

Do student loans contribute to campus poverty?

By JUDY SAMOIL

Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose, but if you're asking for a student loan this year it's more likely you lose.

This seems to be the popular opinion of students on the U of A campus.

Ask anyone you know, or someone who happens to be sitting next to you—ask him about his grants and loans or scholarships. It is an effective way of ensuring at least ten minutes' steady conversation though it may consist primarily of bitching.

Students receive assistance from two major sources: The Students Assistance Act of the provincial government, and the Canadian Student Loans Plan of the federal government. The decision on the amount of money available to the student is made by Administrator of Student Awards R. B. Wishart and his assistant. Their recommendation is then sent to the Students' Assistance Board in the provincial legislature, which has the final say.

The board is composed of the administrator of student awards from each of the three Alberta universities and four other members. They have the files and send the notices to the students.

It is to this board that a student may appeal the decision on his loan.

Unfortunately, there seems to be a certain lack of communication between them and the university's office.

One married student had his wife apply for \$2,000 since being a probationary student he thought he was ineligible to apply for himself. The wife didn't receive that amount and was sent a letter indicating the onus of responsibility was on the husband to provide money for university. They appealed this to the S.A.B. where they were told by S.A.B. employee Frebairn that the fact he was enrolled in university made him eligible for assistance.

Grants and loans are awarded on the basis of financial need, academic standing, and according to standard budgets made up by the university and revised every year to agree with the rise in the cost of living. These take into consideration what the student should contribute and what the parents should contribute. Girls are not expected to bring in as much as boys from summer employment.

A student in sci 3 who had applied for \$1,600 heard he was to receive only \$500. He had spent over seven months in Europe, not having attended university last year, and did not have any savings on hand. He claims when he appealed for more money this year he was told that if this wasn't enough maybe he should stay out, since there was no sense wasting that amount of money of him.

Mr. Wishart, he says, asked him why the government should be backing him so he could go to university.

The student said he is wondering what the purpose of these loans is supposed to be.

Parents are expected to contribute to the student's

educational costs. A stipulation by the federal government considers a person independent of his parents four years after post-secondary school. Previously it was only three.

Gerry Befus, arts 3, who has been independent for six years, was told he didn't need to be totally independent from his parents, although they live in the U.S. We went down and saw Mr. Wishart himself, he said, and received an additional \$100.

"I didn't completely understand—there is some kind of inconsistency," said Befus.

There have been two major changes in the academic standings required for grants and scholarships. Until this year students with averages below 5.5 were ineligible to receive grants, now those with 4 are allowed to.

Another change has been in that the university's definition of a full-time student eligible for financial assistance has been reduced from those taking 4/5 of a normal load, to those taking only 3/5.

Interest on the provincial loans is set at 3 1/2%. The loan is interest-free while the student is attending university, but he must begin repayment one year after graduation or withdrawal.

For Canada Student Loans repayment must begin six months after completion of university and at the rate of interest in effect at the time the loan is taken out. The recent increase resulted because banks were not prepared to make loans without a rate increase.

don't take
student loans

The Gateway

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TREASURE VAN IS BACK—and it started Monday and quits Friday in the art gallery of SUB. All funds from sales go to World University Services for overseas work.

—Photos, layout by Dave Shragge

Students protest admissions set-up

Universities, colleges involved

BURNABY (CUP)—Almost 500 students took over the registrar's office at Simon Fraser University Thursday to protest ambiguous admissions criteria at the university.

Students from Simon Fraser, British Columbia and Victoria universities and Selkirk and Vancouver city colleges were involved.

The occupiers set four demands to the SFU administration and B.C. provincial government.

- freedom of transfer and automatic acceptance of credits within the provincial educational system
- an elected admissions board made up in equal part by students and faculty
- more money for education and equitable financing for all post secondary institutions
- the opening of all registrar's files.

The school's Senate undergraduate admissions and advance standing committee met Thursday night and decided simply "these demands aren't in the terms of reference of this committee." This decision was on a par with administration president Ken Strand's reaction earlier when he first said "I think you have a really good issue" and followed with "I reject all four demands".

The occupiers did not spend the night but set up a picket line in the registrar's office to be maintained until Wednesday when the Senate will meet in special session to consider the matter. The Senate meeting was called by student senator Stan Wong.

Strand, meanwhile, called another closed session of the admission committee Friday.

Pied piper-like group called 'Up with People'

Maybe it's a modern pied piper. Maybe it's the embodiment of the American pioneer ideal, or the American answer to China's Red Guards.

Anyway you look at it, it's successful. It has attracted 300 young people to a travelling life of singing, and spreading their philosophy.

They're coming to Edmonton and they call themselves 'Up with People'. They'll be singing in SUB theatre Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and at Jubilee Friday, all at 8:30 p.m.

Become infected with their philosophy and you'll travel the world with other young people, abandoning the traditional concepts of security, jobs and education. These students feel they are getting something better than

a traditional education by traveling and seeing other people of the world.

Some students are taking university courses by correspondence. Most 'Up with People' activities are done as a group. Studying is reserved for certain times of the day, and at other times the students plays games or sports together, or rehearse.

'Up with People' started three years ago in the States, and while most of the members are American, people have joined from other countries, including Canada.

If you feel people are basically the same the world over, like to travel with other students, like to feel you are "linking up your generation" and live for aims bigger than your own, then perhaps this is for you.