

# SU Soon to be in the black

by Brent Jang

Indications of a Students' Union (SU) recovery have shown up in the 1982-83 audit revealing a \$206,000 paper profit.

After a dismal \$320,000 loss in 1979-80 - the worst ever - the SU shifted into high gear, but the economic climb has turned out to be faster than expected.

The dramatic improvement is a result of new rent revenues, increase in enrolment, and higher fees, said SU business manager Tom Wright.

"We're better off now than I thought we would be," said Wright, who was hired in early 1982, following the dismissal of his predecessor George Ivanisko.

"It was our books that went to the auditors (in 1980) that weren't correct," he said, referring to the near-disastrous situation three years ago. A startling \$157,000 interbudgetary "accounting error" compounded the SU's problems.

The SU still faced an uncertain future going into the summer of 1981, having recorded a \$216,000 loss for 1980-81, but the forward momentum of that year had already taken place. While the figures for 1981-82 showed a \$69,000 loss, the groundwork for financial recovery was reinforced, vastly improving the SU's outlook.

Now, with last year's surplus of \$206,000, the SU's growth appears to be robust enough that Wright and vp Finance Greg McLean expect the organization to be out of the red by April.

"Pessimistically, we'll be \$40,000 in the hole in April, but even taking that view into account, we're doing well. There are definite signs that things will turn around for the better," said McLean, suggesting that the SU

will likely clear its short-term debt to the university.

The biggest change has been in the SU's decision to open up space for rent. The SU charges the university \$85,000 for the extra Bookstore space in the basement and \$67,000 for the old Art Gallery area. The food kiosks add another \$50,000 to rent revenue.

"By next summer, the SU can expect a positive cash flow balance of \$300,000," said Wright.

Wright, who also works as the Gateway advertising manager, points out that Finance Manager Ryan Beebe has impressed the "University Bankers."

"I think Ryan's been very good for us, producing accurate information for the university, something we have lacked in the past," said Wright.

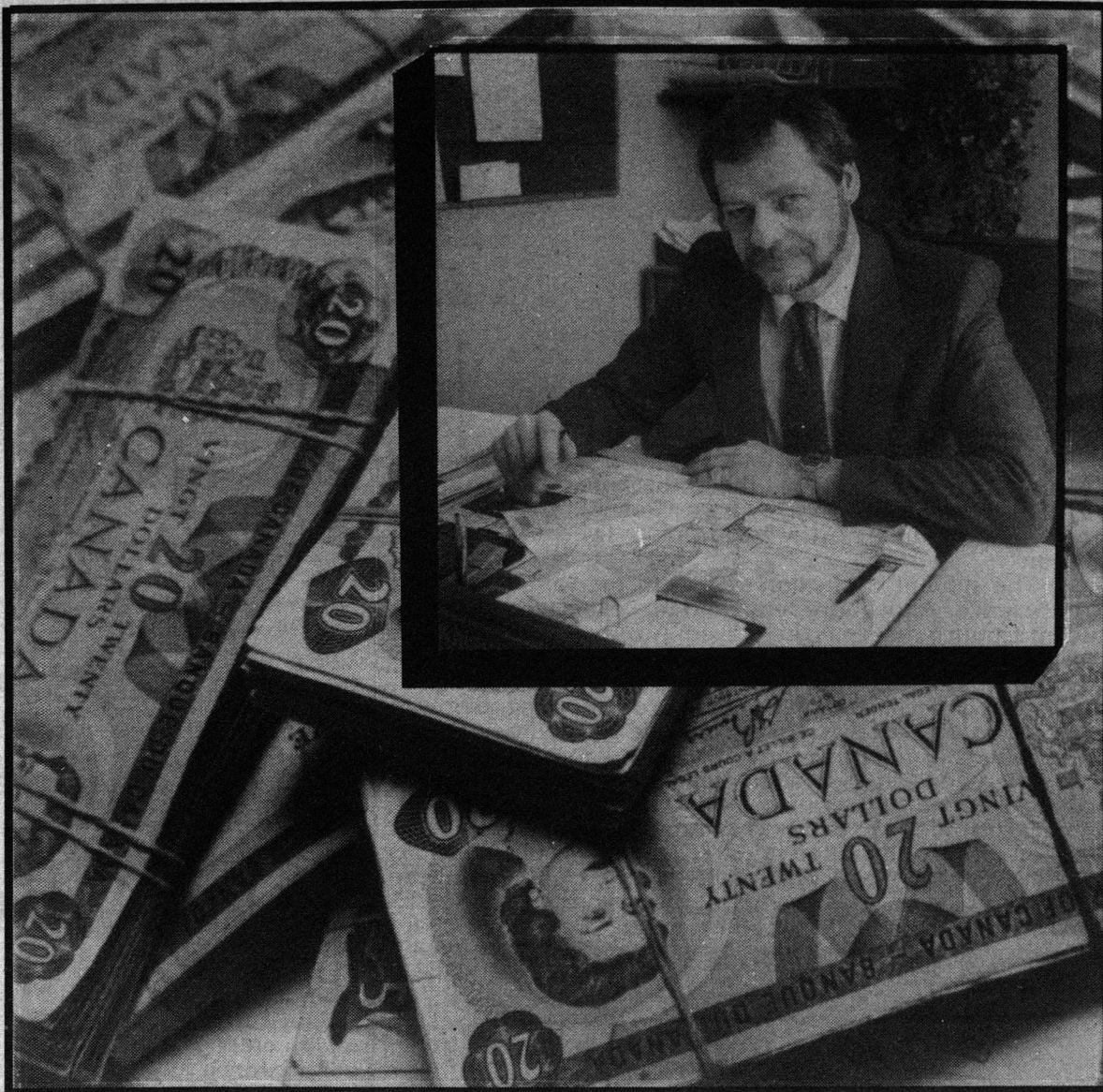
McLean adds that the 1982-83 audit is "more reflective of the true situation due to the accounting principles used this year." He says students should be as demanding as before in asking where their fees go.

The SU fee is \$54.50 this year, up from \$45.00. Students voted \$5.00 of this in the February referendum. The remaining \$4.50 increase was a Consumer Price Index adjustment, requiring no approval from the student body as a whole.

However, the forecast of record enrolments at the U of A this September doesn't mean the SU is overconfident.

The Big Debt of 1980 is remembered only too well by Wright.

"We were close to bankruptcy at that point," he said. "If we continued the way we were, the one million dollar debt (to the university) would have turned into a much larger number than that."



## Video below...

### but no club space!

by Ken Lenz

The basement of the Students' Union Building was renovated last summer.

The Bookstore has been expanded to hopefully lessen the crowded confusion there every year during the first couple weeks of classes.

The Bookstore's 10,000 extra square feet of space will mean an additional \$85,000 per year for our yet indebted SU.

There has also been an amusement centre constructed in the basement, complete with pool

tables, video machines, and the old bowling alley.

One half of the net revenue from the video machines will be forfeited to the Students' Union.

Finally, arrangements are being made for the construction of more club space in the remaining portion of the basement.

Although none of the much needed club spaces have been constructed as of yet, SU Vice President Internal Peter Block states, "We are hoping to have construction completed by January 1984."



## Censor Strikes: pamphlets pulled

by Mark Roppel

The U of A Campus Right to Life Club is upset about the seizure by the Student's Union of some information it was distributing in SUB.

"The issue of abortion is not in question, it is their (the SU's) power of censorship and their disallowance of the free flow of information..." said Jane Hagerty, Vice-president of the club.

On July 29, three students, Don Millar, David Koch, and James Trofimuk complained about pamphlets at the club's information desk in SUB which contained color photographs of aborted fetuses. Acting VP Internal, Greg McLean, replacing Internal VP Peter Block who was away at the time, took the matter to the other executive members who unanimously agreed that the pamphlets should be removed. Since there was no one at the table at the time, McLean removed the pamphlets and put them in a box behind the table.

"The situation required immediate action," said McLean, "they (the pamphlets) were pretty appalling."

But Jane Hagerty says that the action was "subjective, arbitrary, premature... irresponsible censorship."

According to the Student's Union Building Code, "the Student's Union was not intended to be used as a forum for activities or events of a sexist, racist, degrading or otherwise questionable nature." The VP Internal has the power to remove such materials.

"Questionable can mean anything," says Hagerty, "my question is what are they going to find questionable next? We are questioning the bylaws... we did not have an objective forum and a fair hearing."

"I think Don Millar used Council to satisfy his own personal bias."

Millar says "My views on abortion had nothing to do with

the matter. They (Right to Life) have the right to distribute material as long as it doesn't violate the Building Code."

Said Peter Block, "if the executive were acting on a personal bias we could find all their pamphlets offensive."

"You really can't clarify the meaning of offensive (but) so long as I don't do it in secret and I can defend by position... there are few things that get removed, and actions usually arise from complaints."

Block also pointed out when he announced the matter to the Student's Council "all the councillors agreed." Block also said that any student can come to the SU

office, see the picture and mount an appeal if they feel the action was unwarranted."

"I guess their (the SU's) philosophy is keep pictures pretty, no reality allowed, said Hagerty.

Hagerty says that the Right-to-Life club was not even officially notified of the action until they received a letter from McLean dated August 3. But McLean says he left words with the man at the next table and Hagerty must have received the message because she met with him that afternoon. He attributed the delay in sending the letter to the long weekend.

"We're not refuting their (the SU's) power, we just want an apology for how it was handled," said Hagerty.



This photograph was taken from the pamphlet "The American Holocaust". The pamphlet was removed from the Right To Life Table in SUB by order of the SU Executive.