

Never be ashamed ...

the Gateway

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1980

... to be yourself.
Anonymous



An ancient ritual to melt the snows? No, but it's close. The cast of the reborn comedy revue Spring Thaw warmed up the audience last night in SUB Theatre.

Writing exam will be given

by Julie Green

Writing competence exams for certain students entering university will be implemented this fall, General Faculties Council (GFC) decided yesterday.

Although the method of selecting students has not been chosen, the testing will be implemented in conjunction with existing faculty programs to ensure that no duplication exists. For example, the Engineering faculty has a standard writing ability test for its first-year students.

A remedial writing program will also be established in the fall to provide remediation for up to 50 per cent of the students tested.

The writing program itself will cost approximately \$150,000 to establish and operate. "The University Priorities Committee (UPC) will be asked to provide special funding for the program," said GFC Chairman, Dr. Myer Horowitz.

A President's committee will be formed to oversee the implementation of testing and remedial programs. The Committee will report its progress to GFC through GFC executive next spring. At that time, a recommendation may be made to expand the writing and testing program if necessary.

Earlier this year, GFC's Writing Competence Committee (WCC) found in a pilot test that 50 per cent of students in their

first year demonstrated a "less than adequate" command of the language. The results of the tests showed that students had serious difficulties with grammar, spelling, idiom and diction.

This pilot test was the first part of GFC's three-phase program to improve reading and writing skills among students entering university.

WCC is now waiting for the go-ahead to enter the second phase — designing programs to improve student performance — said Vice-President (Academic) George Baldwin.

"The point of this proposal (to develop testing and remediation) is that the program — in addition to allowing for consideration of individual faculty standards, identifying particular kinds of pressing need and improving test designs and ad-

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Court OKs differential fees

by Portia Priegert

Alberta universities and the provincial government have the right to levy higher fees for foreign students, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Alberta ruled recently.

The appeal, by the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), charged that differential fees are illegal and contravene Alberta human rights legislation.

However, the Court supported a January 1979 decision that differential fees are not discriminatory.

FAS executive officer Lake Sagaris expressed disappointment at the Supreme Court decision.

"Differential fees don't raise a large amount of revenue for the university, and they do hurt international students," she said.

It's another symptom of how visa students are being blamed for problems in the educational system."

Sagaris said FAS will review the decision and the pertinent legislation before deciding if any further legal action will be taken.

As well, she said FAS will increase its efforts in the political arena, providing more information for students and government about the effects of differential fees.

FAS lawyer Gordon Wright said Mr. Justice Morrow and the two other judges hearing the appeal did not radically alter the original decision.

Wright said it would take a court or judge "less prejudiced in favor of the status quo" to reverse the decision.

And while he said the Supreme Court of Canada might consent to hear the appeal, it's "unlikely" the decision would be overturned.

FAS has not yet decided if it will appeal the decision.

The U of A's 1100 international students now pay \$330 more in fees per year than Canadian students.

Lobby of MLAs underway

by Gordon Turtle

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) is continuing its lobby of individual members of the Alberta Legislature concerning student issues.

Students from all around the province are meeting MLAs from their own ridings in an attempt to voice their concerns of university accessibility, tuition hikes and student aid.

Here in Edmonton, incoming Students' Union (SU) president Nolan Astley met with Rollie Cook, MLA for Edmonton Glengarry, while Darrell Rankin, future vp academic, met with Athabasca MLA Frank Appleby. Both MLAs are Progressive Conservative members.

Astley discussed several issues with Cook, who indicated that some good news for students is forthcoming in the provincial budget, to be released April 2. While Astley says he didn't see eye to eye with Cook on all the issues discussed, he says he suspects that "some good changes are forthcoming in the provincial student aid program."

Rankin voiced similar sentiments following his meeting with Appleby.

"Appleby gave me the

traditional government line on most issues," said Rankin, "but he agreed to investigate a few things concerning the student aid program."

Rankin said although he pointed out the problem high tuition fees present to prospective students, Appleby insisted that anyone in this province who

wants a university education is able to get one.

FAS hopes to have meetings with at least half of the Alberta MLAs during the next week or so.

"We're looking for support in the legislature," said FAS

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Rent proposal tabled

by Lucinda Chodan

Protests by students have resulted in the tabling of a motion to raise rents in university housing units.

Rent increases of between three and 30 per cent were vetoed by the Board of Governors Finance Committee after presentations by tenants' associations and the Students' Union (SU) Tuesday morning.

After due consideration, we sent the whole package back," said Ted Allan, Finance Committee chairman. "The student presentations certainly had an effect."

There was a genuine concern on the part of the Finance Committee that students be treated as fairly as possible, given the constraints of rising costs,"

he said.

Housing and Food Services will revise the recommendations and present them to the Finance Committee April 22.

SU president Dean Olmstead expressed satisfaction with the meeting.

"There will be changes made — it's just a matter of how much."

However, he's cautious about the extent of the changes.

"A number of the people on the (Finance) committee were concerned about the large increases ... but at the same time, a number were concerned about Housing and Food Services' large deficit.

"We'll just have to wait and

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Man arrested for theft

City police have arrested a man in connection with the recent thefts from lockers in the Physical Education Building.

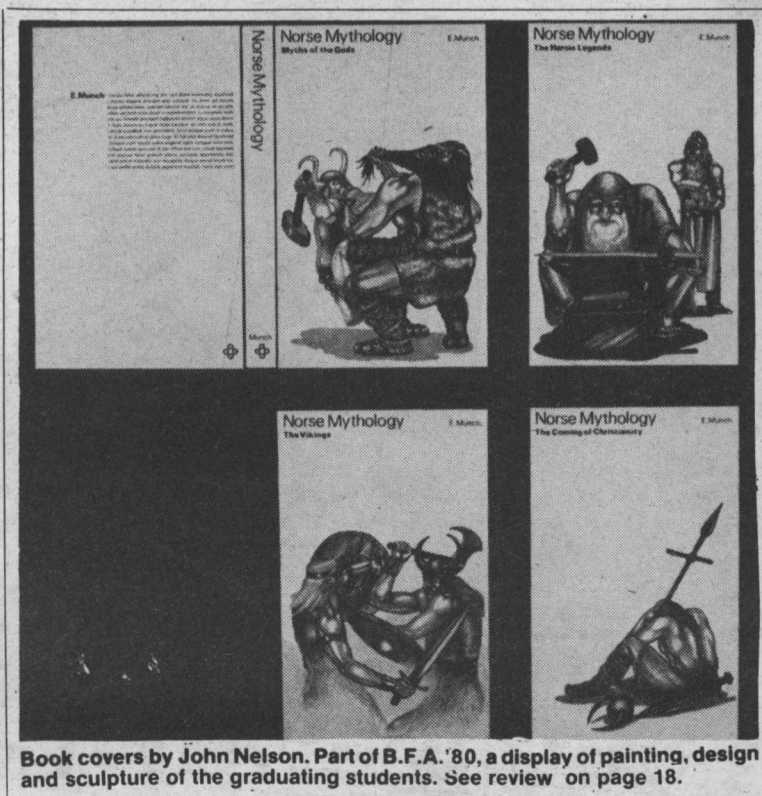
The man, whose name was not released, was apprehended at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday night by Campus Security.

"Some of the users of the building saw a man breaking into lockers," said Ralph Oliver, a security officer with Campus Security.

"He was apprehended and held until we arrived," he said. The man, a non-student, was charged with one count of theft under \$200 and possession of stolen property. An investigation is continuing into the other reported incidents of robbery.

"There have been dozens of incidents this year," said Oliver. "In all cases the person responsible cut the locks off lockers and removed the valuables."

"We're pleased the man was apprehended," he added. "Hopefully the number of incidents of theft can be cut down now."



Book covers by John Nelson. Part of B.F.A. '80, a display of painting, design and sculpture of the graduating students. See review on page 18.