

You know you're really drunk when....

The Gateway

You have to hold onto the floor to keep from falling off.

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Though not your average freshies, these students said they enjoyed their tuition-free university courses last summer. The spring session for senior citizens last year was such a success that the planners felt it should be repeated. Council donated the SUB meditation room once more as a drop in centre for the program. See story page 6.

Press probes gov't policy

by Kevin Gillese

Alberta's Press Council, chaired by past-president of the university Dr. Walter H. Johns, has launched an investigation into the provincial government's lack of communication with the media.

The inquiry was prompted by recent complaints in the press which claim that the premier's press secretary has not aided the flow of government information to the public but has actually restricted it.

These complaints are twinned by vocal protests over the recent decision by Speaker Gerry Amerongen to refuse general access by members of the media to the MLA's lounge in the legislative building.

The probe is a direct result of the general objectives of the Council, says Dr. Johns. "Our two main guidelines are (1) to protect the freedom of the press, by ensuring adequate access for the press to information of public interest, and (2) to protect the public, by ensuring that the press presents that information clearly, along with responsible advertising and editorial content.

"This second responsibility is an ongoing thing," he says, "and most of our continued emphasis is on it. However, because of the number and nature of the complaints about the premier's press secretary and Gerry Amerongen's decision, we felt we had to accept our first responsibility and find out if these complaints were indeed founded in fact."

The move is a precedent for the four year old Council, says Dr. Johns, and likely for the British and Ontario Councils which it emulates, also. The reason for that, Dr. Johns ex-

plains, is because the complaints were not made directly to the Council but were voiced in the press.

"We thought we should look into it," says Dr. Johns, "particularly as there were widely-differing interpretations of the facts. And we could do so, under our own initiative, because of our constitutional authorization."

The constitutional authorization of the Council mandates it to "keep under review developments likely to restrict the supply of information of public information and importance." Executive Secretary and old newspaper hand Ted Horton, will be collecting evidence for the investigation over the next few weeks. He will report his findings to the next meeting of the Council, to be held in Medicine Hat in May.

Dr. Johns says that if the Council finds the complaints do reflect a significant problem, they would try to solve it by talking to the premier's press secretary or, if needs be, the premier himself.

"Of course, we would handle all that in an air of sweet reasonableness. However," he adds, "if we need to attack anybody to solve a problem, then by God we will!"

The Council consists of the Chairman, Executive Secretary, and representatives from five dailies in the province - *Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald*, *Medicine Hat News*, *Grande Prairie Herald-Tribune* and *Red Deer Advocate* - as well as five laymen - one from each of the five cities.

The decision to begin the investigation was arrived at unanimously in a meeting held last week in Calgary.

SUB no go: engineers strike out

A request by Engineering Faculty Dean George Ford to use SUB twice weekly for an engineering class has been rejected.

The class in question is a high-enrollment non-credit course open to the public and, as such, requires a large classroom. Dean Ford argued in a letter to the SU "the many favours (students) get from the university in use of their facilities for your functions far outshadows the use we seek from yours."

In response to previous denials to the same request he charged the Students' Union with maintaining an attitude of "what is yours is mine, but what is mine is my own."

Council turned down the request reviewed at Monday's meeting both on practical terms and as a "matter of principle." VP services Terry Sharon said the shortage of classrooms on campus is a reflection of the provincial government funding and that "it's certainly not the Students' Union's responsibility to provide that kind of space."

He also pointed out that SUB was built to service 12-14,000 people, rather than the 20,000 plus it caters to now.

There was some concern that an undesirable precedent might be set by such use of the facility and it was decided the theatre should be restricted to the uses for which it was designed.

An identical request made last year was accepted by the McGhie administration. The request was for the use of the theatre from 1-2 P.M. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Who gets taken to the cleaners this time?

The Students' Union is appealing a Jan. 20 court decision upholding a HUB resident's appeal regarding alleged overcharging by the SU to clean up an apartment.

Harry Goldberg, SU general manager, said in an interview that if their appeal against the decision is not upheld, the Students' Union will in some cases be able to recover only about half of what it costs to clean some HUB apartments after the residents move out.

The case arose when two ex-tenants of HUB, Greg Noval and David Chapman, were billed \$124.08 which the

Students' Union withheld from their damage deposit.

Goldberg said these were the costs the SU incurred when they were forced to hire outside janitorial work to clean up the apartment after the two had left.

He added that the present court decision would force the Students' Union to charge only what outside work would charge - even though they are often forced to seek outside labor.

This problem could be solved, though said Goldberg, if the university took over HUB, since it has adequate staff capacity to handle the load.

End of an era?

Resigned council turns over key

by Lorean Lennon

For the Students' Union, the HUB debate is over. And now it's up to the university.

Students' Council approved a motion at Monday night's meeting which asks the university to take control of the HUB complex as of April 1.

The motion passed with 18 councillors in favour and only one opposed. The approved proposal will now be advanced to the Board of Governors and, if approved, will be binding.

It was not without a touch of remorse that Council offered up its ownership of HUB. "In the past couple of weeks even I've been having some second thoughts," said Graeme Leadbeater, SU president and chief HUB negotiator. "A lot of previous executives worked long and hard towards HUB's success, but it's come to a question of housing for few or services for many."

Morris Fisher, Men's Athletics President, reiterated

"The financial and human costs involved in merely administering HUB have forsaken its original aims, in fact - reversed them."

The discussion of the motion centred on further justifying the SU's transferral of title.

SU General Manager Harry Goldberg plainly announced that "HUB isn't ever going to turn a profit as it now stands." And in view of the fact that a reassessment of mortgage rates due within the next 2 years will probably cost an extra \$100,000 - not to mention the immediate changes required - Goldberg felt "no hesitation" in offering HUB. "We'd then be able to redirect our resources back into student services," he said.

Brian Mason, executive v.p. brought up the Students' Union political responsibility. "Our role in housing is not to provide it, but to represent student concerns in their particular housing situations. The SU is a

lousy landlord anyway," he added.

"HUB housing is presently competitive in price but not in terms of services provided." V.p. finance Gene Borys told council that increasing rents too much too often will jeopardize full occupancy if the current housing situation improves. That will further complicate financial burdens.

Also, the university would easily be able to integrate HUB into its existing Housing and Food Services division. "With their depth of resources," Leadbeater claimed, "the students on the mall would probably be better served."

Detailed in the proposal is a HUB Policy Board consisting of University representatives and the HUB Tenants Association. A presentation by student-at-large Don Jorgensen, a Lister Hall resident, questioned the virtue of allowing the "last vestige of student refuge" to fall into the university's hands.

"This will give Housing and Food Services a virtual monopoly on student residences." Based on Lister Hall's relationships with that body Jorgensen felt that the HUB situation could worsen. "They have shown little cooperation with the people at Lister; why should they (H. & F.S.) be any different with HUB?"

In reply to Jorgensen's queries nursing rep Karin Martin pointed out that as a Michener Park resident of two years, she has been fully satisfied with H. & F.S. management policies. It was also argued that the problems at Lister stem largely from the food services aspect of the operation and would be inapplicable to HUB. The structure of HUB's tenant association (like Michener Park) was also thought to be superior to that of Lister Hall.

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