonton Chapter of the CAC, said her organization speaks on behalf of consumers against "policies that will lead to the breakdown of medicare."

Hospital Minister Dave Russell's policies are, in effect, a "tax on the sick" and are "prohibiting access to good health care," Hall said.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council recommended the creation of provincial health care councils to monitor health care expenditures and that sanctions be imposed on provinces for extra-billing and user-fees.

Spokesperson Nancy Kotasi said the proposed health care council would result in the "non-profit public administration of health care" and would ensure "national minimum standards" of medicare.

Kotani pledged her organization's support of the federal government and its policies, saying "Madame Minister you are not alone in your commitment."

The provinces attacks on medicare are "morally and ethically reprehensible" and an "attack on the sick" said a United Church spokesman.

The spokesman said there was a "theological justification" for concerns about medicare. The Alberta government's policies have brought a "spirit of affliction and distress upon the sick."

Speaking for the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA), Heather Smith called the current erosion of medicare "politically motivated." User-fees, she charged, were on "exploitation of the sick."

As for opposing views on the federal government's policies on the principle of medicare, there were none.

It was a medicare "love-in." Forum moderator Paul Otke said that the Alberta Medical Association had been invited, but had declined to show up. The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce was also scheduled to appear, but failed to do so.

As a result, the forum was hardly controversial. Madame Begin and the local groups served notice to the provincial government that medicare must not be tampered with.



The amazing invisible DIE Board at work. The Board is furiously deliberating the future of the Canadian Federation of Students. The referendum to join CFS was held over three weeks ago on October 21 and DIE Board has yet to reach a decision on whether the results will be overturned. The verdict should be issued on Wednesday.

photo Angela Wheelock

Planning needs more "coherence"

by Ken Lenz

The University of Alberta has adopted a new long-range planning strategy to give "coherence to the planning that goes on throughout the institution."

"The premise on which it is based," according to VP Academic George Baldwin, "is that we want to determine the discrepancies between the role we as a University have and the resources we get from the provincial government."

Planning strategy in the past has not taken into account the "new reality of severe financial restraint."

Says Baldwin, "... it would seem only practical that our internal planning strategy be predicated upon the preservation of quality without material increases. That is the major premise of the planning strategy for the eighties."

"...what we are really looking for is the ability to realign ourselves and renew ourselves, and not always to do it by some kind of external source."

Baldwin sees a possible change in the University's direction through this committee, "...we have always seen the answer in terms of growth. But just because we have always done it that way doesn't mean that is the way we have to continue."

But Baldwin emphasizes, "it is not going to be a budget-driven thing, we're trying to tailor our services to both our particular needs and the needs of the University community."

The strategy which will be phased in by a steering committee consisting of the President, the VP Academic, and the VP Finance and Administration will address such issues as:

- *"The overload of students in the Faculties of Arts and Science."
- *"Quotas"

*"Computer literacy and the potential of electronic technology in education."

*"The needs and claims of new programs"

*"The role of support services"

*"The University's capability in graduate studies and research"

SU President Robert

Greenhill is optimistic about this direction, saying, "right now it looks very promising, it is absolutely essential that the university develop this long-range outlook."

These areas will be studied individually by tactical planning groups reporting to the Steering Committee.

Beer costly

Scarborough (CUP) - Hard times are hitting students where it hurts - in the suds.

The student council at the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus decided recently not to cover a projected \$9000 pub deficit. Instead, the money will be raised by boosting the cost of a beer 15 cents to \$1.50 a bottle.

Student council president Bill Doherty said tough times have meant a sharp drop in the amount of money students spend on beer. "I mean, what does someone say when they go out for a drink? Do they say, 'I'm going to have three beers' or do they say, 'I'm going to spend \$5'?" Doherty asked.

Despite fears the price hike will lead to decreased beer consumption, however, Doherty rejected the idea of a "Happy Hour" for the pub.

Research has potential

by Mark Roppel

"A cure for cancer may not be just around the corner, but there's a lot of really exciting stuff going on," according to Dr. Michael Longenecker of the Immunology Department.

"I wouldn't want to make rash statements but we have had some promising results," says Longenecker.

Behind Longenecker's research is a new technology first used in England at Cambridge University in 1976 which allows scientists to clone single-celled antibodies.

"Cancer cells contain chemical groups not found on normal cells," says Longenecker. Monoclonal antibodies, or "magic bullets" as they are sometimes called, can be manufactured. They seek out these abnormal cells.

Monoclonal antibodies are already being used to diagnose cancer early. As Longenecker points out, "you have the best chance of curing it if you detect it early."

"We've gotten to the stage where we've made many of these antibodies... some have been developed to the stage where we can test them clinically."

There are two kinds of tests being developed in which the monoclonal antibodies can be used.

The first type of test involves making the antibodies radioactive. The antibodies will seek out the cancer cells and make them radioactive - effectively lighting up the tumour so it can be easily detected.

So far, the antibodies have only been used for detection. But the potential for treatment, particularly chemotherapy, is obvious.

The problem with chemotherapy is that the drugs used kill healthy cells as well as cancerous ones. But if the appropriate drug could be attached to the appropriate antibody, the

antibody could seek out the cancer cell and destroy it.

"If a given antibody is good for detection, it should in theory

be good for treatment," says Longenecker.

The second type of test involves taking a blood sample and then using the antibodies to detect cancer cells in the sample. The results "should correlate with the patient's cancer burden," says Longenecker.

Disabled week

The External Affairs Board of the Students' Union and the office of Student Affairs in Athabasca Hall are sponsoring Disabled Students Week from November 14-21.

Several events are scheduled throughout the week including: "Butterflies are Free" with Goldie Hawn will run Tuesday November 15 and "Whose Life is it Anyway?" with Richard Dreyfuss, Wednesday in Tory Lecture B1. Both films start at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, at noon "Impovisation" takes over Fine Arts 2-43. George Rideout, directing a group of student volunteers, will present a series of skits and roleplays. Audience involvement is encouraged.

Professorship formed

A \$500,000 donation from the Firefighters Burn Treatment Society of Edmonton to the University of Alberta Hospitals will be used to establish a professorship dedicated to treatment, teaching and research related to burn injuries.

The endowed professorship will be an academic appointment in the division of plastic surgery, department of surgery, Faculty of Medicine and will be known as the Firefighters Chair in Burns.

The appointee will be responsible for initiating research programs in the general field of the treatment and rehabilitation of burn patients and for supervision of undergraduate and graduate teaching in medicine and other health sciences faculties.

Thursday, Small Change Theatre's mime performance of "Hazard and Darlene in Love" will be shown in Education North 2-115 at 7:30 PM. Dave Mason, a PH.D. student at U of A will speak immediately before the performance.

Display booths featuring a variety of organizations will be set up in HUB on Wednesday, SUB on Thursday, and CAB on Friday from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

The week finishes off Monday, November 21 with a wheelchair basketball game in the Main Gym at 5:00 PM. Come out and cheer members of the Northern Lights in a fast paced game of skill and action.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. All events are free.

