

# Forum

## Students get screwed

Students are being screwed. By whom? On the surface, you could point to the university as the culprit, but we know that is not entirely true. The provincial government is to blame for our ever increasing economic woes.

In the past, the provincial Tories have been more than neglectful when it came to the economic future of Alberta. When they had the chance to diversify the Alberta economy and create some stability for the province, they were too busy basking in the glow of temporary good fortune.

While the government was depending on Alberta's future to be pumped from the oil fields, a very ugly deficit was creeping up on them. With the oil 'bust' has come harsh reality and panic.

Now what we have is the Getty government over-compensating for the shoddy management of its predecessor, and trying to eliminate the deficit by the next election.

But university funding has only been cut by 3%, how bad can that be? Very bad. The 3% is only from the operating monies. Thirty-six per cent has been cut from the capital funding, bringing total cuts to 6%. When inflation is taken into account, the complete added burden on Alberta universities becomes 12%. Universities now have 12% less revenue and are expected to maintain the current quality of education.

The university has had a number of options: layoffs, budget cuts, and fee increases. It would be foolish to think these are not already being implemented, and it is a shame.

The University of Alberta is the third largest employer in Edmonton — last year it injected \$440 million into the Edmonton economy. Layoffs and budget cuts can only have adverse affects.

But the Getty government can't see this, and is responding to the mismanagement of the former leadership with continued mismanagement.

Sherry Ritchie

### The Gateway

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## Letters...

### Eulogy for Gumby

To the Editor:

The men of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity, would like to regretfully announce the death of a loyal and active brother and friend. Gumby left the ranks of the living on Tues. Mar. 17th, under highly suspect circumstances. He was last seen peacefully resting in Fiji house when it is believed he was forcefully abducted. We know Gumby would have put up a strong fight, yet he was eventually overpowered by the ruthless horde of evildoers and dragged, probably under the influence of a powerful chemical, to the high level bridge. It was there that he came to his tragic end. Police are currently preparing a re-enactment for an upcoming crimestoppers episode and are mounting a massive manhunt, and already have 9 suspects. These suspects, and you know who you are, all had an opportunity to perform this unfortunate act, however, we have yet to discover any motive for the crime. Gumby will long be remembered as a heroic and giving 20 ft. hip green guy. He will be missed by his best friend, and life long companion Pokey and by Fijis everywhere. Any individual wishing to pay their respects may still do so on the high level bridge where his limp lifeless form can still be seen sprawled on his icy grave.

The men of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji's)

### U of A ignores part-timers' needs

To the Editor:

When the university is determining fees and cutbacks, it is interesting that the policy is to compare all students equally. However, when part-time students demand services and courses, they are supposed to accept and understand the pre-determined philosophy that the full-time, traditional students are the REAL students, and that their programs and services and courses must be preserved at all costs.

While the U of A is considering imposing not only a 10 per cent tuition increase, but also a 30 dollar "library and computer services" fee, to benefit the students they continue to ignore the needs of part-time students. The university refuses to use their funds to eliminate all or some of the barriers to part-time study:

- limited accessibility to degree programs;
- limited core or prerequisite courses in the evening;
- rotation of courses causing delays in degree completion;
- residency requirements;
- non-availability of professional studies;
- non-availability of labs, or lab services;
- not being able to meet with faculty or counsellors;
- limited child care;
- limited access to regular and reserve library services;
- inflexibility of students time vis-a-vis the inflexibility of university time.

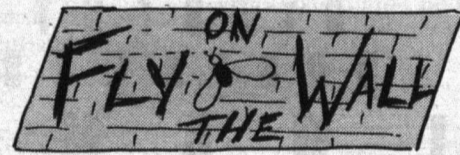
As well, they seem to ignore the financial situation of part-time students. At present the federal government's

**Note: Letters may now be dropped off in HUB at the S.U. Info booth.**

loan program for part-time students allows no remission on loans and also the loans must be repaid one month after receipt. The working part-time student must also contend with increased school and personal income taxes and not being allowed to deduct the \$50 a month education allowance.

It is important that university administrators and the Student Union recognize the fact that part-time students represent over one-third of all students taking credit courses at Canadian universities and that their numbers continue to increase. It's time the U of A also realized that full-time students will be forced to seek part-time work in order to finance their academic endeavors. Part-time students are concerned that as their numbers increase, they will experience a decrease in part-time programming in order to accommodate a system of education that may no longer respond to or fulfill the educational needs of Canadian society. Part-time students could be "tomorrow's majority" on Canadian university campuses. However, part-time students will continue to be treated as a "minority" if a fair and equitable system is not developed to meet the needs of all students, regardless of their course load.

Gail Macintyre  
 AB. Rep for the Canadian Organization of  
 Part-time University Students



I was watching two students the other day who were studying the paper that was spread out on the table in front of them on the 14th floor in Tory. It was not a piece of graph paper detailing a recent business trend; nor was it a segment of a program they had to memorize for a computer science class. Rather, it was Tuesday's edition of the *Edmonton Journal*. Every N.H.L. player's statistics are recorded in Tuesday's edition and because the play-offs are near, play-off pools are near.

One of the students kept shaking his head and tugging at his hair with his left hand. His right hand held the pen that he was using to circle the team or the player that he was interested in. He was pulling his hair because the play-offs are often very difficult to predict and if one is wrong, one does not stand much of a chance of winning. The other student seemed to be more confident. At least, he was not pulling his hair or tapping his pen on the table in hopeless despair like the first student had begun to do.

A third student approached and asked them what were they doing and they told him. Then he asked them about finals. The first student shrugged his shoulders and the other one said Montreal in six. They should do just fine on their exams.

J. Dylan

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 400 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Anonymity is allowed at the discretion of the Editor. Submission deadlines for Tuesday and Thursday issues are noon the preceding day. Submit letters to room 282 SUB. Letters do not necessarily reflect the view of The Gateway.