

The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short: letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750. Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

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editorial

The Board of Governors decided Friday that this university doesn't need an ombudsman for students, even though the Executive Committee of the General Faculties Council and GFC itself recommended that the position of ombudsman be incorporated into the current re-organization of the Office of Student Affairs.

The most violent opposition to the ombudsman proposal came, strangely enough, not from the university members of the Board, but from the Board members outside the university community, led by Edmonton lawyer Peter Savaryn. Not only do I find it disagreeable that the people working in the university environment are not allowed to make autonomous decisions about a decision affecting them as much as this one does, I also find the procedures used in the presentation of the proposal unusual to an extreme.

Mr. Savaryn was allowed by Board secretary John Nicol to write rebuttals to the Students' Union submissions before the other Board members had a chance to view the submissions. Then, as if that was not bad enough, when Nicol distributed the materials for the Board meeting he presented the Savaryn rebuttals BEFORE the Students' Union submissions. "There's really no reason that Mr. Savaryn's comments preceded the submissions," Nicol said Wed. "It didn't occur to me that it would make a difference."

Perhaps it didn't make a difference. But it seems to me that if a person reads the rebuttal of a submission before they read the submission itself, they will naturally read the submission with a prejudiced eye. Aside from the fact the rebuttals were included in the Board submission at all (which, Nicol added, was "unusual, but it happens sometimes"), the presentation of the material, the over-ruling of a GFC recommendation, and the outside votes which throttled the ombudsman's position, conspired to destroy a valuable concept which would, I think, have provided a needed service to students.

Savaryn's basic argument against the ombudsman's position was that it would be worthless unless an amendment was made to the Universities Act giving legal powers to the ombudsman. If such is the case, the university should lobby the government to pass such legislation, instead of dropping the position summarily without examining the alternatives. And the university should certainly be allowed to make it's own decisions, in any direction it chooses to take.

Thus far, I've heard little discussion from students on campus concerning the Nov. 9 National Students' Day. It seems students are either not interested in the day, or do not understand what the day is intended to accomplish.

National Student Day is not a day of protest, as some people have tried to indicate, but is intended to be a day for discussion and information dissemination on issues affecting students. Various seminars will be offered on campus Nov. 9 dealing with such issues as housing, unemployment, student aid programs, academic standards, cutbacks in education funding, etc. All of these are intended to be education seminars - not lectures where some canting radical stands before a group of passive observers and delivers the "right line" on issues. Which means that student involvement will make the day a success or a failure.

And although most students are swamped by their books and course materials, surely everyone can take that day - or even a part of that day - to look at issues and formulate some ideas about where our education system is headed and where it should be headed.

We stand at a cross-roads in education development in Canada, right now, where important decisions will be made about the kind and quality of post-secondary education that will be offered to future Canadians. If this is, in fact, a country where we all have some say in political decisions, at least make yours an informed one. Get involved with student issues on National Student Day, November 9.

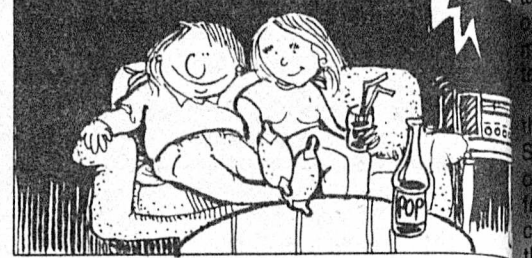
by Kevin Gillese

BUB SLUG by Delaney & Rasmussen

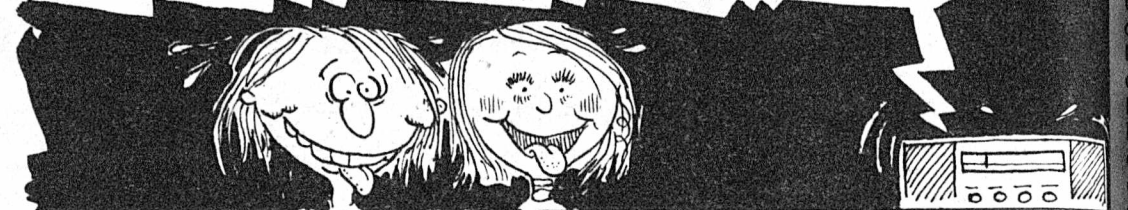
OK OUT THERE PEOPLE, FABULOUS FUNKY DICK IS GONNA DO IT TO YOU WITH A NEW DISK YOU WONT WANNA MISS FROM DRIVIN' DISCO WAY, HEY?...



IT'S GOT THE GROOVES TO MAKE YOU MOVE! THE JIVE TO COME ALIVE!! IT'LL PUT BOOGIE IN YOUR BODY AN' SOUL IN YOUR WHOLE



... THE STUFF TO FEEL TUFF AN' THE FOOD TO FEEL GOOD!! IT'S REAL, SO YOU'LL FEEL ... RIGHT, LIGHT, OUTASITE, AN' FIGHT ON SATURDAY NIGHT! DYNAMITE!!!!!! YES! STRESS YO' MESS AN' STRUT YO' STUFF CUS YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH!!



YOU'LL WANNA SWAGGER ON JAGGER! MAKES DALTRY LOOK PALTRY! SO HAVE PITY ON BAY CITY! HAVE NO FEAR, DEAR, COME NEAR, GET OFF YO' REAR AN' HEAR THE SOULFUL, SENSATIONAL, SEXY, SLUG, BUB SLUG!!!



THEY'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

Gillese's reserves comments

I would like to respond to Dale Janssen's grossly misleading and erroneous letter in the issue of the Gateway (Oct. 20).

In the letter three points are made. As I feel that the student population here at the U of A deserves to be correctly informed, I will deal with each point. In the first instance, it is implied that the budget under which the Students' Union is now operating was drawn up by men. This is not the case. The budget under which we are now bound was made by my predecessor. Similarly, before the end of my term of office I will draw up a budget for the 1977/78 Academic year. Obviously you could hardly expect a person to become the Vice-President Finance and Administration and immediately set a \$2.6 million budget. At the end of the one year term however it is possible to design a realistic, reasonable budget.

The second point made in Mr. Janssen's letter is that a "deficit would be nothing more than a paper transaction." I must confess that I find it hard to believe that a Commerce student could make such a statement! A reserve is a fund set aside for special emergencies.

It's like this: A student works all summer and earns money. If the student puts aside exactly enough money for tuition, books and living expenses what happens in the case of an emergency such as hospitalization or needing dental work? There's no money so the person is in big trouble. By the same token, if a student ever wants to buy a car or house he/she has to put aside a little money each year.

The SU is in the same position. By-Law 700 of the Constitu-

tion states that 3 reserves must be set up each year. These are:

(1) for general operations, i.e. in case not enough revenues come in, we still have enough money to pay staff wages, lighting and utility bills, etc. It costs the Students' Union about \$30,000 a month just to keep operating. It seems unreasonable that we'd better have a minimum of two months (or \$60,000) reserves in case.

(2) for capital expenditures, i.e. tables, chairs, rugs, etc. wear out. If we spend every cent every year on programs how will we recover the chairs in the Students' Union Building (which cost about \$10,000 this year)? Or fix up RATT? Or buy equipment for the Gateway?

(3) for building expansion, i.e. clubs are complaining that there is not enough office space, students say the cafeteria is too crowded, etc. It would be nice to buy back the 4th and 5th floors of the Students' Union Building so students could use it. If we don't put aside some money now, how will we even get a mortgage to buy the space?

To say Mr. Janssen, that "it was decided to save a little" is absurd. If these reserves are not set up I could be impeached from office and our General Manager could be fired. It is my job and my responsibility to set up these funds so that the Students' Union is in a stable financial situation. That is why I discussed with Students' Council reps how we could cut back and save some money in the form of reserves. If I simply established the reserves and appropriated the funds we would be in a severe deficit position therefore my request for restraint.

Finally, Mr. Janssen, you allude to the Students' Union

Gold Medal in such a way that implies that I arranged for it. The question of the Award was not introduced, moved or seconded by me. It was a decision of the Students' Council on Monday, September 20th - a meeting which you were present.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I am pleased to answer any questions on any area of the Students' Union - financial or otherwise - in the hopes that rumors and misinformation do not create confusion and so that students can have a clear picture of how the Students' Union works for them.

Eileen Gillese
 VP Finance & Administration

Buy your copy in SUB

Those well-paid library administrators who made the decision to raise campus xerox prices should try the following typical student experience: stand in line at the S.U. 5¢ copier and wait for up to 1/2 hour before one turn comes around. The perhaps, might bring them down from their bureaucratic clouds.

Doubtless, the time spent waiting could be better spent other ways. The only problem is that most students just don't have that much cash to throw around or free xeroxing services available to staff, and are therefore forced to rely on S.U. single "rebel" copier.

If library administration is really concerned about meeting student needs, it should cease immediately what amounts to an undemocratic system of "forced taxation," and make available numerous university copiers at prices students can afford.

Jan L...