

Editorial

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

GO BEARS GO!

Your Students' Union came to the rescue of the Golden Bears hockey team last Tuesday night.

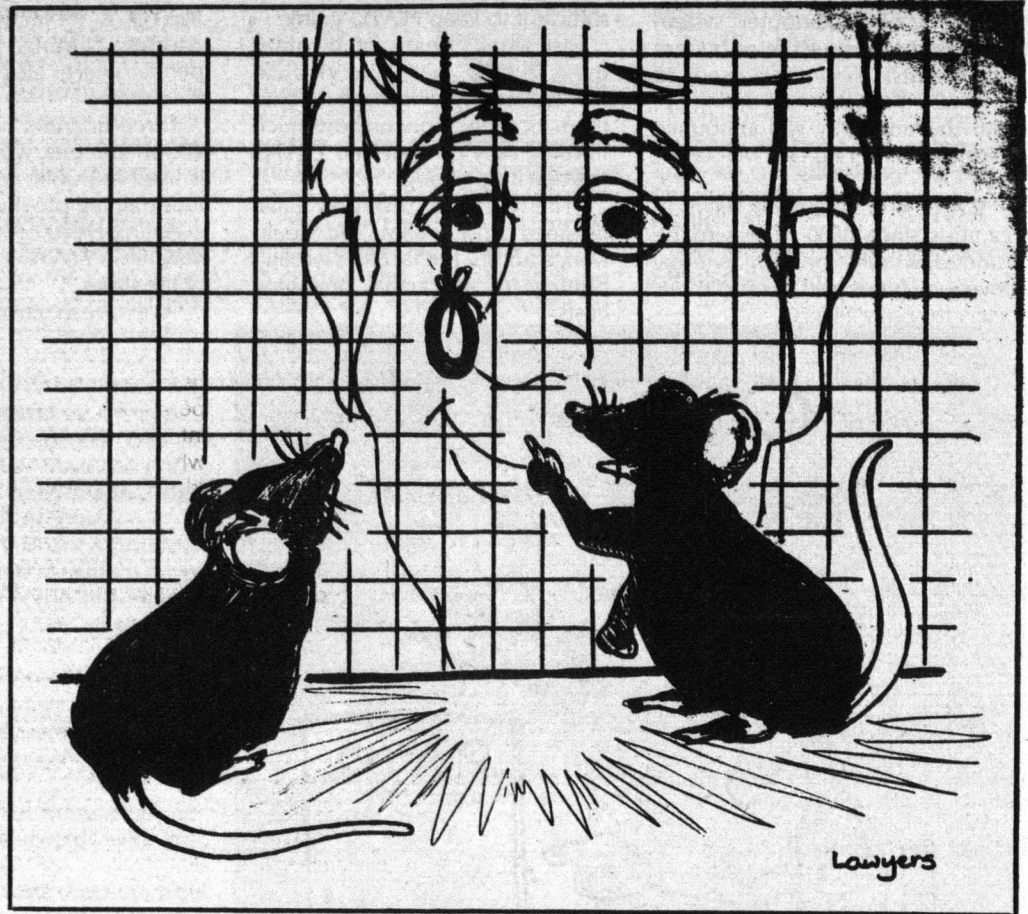
Just when the team members had been told officially that they would not be going to Czechoslovakia to represent their country in the 1987 winter World University Games because of a lack of funds, council members voted 26 to 1 in favour of helping the team finance the trip. Twenty thousand dollars from non-slotted surplus funds will be handed over to help cover the costs of sending the team overseas.

This was a dream come true for many on the team that had seen this as their once-in-a-lifetime chance to play hockey for their country. Although some may see this move as inappropriate at times when there is so much talk about cutbacks, there are benefits to sending the U of A team over as diplomatic representatives. Of course, it probably isn't such a bad political move either.

However, being the nation's champions, the Bears by right should be the team to represent Canada. Because of NHL scheduling, and past Olympic rules concerning pros versus amateurs, Canada continually has had to settle for sending less than our very best players to international hockey tournaments.

Thankfully, this time around, this won't be the case. GO BEARS GO!

Juanita Spears



"HEY ERNIE, WATCH THIS. EVERYTIME I PULL THIS HERE STRING, THIS KID RUNS INTO THE OTHER ROOM AND GETS THE GUY WITH THE LAB COAT."

Letters

Cutbacks...cutbacks...cutbacks...

To the Editor:

I wish to express concern regarding Student Union policy on tuition fees as decided at the emergency meeting of Students' Council on Jan. 20.

Their decision to change from a policy of 0% tuition increases to one advocating an increase of 30% over three years is a serious concern. A motion stating that all applicants who meet the academic requirements of the University of Alberta should have the opportunity of attending this university was also passed. Surely the Students' Council must realize how contradictory their policy has been made!

Tuition increases will certainly exclude potential students who can meet the academic requirements, but not the financial burden of attending the University of Alberta. Accepting tuition increases does not create a good 'bargaining stance' on the part of Students' Council. The Students' Council should be fighting as hard as they can for quality, accessible education at this university.

To begin 'negotiations' by accepting concessions will only weaken their credibility and, ultimately, the ability of the student body they represent to have a voice in the matter of education cutbacks.

Christine DeMarco
Science III

To the Editor:

Re: Student Council meeting, Jan. 29

Is this the bird of student apathy coming home to roost? How can a coterie of bureaucratic chair-warmers and careerists, not a single one of them elected on a platform of increasing our tuition fees, blatantly seek to derail a campaign in which thousands of students have expressed their vital concerns in holding the line against cutbacks and tuition increases?

Why did the SU help to initiate ACT on the basis of a 0 per cent tuition increase (it's standing policy), to use the energy and dedication of its volunteers and supporters — only to sell it out like some kind of bargaining chip (along with the interests of the vast majority of students i.e. the non-wealthy)?

All evening we watched the spectacle of junior-Rambo council-members extolling the virtues of "firmness". No, not the firmness of holding the line against fee increases, but the "backbone" necessary to throw themselves on the ground to lick the boots of the Tory cutback policy.

Fortunately, the fight is not over. We don't think the ACT volunteers exerted all that effort on behalf of students in order to roll over and die on SU command. The struggle continues.

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We're sure that students will be approaching their representatives to hear how they voted. But we should all remember the consequences of indifference to the larger world around this campus: particularly the legislature — whence the stench of another Tory-big-business budget is emanating to choke the air on this side of the river.

Rita Kolpak, Arts III
Andrew Rodomar, Arts IV

To the Editor:

Students' Council decided Tuesday night that all students can afford increased expenses for education. This represents a rather biased view. Have they considered the plight of single parents who simply cannot absorb a further increase in tuition fees? A husband or wife returning to the educational system while attempting to support a family at the same time? Students who have sole responsibility for financing their education without recourse to parental support?

If Students' Council is as representative as they claim to be, they must not reach decisions that totally disregard the positions of the very people they claim to represent. Council must represent all students not just select groups.

Yvonne MacNeill
Arts II

To the Editor:

In these economically difficult times, in order to minimize deficit spending the government can: a) cut back expenditure or; b) increase taxes or c) combination of both.

We as students of the U of A are enrolled in one of the finer educational institutions in Canada. Someone has to pay for this high quality education. Did you know that our present tuition (approx. \$1,000) covers only about 1/10 of the actual total cost of our yearly education? This means that other sources (namely the provincial government) are paying the rest of the costs.

However, there are better solutions than 50 per cent tuition increase, larger classes, and a generally decreased quality of education. If you compare the U of A's student population (second largest in Canada) with that of the total surrounding population, it becomes easier to see the problem: There are simply too many students enrolled. If the University were to cut back on enrollment by 5 per cent rather than allowing it to increase as is expected, perhaps this would be enough to negate the 3 per cent cutback in Provincial funding. If not, a (hopefully) minimal tuition

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increase, or even greater enrollment cutbacks, would be necessary to finance the remainder. In addition, why not cut out student's grants on loans? If students need loans to attend university, then do not deprive them of that privilege, but instead make them pay back the full amount. After graduation, there are no handouts, so maybe an earlier realization of this fact by students would lower the unemployment rate.

If a policy of this type were implemented, quality of education could be maintained, classes might become smaller, tuition increases could be minimized and we would all end up with a more valuable degree. This would mean a higher demand for graduates, and thus less unemployment among them.

I do not believe that we as students can afford a large increase in tuition fees. However, I feel we are obligated to do our part in helping to reduce government spending by accepting a reasonable increase. It seems a small price to pay for the receipt of such a valuable education.

Doug Fulford
Business II

To the Editor:

During Tuesday's student council meeting, questions were raised about the intent of the Anti-Cutbacks Team (A.C.T.) petition to the government. In particular, item #2, calling on the government to "take a public position that tuition fee increases remain as they are presently regardless of future funding", was subject of much discussion.

As Chairperson of A.C.T., I must clarify any misunderstanding. Also, I owe the 2400 people who have signed the petition an explanation.

If you interpret item #2 strictly by the letter, there is a case to be made that A.C.T. is advocating a tuition fee increase. There was a regrettable oversight when the petition was drafted. The *spirit* of the petition is quite different than the letter of it.

There is presently a tuition fee increase guideline which bases the increase in tuition on the increase of the provincial operating grant to the university. Tuition increases (as a percentage) are allowed up to a maximum of 1.5 times the increase (as a percentage) in the previous year's operating grant.

The concerned individuals who drew up the petition were under the impression that in order to set 1987-88 fee increases, the 1987-88 operating grant would be compared to the 1986-87 grant. In light of the recently announced

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The Gateway

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