

EDITORIAL

Overpaid SU executives

Tuesday night, in one of the most self-serving actions in the history of the Students' Union, the SU Executive members increased their monthly salaries from \$900 to \$1050.

Worse, the pay increase is retroactive to July 1, 1983. All five executive members can look forward to a \$2100 paycheck next month.

The Executive next year will make \$1200 a month, or \$14,400 a year.

Like all good politicians, the members of the SU Executive refuse to take responsibility for their actions.

In a typically expedient move, all the members of the Executive abstained during the vote to increase their pay. (It was so cute to see Robert, Andrew, Peter, Greg, and Barb hold their hands away from the secret voting buttons.)

But by not speaking on the motion, the Executive approved the motion. Any one member of the Executive could have prevented the motion from passage by speaking against it.

Furthermore, all five members of the Executive sit on the Administration Board. A subcommittee of the Administration Board proposed the pay hike.

The raise proves that our Students' Union Executive is completely unprincipled.

VP External Andrew Watts and possibly VP Academic Barb Donaldson are running for executive positions next year. They stand to gain doubly from the increase.

Both VP Internal Peter Block and VP Finance Greg McLean ran on the Therrien Slate. A major part of the Therrien campaign was a promise to take a \$95 a month cut in executive salaries.

So much for integrity.

As for SU President Robert Greenhill, he has a long history of greasing his own palm.

It was Greenhill who moved in February 1982 that Executive salaries be raised from \$550 to \$900. A little more than a month later, he ran for President and won.

And if the Executive's lack of principle isn't enough to outrage students, maybe we should consider what we get for our money.

Greenhill argues that a good salary is necessary to attract "good people." (I guess this implies that the reason we got the executive we have now is because salaries weren't high enough to attract good people).

Of course Robert's argument is nonsense. For \$1200 a month, you don't get people who want to do anything for students; you get people who want a job.

And the "good people" argument does not explain why the Executive increased their own salaries.

Some members of the executive claim to work twelve-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Let's look at what has come of all this dedication over the past seven months.

VP External Andrew Watts has come up with a four page proposal to change the way in which remission on student loans is paid out. The proposal may or may not be implemented.

VP Internal Peter Block has almost established a typing service and almost built new club space in the basement of SUB. Keep up the good work, Peter.

VP Academic Barb Donaldson has devoted most of her energies to the Canadian Federation of Students and to denying that she is running for office again.

VP Finance Greg McLean watched Business Manager Tom Wright pull the Students' Union out of debt.

Nobody is sure exactly what President Greenhill does but he sure sits on a lot of boards.

All in all, it's been a good year for paper-shuffling.

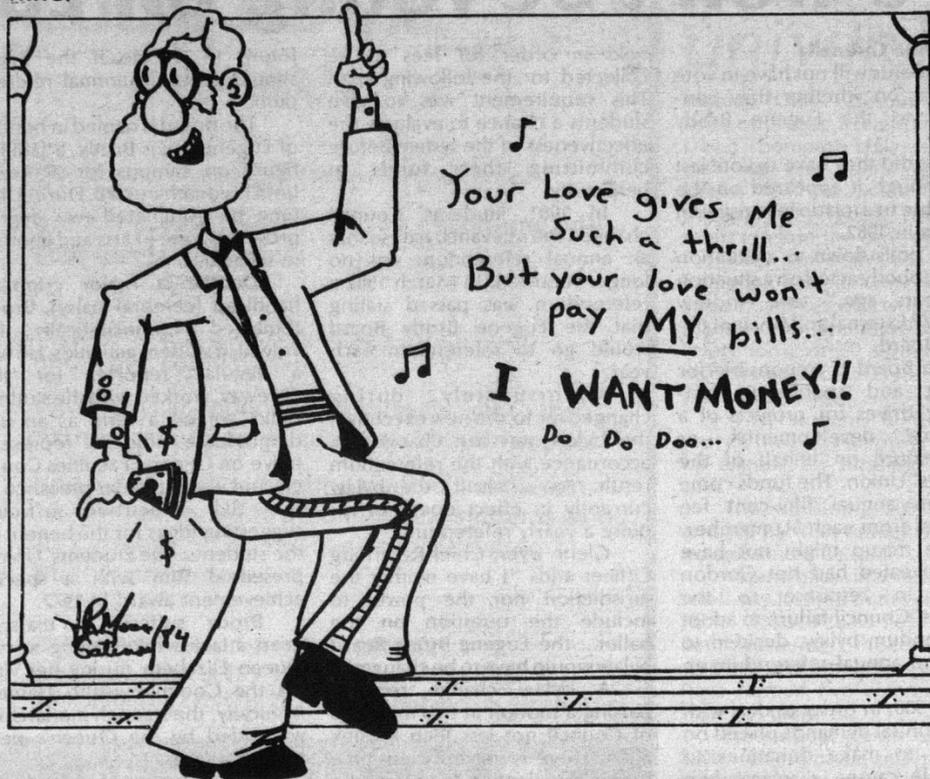
Part of the justification for the increase was that the Executive should have a clothing allowance.

Evidently Robert has to wear three-piece suits to hob-nob with all those government big shots and University administrator types.

Robert also complained that he has no expense account. Poor Robert. He feels that he can best represent the interests of students by buying lunches for government officials and university administrators - what better way to convince the powers-that-be that students are truly destitute?

Mark Roppel

News Item: SU Prez, Robbie Greenhill, and cronies give themselves big fat pay hike.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Engineering Week:
ESS Speaks

Now that Engineering Week is over, the Engineering Students' Society would like to comment on some of the happenings.

Thanks are extended to this year's Gateway staff for covering the proceedings. Engineering students in the past have not respected the Gateway for the lack of coverage of our faculty's events. This year, however, an appropriate amount of space was donated to Engineering Week festivities. There is no event on campus which is larger except Freshman Introduction Week, the latter being comparatively restrained. (A concession to the Aggies, Bar-None is the largest party for one day, as opposed to a week.) These reports are pleasing to see from a publication which has neglected our faculty elections.

The Civil Club won club of the week and a breakdown of events is available from the Engineering Students Society office in Chemical-Mineral 265 for those interested.

Following the festivities is an annual event for some of the other students which can best be compared to a "witch hunt" where Engineers are being attacked for being sexist. It is not sexist to have an imbalance in the faculty. The faculty has no control over the applications received, only the quota allowed to enter.

This year's debate centres around Skit Night and the information in last Thursday's Gateway is incomplete. There is an article which implies the Building Services Board (BSB) is trying to have Skit Night moved off campus. Contact with Sheryl Jackson indicates that she was quoted out of context and the BSB is actually seeking clarification of Students' Union policy regarding events such as Skit Night and the Med Show.

Skit Night is also criticized by other individuals in this article and an editorial. The author of the editorial, Barb Eyles, and this author have something in common, neither of us attended Skit Night. My absence was due to finding the only script I had access to in bad taste. Poor taste is not a reason to

ban something, it is a reason to reserve your patronage. Barb Eyles says her article was mistitled which presented it in a narrower scope than intended. Skit Night was to be a bad example of society's problems. Reportedly, most of Skit Night's humour was phallic in nature, some dealt with sex as a physical act, not as an indication of strong emotional ties between partners and some was sexist, showing women as objects for men's pleasure. The first type of humour has nothing wrong with it, except that it becomes boring quickly and is in bad taste. The second type of humour laughs at human sexuality. Some people may feel that human sexuality is sacred, but the human being is the only creature that controls sex by social custom rather than instinct. Because one does not agree that jokes directed at these social customs are funny, is not a reason to silence them. The final type of humour, the objectification of women, is intolerable and it is up to us as members of our faculty to police ourselves if we wish to continue to use campus facilities.

Examining the editorial in detail some points are objectionable. As an institute of higher learning, we are supposed to embrace progressive ideas. We, as intelligent, responsible human beings should be entitled to waste a few hours attending a performance with little or no socially redeeming qualities as long as we recognize it as such. No one could honestly mistake Skit Night for anything else. Censorship is not necessary for an intelligent audience because they can distinguish what is worthy of being absorbed. Implying that Skit Night leads to sexist attitudes in other facets of our life is absurd. Each person is an individual capable of thinking about each idea presented to her, and dismissing or accepting it.

What is necessary here is direct communication between the parties involved to make sure that all valid points are considered. Relying on the media's or another person's interpretations of our event is not wise. If you have any questions, comments, compliments, complaints or are available to speak for the Engineering Faculty and Engineering Week contact the Engineering Students Society at the above mentioned address. They will happily try to accommodate you. The Medicine Students' opinion is specifically invited because of the similarity between Skit Night and the Med Show.

Finally, thanks to the members of Campus Maintenance and we extend an invitation to any of them to visit any club discipline office to give us a chance to show our gratitude in person.

Carman Taschuk
for ESS

Computer (Electrical) Engineering II

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

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Staff this issue

It's election time at the SU and the Gilbertologists are fielding a slate. Terry Lindberg, Ian Ferguson, Jim Moore, Zane Harker and Tim Kubash are in charge of posters. Wendy Hawkins and Anna Borrowick decide to run against Babs Donaldson, while Michael Grant, Warren Opheim, Mike Walker, Shane Berg, Sarah Hickson, and Ninette (nono) Gironella go around shaking babies and kissing hands. Kent Cochrane, Denise Workun, Dave Koch and Vicky Cuppola leak to the Gateway that Andy Watts has been seen at wife swapping parties with Algard. Jordan Peterson and Donna Spaner don't care.

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