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SU forms committee

Private sector not settled

by Renee Boileau

A motion to solicit funding from the private sector was discussed at a recent Students' Union Council Meeting, with the result that a committee will be formed to obtain more information on the possible repercussions of passing this motion. As SU President Greenhill has stated, many Student Council members feel that if this motion is accepted, the University may lose its autonomy and fall prey to private industry's notion of what constitutes a good education. According to Greenhill it isn't clear even to the Student Council how this could happen, though some apparently feel that donations may be made with the reservation that a given change be made in a program to suit the wishes of the donor.

Dr. W. Allen, assistant v.p. finance and administration, indicates this isn't going to be the

case.

According to Dr. Allen, 90 percent of the University's \$200 million operating budget this year is being footed by the provincial government. About eight percent of funding is from tuition fees, leaving only two percent accounted for by private grants and donations. Allen says that if any source of funding could change the academic direction of this institution, it would be the government, not private industry. However, he says the University has an obligation to continue a given program until the students enrolled in it have finished the level they require.

It has been proposed that the Student Union help ease the University's financial burden by looking towards more funding from private donors such as individuals, associations, foundations, other institutions, and private industry.

Allen explains the system of making donations to the U of A by subdividing it into three basic methods. The form best known by students is the scholarship. These are accepted with very few limitations; some are yearly, some are a lump sum endowment, the income from which is used to support the scholarship. Most scholarships are restricted to a student in a particular field, but they are not limited to one or two departments.

Another form of donation is a 'gift in kind', such as books willed to the university libraries, papers left to the archives, computers and other equipment for finance and enrollment, or for use as teaching aids. The largest donation of this type in the history of the University was the recent \$1.93 million land donation from Sandy A. Mactaggart, the income from which is matched by a provincial government grant. The Mactaggart Fund will be used in the humanities and social sciences to appoint Fellows "to develop further their research skills while maintaining a commitment to teaching" (as stated in a report issued from the Office of Community Relations on June 7).

The most significant endowments are in the form of research grants and research contracts. These supply funds to specific research programs — in the latter case, as defined by the donor. Over \$3 million in contracted research is funded by the government, \$150,000 by associations, foundations, and institutes, with less than \$1 million coming from private industry. Research grants of \$28½ million are given by the government, only \$½ million from business, and \$4¼ million from other groups.

In addition to donations made by private industry (only a small percentage of the U of A's total revenues) safeguards are also written into the University's funding policies. Dr. Allen states that the University is like a large tanker — it will not easily be steered by external currents, only by its crew, and when it does change direction, it will be a very gradual change.

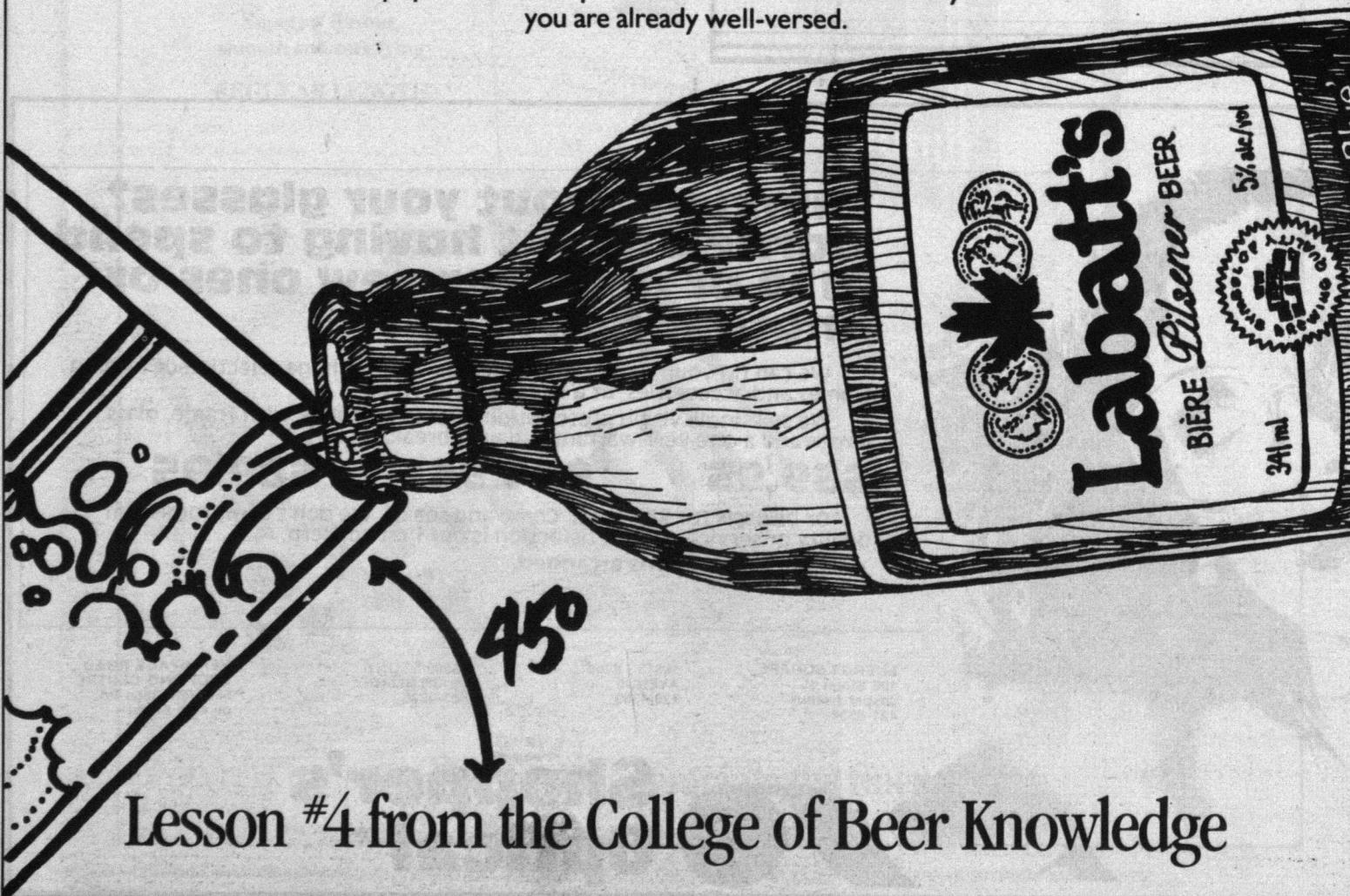
SU president Robert Greenhill, however, feels that the move to form a committee is a necessary one. He says that although there are council members both for and against private funding it would be beneficial to all to have more information on the possible effects private funding could have on the curriculum.

# THE U of BLUE

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## Lesson #4 "The pour"

There are many theories regarding this particular facet of the beer mystique. The one we favour builds a beer head from the bottom. Start by keeping the glass upright and pouring down the middle until a head begins to form. Stop, let the foam build, then tilt the glass to a forty-five degree angle and continue to pour down the side. As the glass fills, bring it back to the upright position leaving a head about two fingers tall. The beer pour is nearly always followed by the ever popular beer "unpour", an exercise in which many of you are already well-versed.



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