

Free at last,
free at last...

the Gateway

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1981

...Thank God, we're
free at last

Tuition threat gov't's fault

by Peter Michalyszyn

U of A president Myer Horowitz says he thinks the Alberta government has already decided against a tuition fee increase next year, but he's going to suggest the Board of Governors ask Jim Horsman for one anyway.

Referring to the recent Board committee proposal to recommend a 15 percent tuition increase to the minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, Horowitz says he must consider all the alternatives to insufficient funding, including higher tuition fees.

At this Friday's Board of Governors meeting, members will be asked to approve two recommendations, Horowitz says.

One asks for a tuition increase; the other asks first for a supplemental grant, one that would make up for the anticipated shortfall in the general operating grant: the reason for the tuition fee increase in the first place.

In other words, the proposed tuition increase is one more argument the university is using to emphasize its need for sufficient funding.

"We have very few alternatives... how else can we un-

derline publicly and to the government our problem of underfunding," Horowitz says.

And Horowitz intimates that the tuition fee will not be considered seriously by the government anyway, except as a bargaining tool.

"I am very certain that the minister has been honest in what he has been saying," about his anticipating no tuition increases next year, Horowitz says. "I don't think he's going to pull a fast one."

"I think all the important decisions have been made... they just haven't been communicated," Horowitz says.

But student representatives are unconvinced. Even though he'll admit the tuition proposal may well be a harmless part of the power struggle between the government and the university for adequate funding, SU President Phil Soper says he fears its implications.

"It's not a very pleasing precedent they're setting if this is the way they're going about it... by proposing tuition increases they never intend to get," Soper says.

Instead, the university and the students should be working together as they have at the University of Lethbridge.

But in spite of that, Soper admits the university is in an untenable position. He says the government should have provided operating information by now. It hasn't, and the university has had to complete its final budget without knowing how much

money it has to work with.

"The administration has been made to look like the bad guys because they're the ones asking for a tuition increase," Soper says. "But in fact if the government was adequately funding the university this would

never have happened."

Horowitz agrees: "I regret more than anyone can possibly imagine that we don't have the grant information," that could settle the whole question of where the money for next year is coming from, he says.

Board opening to be filled soon

Mary Anne Gillies has been reappointed to represent U of A undergraduate students on the Board of Governors for the month of April.

She replaces Ken Lawson-Williams, who was elected by acclamation in February to the position, but who has since resigned for academic and personal reasons.

Gillies, the Board rep for all of 1980-81, will sit on the Board for its important April 10 meeting, where the fate of North Garneau and a possible tuition fee increase will be discussed and decided.

The reappointment will only apply for the month of April, after which a new representative will be elected by Students' Council.

Nominations are open now; among the rumored candidates are Chanchal Bhattacharya, former SU vp academic and long-time political hack; Kris Farkas, former SU vp external and sometime FAS executive member; and Tim Marriot, unsuccessful SU vp academic candidate in this year's student elections and executive member of the Arts Students' Association.

SU president Phil Soper says

the Board election could be a real battle, but adds that his old presidential opponent, Bob Kirk, is not at all interested in running.

The election will take place April 28 in the regular Students' Council meeting. The lucky winner will be a voting member on the Board, the U of A's most powerful management and control Board, as well as on the Board of Governors Building Committee, and on General Faculties Council.

However, there is no money in it. Neither is it a voting position at Student's Council, but on the bright side, you get a tiny office and a Board of Governors' parking sticker.

Money lures our profs away

Perennially tight funding from the provincial government combined with extremely competitive markets for professionals is making it difficult for the U of A to hire professors in commerce, engineering, medicine and dentistry.

And the situation won't improve in the foreseeable future, according to vice-president academic George Baldwin.

"It's an extremely difficult, almost insurmountable problem for us in some of the professions," he says. "There are certain areas in commerce where we have large numbers of vacancies."

And, he says, "we've already begun to see trouble in other faculties," in departments such as computing science, economics and geology.

The heart of the problem is that professionals in the right fields can easily make twice as much money in industry as the university can pay them.

The university's major weapon against private firms taking good people the university wants is the attraction of academe, Baldwin says.

But the funding cutbacks can detract from this attraction, he says. "If workloads get to the point where people don't enjoy life any more, then they won't stay. Then we're getting it from both ways."

The university also offers interest-free loans of up to \$25,000 for new profs from elsewhere who have to buy more expensive houses in Edmonton. And it allows generous provisions for consulting and contract work.

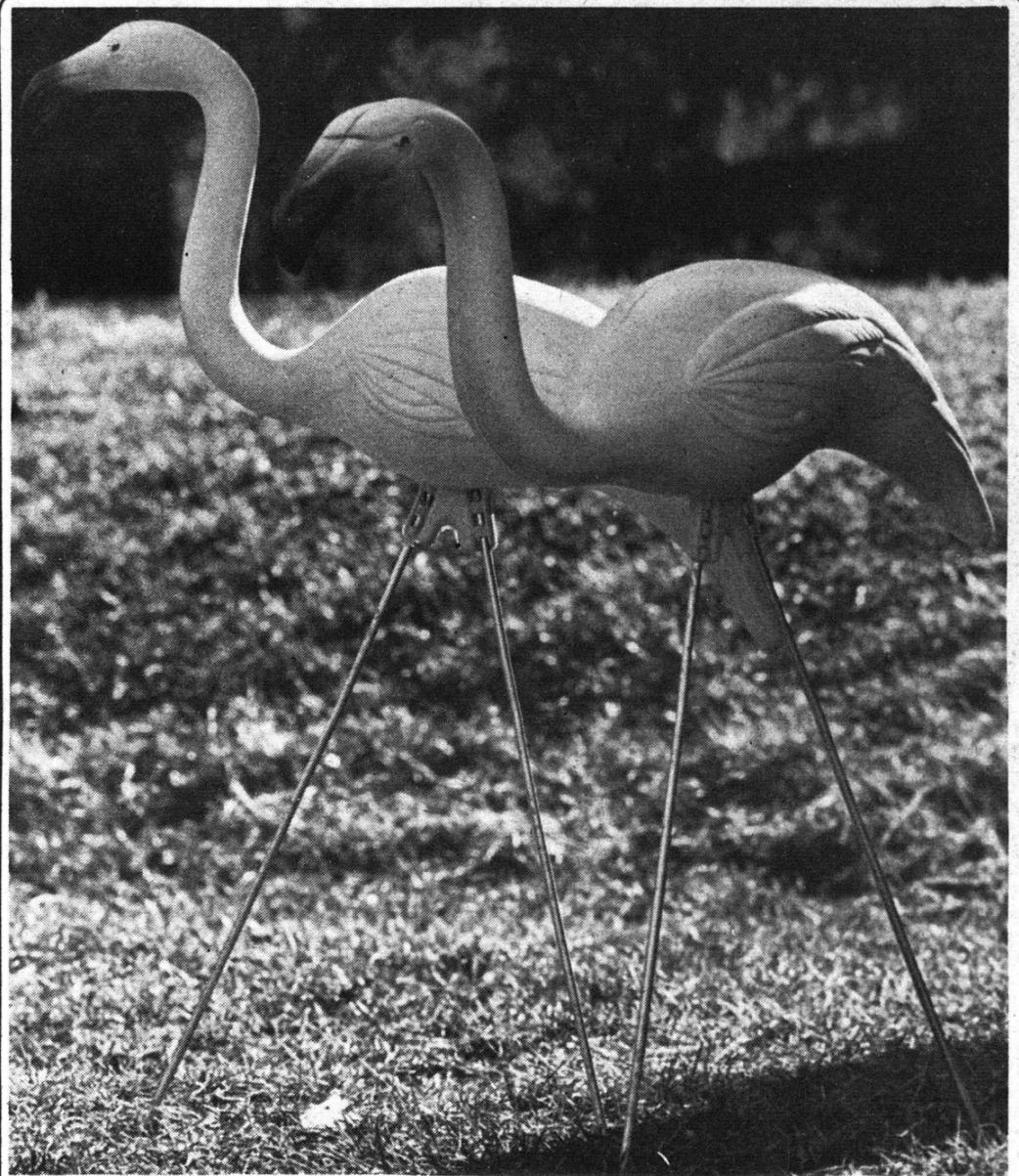
Finally, the university sometimes pays 'market supplements' of up to \$7,000 per year to profs in competitive specialties. These can be discontinued at any time if the going salary drops.

Baldwin says the university must be careful, though, not to let these plums for profs in the professional areas affect the quality of the arts and science

faculties, which he says are imperative to good professional programs.

"We could just paralyse the operations of arts and science if we didn't keep an eye on them," he says. "If arts and science have to pay for (these special considerations), then we're going to bleed to death."

He is not hopeful that there is a solution at all: "I don't have the foggiest notion how it's all going to come out. It reflects an incredible imbalance in our society, and that's not something the university is going to solve."



Flamingoes flap their way off the ground and into your heart at the latest show from the Ring House Gallery. Ann Savage is at the gallery until after this paper finishes publishing.

Photo Ray Giguere

This is it, folks

Yes, the Gateway, 1980/81, is officially over, deceased, finished, kaput. But before you pack the soil firmly over the freshly dug grave (or not so fresh?), consider these morsels of sage advice: first, the Board of Governors meets to impose tuition fees on innocent students this Friday at 9 a.m. in room 3-15 University Hall; second, see our own personalized year end review on pages 18-23 the best of the year; and third, a host of features, including one on the side effects of the pill, page 12.

