

A human being :  
an ingenious assembly

# The Gateway

of portable plumbing.  
Christian Morgenstern

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## NASA acts on budget erosion

The Non-Academic Staff Association is taking steps to communicate to the provincial government the erosion of the university budget by inflation.

It is inviting other groups in the university community to take part in drawing up a submission for presentation to the minister of advanced education, Jim Foster.

"Unless something is done, the university is going to take a severe pounding," said Phil Arnold, NASA executive secretary.

Appeals for a change in the government's policy regarding university financing have been made from several individuals at the U of A. This attempt would be the first to co-ordinate these appeals.

Arnold suggested that the provincial government failed to consider the far-reaching effects that spending restrictions would have on the university.

Arnold points out that in the last six months supplies on the average have shown an increase of 25 per cent.

Some of the more dramatic increases are toilet tissue, 68 per cent, cut paper 40 per cent, mild steel 60 per cent and conduit 226 per cent.

The impact of price increases on the current

University budget has not been fully felt since many of them occurred after most supplies for the year were purchased.

The effects on the 1974-75 budget will be more severe, Arnold predicted.

Under such circumstances, lay-offs of NASA staff is inevitable, since supplies and salaries come under the same operating budget.

"Everything else has been cut back," Arnold said. "Some departments are broke in the supplies accounts."

Through attrition about 200 jobs formerly filled by NASA were left vacant last year, leaving the university understaffed in several areas, Arnold said.

This has made it almost impossible to maintain service in several areas. Classrooms, for example are being cleaned every two days, instead of the usual daily service.

Arnold rejected the notion that the NASA is taking action for selfish reasons.

"When you work at the university you have an obligation to the students. We should be providing them with the best service we can offer." "After all, students are my bread and butter," he added.

No date has been set with the Minister as yet.



He's a drugstore truck drivin' man

photos by Douglas Moore

## Alberta suffering information drought

"This government has a long way to go to even catch the other provinces in the provision of information services for its people," says H.E. Newsom, Associate professor of Library Science.

Alberta's per capita rate in the provision of public library services amounted to less than thirty cents during the 1973-74 fiscal year, he says.

"Compare this to Saskatchewan's \$3, Nova Scotia's \$2 and Newfoundland's support of \$2.50.... Of course Alberta is a poor province compared to these."

Newsom is advocating a province-wide library system which would enable citizens to make use of the facilities of any library in the province through the mail, as in Saskatchewan.

"Essentially, the Saskatchewan system ties small libraries into a public library network, which utilizes resources of universities, technical institutes, etc. for the good of the entire province.... Alberta needs a network of library services which will make widest use of the total informational resources of this province's universities and colleges."

He says that Alberta's public libraries need to be grouped into regional systems or have contact through area resource centres with a provincial resource centre.

"In my opinion the Alberta government would be wise to make best use of existing institutions to fill out the network. The extension library of the university with its 60

years of contact with every community in Alberta could develop into a major resource centre," Newsom added.

He said that many American states returned to a mail system of libraries after 40 years of regular service in order to fill the public's needs, adding that such a system in Alberta should be developed.

Alberta has spent millions of dollars in constructing, maintaining and supplying its institutions with good libraries, and Newsom maintains that it is unfair that public funds should be used without the public's being able to make the best possible use of these facilities.

The U of A has extensive materials in periodicals and journals unavailable to the

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The McGhie Executive will ask Council March 25 for a referendum asking students to support a \$2.00 fee increase.

McGhie announced Monday that the date of the referendum, if approved by Council, would be April 5, the last day of classes. He feels that the three week period between now and the referendum will provide students ample time to consider the facets of the issue and gather information before making a decision, something he feels that was lacking in the last referendum.

Members of the Executive will be available to discuss the referendum with students until the balloting date.

The preliminary budget for 74-75, which went before the outgoing council for approval last night, has a \$121,000 deficit. McGhie feels that by September, this deficit can be reduced to \$30,000 through various cutbacks and added revenue.

Complete details of the budget will be in Thursday's *Gateway*, including complete coverage of Monday's meeting.

## Pathetic turnout elects council

A student council to complement next year's Executive was elected Friday along with student representatives to General Faculties Council.

Elected by acclamation to GFC from the faculty of Science were John Griffiths and Eugene Brody, with Graeme Leadbeater and Ted Shandro uncontested

for the council seats.

Surprisingly enough, 209 people turned out to vote for the Arts seats on GFC, up from the usual handful of candidates and their friends. The turnout was an amazing 5.4% up from 3.8% for a recent byelection.

The four representatives for the 74-75 term will be Lawrence Dubois, 134 votes, Jay Herring, 99 votes; Gary Harris, 95 votes; and Vidya Thakur, 77 votes.

Arts representatives on council will be Jim Tanner, who receives 93 votes, and David Allin, with 74. Donald Bell and Jim Tanner will continue their term on GFC, as they were elected earlier in the year.

There were eight Education reps elected to GFC by acclamation: Ronald Billingsley, Karl Gongos, Patty Greth, Allan Haydon, Wayne Madden, Mike Part, Patty Richardson, and Richard Watrich.

## Senate nominations invited

The University of Alberta Senate is inviting the public to submit nominations for membership on the Senate.

The Senate, whose mandate is to act as a liaison between the university and the community-at-large, will be electing five of six new senators at its meeting in May. These senators will sit for a three year term.

Although there are no formal qualifications for senators, Bill Thorsell, executive officer of the Senate, stresses two important criteria for those seeking election to the Senate.

"It is important," says Thorsell, "that senators have a keen interest in university affairs and a keen interest in increasing

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