



Children singing Christmas carols at Northern Lights Festival Parade downtown Friday evening.

Photo Angela Wheelock

Board nixes travel agency

The Board of Governors defeated a motion last Friday that would have established a retail travel agency in the passageway between CAB and Cameron Library.

The motion to provide a campus outlet for Tradewinds Smith Travel Agency, was defeated 11 to 4, mainly because the University could not demonstrate that the proposed agency would actually save students and staff the half million dollars they projected.

Said Board member Gary Davidge, "unless the University comes back with a more positive demonstration that there will be a savings, I will vote against the motion."

Student Union President Robert Greenhill had two additional concerns:

*The opening of a third travel agency on campus would constitute unfair competition with the two existing ones.

*Putting the service in the CAB-Cameron walkway, as proposed, would be an improper use of academic space, needed for lounges.

Lorne Leitch, University VP Finance and Administration, would not comment on the first problem, but he did mention that the walkways on this campus are built wider than required as links between buildings, and that the extra space is intended for university services.

Leitch said that the new Business Building will provide lounge space for 300 students.

CUTS (the Canadian University Travel Service) pointed out that if an agency built on the CAB-Cameron walkway got as much business as the CUTS office, there would be a thoroughfare problem.

Because of this and other concerns, Greenhill has proposed that the present University policy for the use of academic space be reviewed and upgraded.

As for the projected \$500,000 savings, Leitch said, "at no time do we guarantee anything."

The decision to institute a University travel service was based on positive reports from several Ontario Universities about their own services.

Furthermore, Leitch said that if periodic reports from the projected service did not indicate a savings then the contract between the University and the service would be terminated.

According to Brian Silzer, Secretary of the Board of Governors, the University's prime concern was to staff members who do not have much experience with travel agencies.

Silzer, as well, indicates that this decision against the administration indicates that the Board of Governors is not merely a rubber stamp committee for the University administration.

The proposed service was to provide the staff with the assurance that they were actually getting the best value for their travel dollar.

Scrip scrutiny

By Brent Jang

The scrip system is under scrutiny and might be revamped if the Students' Union's Housing and Transport Commission is successful in getting Lister Hall residents to fill out a survey this week.

The survey, which is trying to determine student attitudes about the current tiered set-up, will be presented to the University's Housing and Food Services.

"If I was a student living in residence, I would be concerned about how to deal with restrictions. The Administration has its residents hog-tied into eating at campus outlets," said Housing and Transport Commissioner Paul Alpern.

Scrip replaced the meal card system in 1979-80. It is issued to Lister residents and used like money.

Under the present tiered set-up, residents can buy either \$1626, \$1687, or \$1717 worth of scrip at par value.

This year, 65 per cent of the students living in Lister opted for the lowest level, 20 per cent for the mid-range and 15 per cent for the highest level.

Alpern wants to see a wider spread among the current tiers, since there is only a \$91 difference between the low rung and the high rung.

In his questionnaire, he's proposing discounts: the light-eater plan could be bought at \$1300 for \$1300 scrip; the medium-eater option would be offered at \$1600 for \$1700 worth of scrip; the heavy-eater could buy \$2100 worth of scrip at \$1900.

The medium plan represents a 6.25 per cent discount and the heavy plan represents a 10.5 per cent discount.

Alpern says this would at least provide an incentive for residents to go for the heavy-eater option. He says that under the current system, a Lister resident would be better off going for the light-meal plan, and then buying rest of his scrip at a savings on the so-called black market.

\$10 million to Earth Sciences

Building to be upgraded

by Kent Cochrane

The Alberta Government announced last week that funds will be allocated for renovations to correct the safety problems in the Earth Sciences Building.

A statement was made in the legislature on Nov. 25 by Dick Johnston, the Minister of Advanced Education, in response to a question by NDP leader Grant Notley.

Johnston said, "we are including (in the budget) for this current year an amount to renovate the building."

He did not indicate the extent of the renovations or the amount of money to be spent, and was unavailable for comment when contacted.

Ron Phillips, the vice-president of facilities and services at the U of A, did not have any further information on the government's plans.

"There has been no official communication yet," he said.

Phillips did not expect to hear anything concrete until the next government budget, in April.

According to a study done by the architectural firm of Fairbairn, Brinsmead, and Ziola, there is a "serious and real threat to building occupants," and the current situation requires "immediate action."

It would be very hard to contain a fire, if one broke out, according to the firm.

They estimated a cost between \$10 and \$14 million to bring the building up to current Alberta Building Code standards.

However, they emphasized that this was a very preliminary estimate.

Actual costs will depend on whether or not the building can be vacated, and how quickly work can be completed.

Added to the cost will be

associated renovations, such as the removal of ceilings, which must be done in order to get at the main problems.

There are two major fire safety hazards in the building.

First, there are unprotected service shafts, vertical and horizontal, along which a fire could spread quickly and easily throughout the building.

Second, the current mechanical system would fill the hallways with smoke instead of containing a fire in the room in which it starts.

There are also various other problems, including the exit stairwells.

The stairwell doors are not fire proof, which means that a fire could spread into the stairwells and trap students on upper floors.

Faribain, Brinsmead and Ziola also noted that the cost of replacing the building would be at least double the cost of renovating it.

Professors get into anti-nuclear act

by Neal Watson

Even university professors have a role to play in preventing a nuclear holocaust.

A group of academic leaders on campus is uniting to form an assembly dedicated to "educating the public about the increasing danger of nuclear war."

The group is being organized by Chemistry Department Chairman Robert Crawford and Stuart Woods, the Dean of Graduate Studies. An organizational meeting held on November 25 was jammed to capacity.

Dr. Crawford said that the group received approximately 200 written responses expressing interest.

The assembly intends to pattern their organization after the Toronto based "Science for Peace."

"Science for Peace," which originated on the campus of the University of Toronto, is one of many such organizations across Canada formed to provide a vehicle for the input of academic communities into the nuclear arms debate.

Dr. Crawford says the organization will have a "singular focusing on the attainment of peace through fewer weapons."

The expressed purpose of both "Science for Peace" and the Alberta organization, tentatively titled "University for Peace" is public education.

Dr. Crawford says that considering the scientific training and expertise of the academic community, it is vital that they play a role in heightening public awareness.

This education role could include such activities as scientific research directed toward the achievement of peace and a campaign intended to dispel the public perception that "a nuclear bomb is just another big bomb," says Dr. Crawford.

Crawford says other objectives of the group may include a newsletter and symposiums for "people of significance to exchange views."

The Faculty of Extension may also consider a program for public education.

Although the impetus for the proposed education has come from the scientific community, both Dr. Crawford and Dr. Woods of Graduate Studies stress the need for input from all sectors of society. As Dr. Woods says, the group has a "common interest with all other people interested in disarmament."

The organizer's hope that their movement will give the academic community a tangible and visible presence in Alberta and make a positive contribution towards peace in the world.

Wasted days and...

VICTORIA (CUP) — B.C. teachers can't agree with the government on how to deal with the three days of instruction lost during the solidarity protest.

Jack Heinrich, education minister, wants teachers to make up for lost time.

Larry Kuehn, president of the B.C. Teachers Federation, wants the money saved in wages to go back into the school system to save jobs scheduled to be axed next year. He doesn't want the money spent on three teaching days.

Making up the three days would be an "absolute administrative nightmare," said Mavis DeGirolamo, president of

the Greater Victoria Teachers Association.

"Districts would have to figure out who was in, who was out and when make to make up the time," DeGirolamo said.

Dick Melville, information officer for the Minister of Education, said "The children are guaranteed 188 days of instruction whether Larry Kuehn likes it or not. We have had many calls from parents and taxpayers" who demand this commitment be met.

Melville said Heinrich stands firm on his point that teachers must make up the time. The logistics of implementing this haven't been decided and it will be difficult, said Melville.

