

Government won't commit funds

# Asbestos removal is closed down



photo Bill Inglee

After spending over \$2 million of its own money, the university has halted its asbestos removal program. Ron Phillips says he's worried the government won't contribute any funding. But buildings like SUB have been identified as having serious health risks.

by Peter Michalyszyn

Claiming a lack of commitment on funding by the provincial government, the university has stopped its asbestos cleanup program on campus.

"Until we get some assurance from government (on funding), we won't continue the program," says university vice-president Ron Phillips.

Meanwhile, buildings that experts identify as health hazards stand unattended. The Students' Union Building, which Phillips says is a priority, was high on the cleanup schedule. SUB tenants are protesting.

"We think it is the university's responsibility to lobby the government for the tenants," says Students' Union vice-president internal Brian Bechtel.

At a recent meeting with university officials, Bechtel says it was clear the money would come eventually. He says the university isn't doing all it can to ensure funding.

But Phillips says there is "no positive assurance" that funding is available. He says the department of Advanced Education and Manpower requested reports from all

post-secondary institutions on their asbestos problems, after which the government would respond with a funding package. There has not yet been a response.

George Walker of the Non-Academic Staff Association on campus says regardless of funding difficulties, the asbestos must be removed; however, he says funding remains the province's responsibility.

The university has already removed asbestos from Dinwoodie Lounge, the Bearpit, and the Curling Rink in SUB, as well as the Education gym, and most of the Lister and Michener Park residences.

However, Phillips says most university buildings contain asbestos, and the preliminary survey doesn't tell just how serious problems may be.

"As our inventory continues we know there are more and more buildings with asbestos problems," says university projects officer Dan Pretzlaff.

"We know the asbestos is there; we've taken the tests."

Asbestos causes lung cancer and asbestos is a potentially fatal

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Do you ever get the feeling that a quiche ...

## the Gateway

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1981

... is just an effete pizza?

# Kickback for rich, full-time students

by Greg Harris

If you made lots of money during the summer, received a large financial contribution from your parents for education, and plan to complete a full course load, then there is good news for you: you are eligible for the maximum remission on your student loan.

Such is the wisdom of the Student's Finance Board.

Lisa Walter, vp external on Students' Council cites SFB's policies on the age of independence and parental contributions as posing the most problems for this year's legion of loan applicants.

"If your parents don't give you enough, then they (SFB) are not going to give you enough," says Walter.

"It's as though you're being punished for your parents' not giving," she says.

Under the present system, parental contributions are expected if students are not yet independent; SFB defines independence as three years of post-

secondary education, or three years of work experience, or any combination of the two.

Loans and remissions are reduced in size if the parental contributions don't measure up to the Board's standards.

Walter has heard of instances where students have lied on their loan applications by saying that they will receive their full parental contributions when they won't. In this way, students can avoid being financially penalized by SFB.

"Unless you can document your parents' unwillingness or inability to give you financial assistance ... they are going to penalize you," says Walter.

Walter says that the independence question has created additional problems. Students who are not yet independent and whose homes are in Edmonton are not allowed a budget for housing costs.

"As long as students live within commuting distance to the university, they're expected to live at home," she says.

For some students, however, this isn't possible. One bright spot in the student aid system is an improvement in budget guidelines. Student representatives met with SFB last year and successfully brought the budget ceilings up to more realistic standards.

"I am convinced that the reasons for improvement are that they (SFB) did consult with students," says Walter.

But there is no guarantee that wide-ranging student input will continue. Last year's dialogue

between students and SFB was largely the result of public pressure.

A motion is now before council which calls for four changes in the student aid system: (1) The abolition of the remission system with a grant loan mix; (2) The abolition of penalties for students who don't attain the required summer savings; (3) More information for applicants and the public on how the Finance Board works; and (4) Guaranteed student input over and above the two students

appointed to SFB by Jim Horsman.

Council is anxious for student input since next year's loan policies will be determined before the new year.

The provincial government has kept quiet on policy statements pending the release of the national-provincial task force report of the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada on student aid. The report was released this weekend for ministerial evaluation, and should soon be made public.

## Official scoffs at access study

by Jim Stanford of the Gauntlet

An official in Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education seems to have confirmed fears that the provincial government will refuse to sponsor a study into the effect of higher tuition fees on accessibility to post-secondary education.

Reno Bosetti, Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, told representatives of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) last week that such studies were "a lot of bunk" and not necessary for the government to make a decision on tuition fee policy.

FAS and most other student groups in the province, including the U of C Students' Union, have demanded that before the government takes any steps toward raising tuition fees at Alberta's post-secondary institutions, it sponsor a comprehensive study into the effect that such fee increases would have on the ability of students, particularly those from lower and middle-

income backgrounds, to attend.

Bosetti and other government officials (including the former President of the U of C Students' Union, Bruce Ramsay, now a special assistant to Advanced Education Minister Jim Horsman) were meeting with members of the FAS executive to discuss the tuition issue.

Horsman has made a number of suggestions for a long-term tuition fee policy, and has appointed this 'travelling tuition team' to obtain reaction to the proposals from relevant bodies in the province.

Tuition fees are currently set on an ad hoc basis by individual institutions, with ministerial approval.

FAS Executive Mike Walker told the officials that tuition "should be immediately frozen until a comprehensive, independent accessibility study is completed to determine how tuition fees, and fee increases, act as barriers to post-secondary education."

Bosetti suggested that such a study would be a waste of taxpayers' money, and went on to say that "public policy is never made on pure rationality."

(Bosetti's comments came on the heels of statements last year from Horsman himself, who, when questioned about the possibility of an accessibility study, quashed student hopes by terming it "an airy-fairy access thing that would be a waste of taxpayers' money."

Bosetti also seized upon the occasion to deny accusations that the Alberta government has been cutting back on its funding of post-secondary education in the province. This is contrary to claims made in the recently released final report of the federal government's task force on fiscal arrangements, which blamed provincial government cutbacks for the financial crises faced by most Canadian universities and colleges.

Bosetti said that there have

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### Gateway Introduction Night

This is your chance to find out what we do, why we do it, how you can get involved

Free coffee

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 7:30 pm RM. 282 SUB