

editorial

Bleah- here we go again...

If you're like me you're probably sick to death of the elections, referendums, etcetera, we've had shoved down our throats ad nauseum since Christmas. However, though this constant voting can be a pain in the neck, it is kind of nice to have any voice at all in the decision making process at U of A.

First let's deal with the UAB's request for another \$7. Although the letters on these pages pretty well present the facts, I feel they paint a rather more gloomy picture of the situation than necessary.

True, if the increase doesn't go through, there will be cutbacks. The first to go will undoubtedly be funding of recreational clubs. These clubs are presently being shuttled back and forth between the Students' Union and the UAB. No one wants to lay claim to them, though all agree they should be maintained by someone.

Next on the list of most expendables is most likely the junior varsity teams who exist on a pittance now. Then we'll see the minor intercollegiate teams dropped, or at best with members paying hard cash for the privilege of playing. As it is, members of many teams presently pay their own travel expenses.

You'll also see the buildings open fewer hours, with a lot less facilities available to the student at large.

You won't see the Big Three, basketball, football and hockey, dropped and you won't see much in the way of cutbacks in the intramural programmes.

Much has been made of the fact that the intercollegiate budget is somewhere around four times as large as the intramural budget. Travel expenses account for most of the differences, and if you're going to have intercollegiate competition, you need to travel.

Fact is, intramurals does not lose money so that the Big Three teams can have more. If there are no funds forthcoming for more intramural equipment, then it's dollars to donuts that the varsity teams are doing without as well.

What voting yes on tomorrow's UAB referendum means is that the intercollegiate programmes can be maintained as they are now. It also means that there will be money in the kitty to expand the intramural programmes as well as to buy much needed equipment. And there will be more money to help support the recreational programmes.

The choice is yours.

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Though I have to be among the first to agree that the Students' Union needs more money, I am also rather dismayed at the audacity of the new Executive who propose a \$2 fee increase and then turn around and accept a salary raise totalling \$6000 for the five of them.

Okay, when you're playing with several hundred thousand dollars, a mere six thou isn't a lot. However, I feel the gesture of refusing that extra \$40 to \$50 a month would do a lot towards ensuring student confidence in the Executive's sincerity.

Joe McGhie, our new SU president, made vague comments last week about seeing how heavy the work load would be before deciding whether or not the raise was warranted. Well, I can tell Joe right now that he's going to work his rear end off and even the \$4200 Council voted him won't be adequate remuneration. But that's not what occupying that office of his should be all about.

We heard a lot about "serving students" during campaign week. This is the McGhie slate's chance to prove they meant it.

I do urge you to vote yes on both referendums. That \$9 total won't do you much good individually, but collectively it will do us all a lot of good.

Allyn Cadogan

Letters

editorial

Fee referendum

On Friday April 5th Students' Union members at the U of A will be asked to support a \$2.00 fee increase in the coming year. Even though it is an unpleasant request, I personally feel that the referendum is necessary. It is necessary at this time, because it will give Students' Council definite instructions from the students regarding the vote they wish their Students' Union to play in our University experience.

As costs have risen, the Students' Union in the last 6 years has been faced with the recurring necessity of reducing services, and with each service that expires, students rightly ask: "What does my \$31 buy me?" In fact, the programs the Student's Union supports are many and varied, and do serve a large number of students. Some benefits are obvious, others affect students in less noticeable ways. I recommend that each of you find out what services your Student's Union provides prior to next Friday's referendum.

After reviewing our financial situation it will become all too clear that if we are to continue to support any student services regardless of which ones, our revenues must increase. Since 1969, our budgets have continually worsened, to the point where we now must respond in a meaningful way.

In the years just past, the Students' Union has made efforts to add revenue to thy organization by establishing student businesses. Room at the Top, Students' Union Records, SUB Theatre, Games facilities in HUB and SUB, as well as now, the acquisition of campus wide xeroxing services, have contributed much greater amounts than an increased fee would. True, these are student monies, but they may well have been spent elsewhere, and, too, a service to students in every case provided. Unfortunately, this expansion in our business organization has the corresponding effect of removing our Union from those it hopes to serve, as more and more of Council's time is spent on business matters.

As a result of the financial constraints which each year increase the Students' Union's difficulties, Students' Council has decided to place before its electors the question of direction and role, which must be answered.

In my opinion we must ask ourselves what we wish our Students' Union to become and whether we are willing to increase the level of our support for it to sustain the activities it now provides.

I sincerely regard any reduction in Students' Union involvement in the University community as very

...or to put it another way

One of the biggest and most legitimate complaints that we hear these days is the rising cost of goods and services. You go to a grocery store, spend \$20 and come out feeling that the weight of the bill of which you have been relieved exceeds that of the groceries that you have in your hands.

There are precious few places where you can get something for nothing but there are some damn fine bargains around if you care to look for them.

One such bargain is the package that is offered by the faculty of physical education, the division of athletics and the intramural department. They offer facilities, top level university sports and programmes that ANY student in attendance at this university can take advantage of.

Since 1967, for the \$8 University Athletic Board fee, students have had access to the facilities of the department of phys ed seven days a week and evenings except for Sundays.

Students have been able to attend all regular season home games, meets and tournaments upon presentation of their student cards. The cost of playoff games, Canada West finals and CIAU championships have been minimal.

There are other services as well. The athletic trainer's clinic, under Ray Kelly and a physiology student (Dan Devlin this year), is open to all students who have injured themselves in some way and want to know what to do about it.

Ray doesn't limit his services to members of the intervarsity teams by any means. It is a safe bet that there are just as many bumps and bruises that he attends to that occur in squash and handball games as the aches and pains presented him by team members.

The facilities we have at present are strained in terms of the number of people using them, but they are still well kept. The ice in the arena is as fast or faster than you'll find anywhere else. Furthermore, it can be rented by interested groups for the sum of \$20 an hour, about \$20 less than you'll pay anywhere else in the city.

The locker rooms are clean as is the phys ed complex itself in spite of the fact that when the new wing was opened in 1969, the maintenance staff was not enlarged in any way due to lack of funds.

To put it a little more concisely, the physical education services have been running on a shoestring budget for the last few years despite the lessening in value of the \$8 that students pay each year.

There is no department or service on this campus or any other campus in Canada that can equal these people in what they are doing. The \$7 fee increase that the UAB is asking is justified by their past record.

There have been alternatives suggested by people who don't have the foggiest notion what goes on over there. For example, Jim Tanner's suggestion that \$50,000 in revenue could come from charging a 50 cent admission to intervarsity events scarcely deserves the dignity of being labelled preposterous.

For the benefits to be derived from the services offered by the UAB, \$15 per year is a small price to pay.

Paul Cadogan

unfortunate, and I urge each student to measure carefully the cost of allowing our Union to wither and fade, against the small individual cost of helping it survive. On Friday, April 5, support your Students' Union, pledge your \$2.00 and P.S. contact Executive members with your questions or comments at 432-4236 or leave a message - we'll call you.

Sincerely yours
Joe McGhie
President

Report

It was with interest that I read George Mantor's annual report. It is unfortunate that he finds it necessary to blame me for the inadequacies in the planning for Part VII of Registration.

The proposal to institute Part VII was made after the format of the Registration

