

Somewhere over the rainbow

Slowly but surely the Students' Union at the U of A is crawling back to its feet. At least that seems to be the optimistic consensus of the Business Manager and SU executives.

"We're trying to bring the SU back to the days when it was a viable institution...to the days when they could think about HUB malls and things," says Business Manager George Ivanisko.

Elise Gaudet, vp Finance and Administration, estimates that, "we may be able to reduce the deficit by half a million dollars by March 31," which would leave a \$250,000 debt.

The last month has seen several changes in the operations of the SU. Most notable of them has been the move towards centralization of operations.

Centralization means bringing SU operations under greater control to ensure strict accountability of monies spent.

The SU is trying to combat the unwanted duplication of increasing costs and limited services.

"Duplication costs students a lot of money...we're trying to make sure that students get the services and not the unnecessary costs," says Ivanisko.

Centralization seeks to cultivate a team spirit among SU services instead of the past secularism, he says.

A new budgeting computer program is one device which will keep closer tabs on the expenditures of business operations.

"Before, it (the budgeting system) relied or at least seemed to rely on trust and memory," says Ivanisko.

He says the lax accounting methods of the SU in the past were comparable to a "mom's and dad's bank."

Ivanisko says that management, for the most part, has been very cooperative and recognizes the need for change.

Working assistant managers have also been created in an effort to increase the efficiency of business operations.

While the SU has no formal plans to make cuts in services, SU president Phil Soper says, "we've still got to look at things that lose us money."

Help wanted in the third world

"We will show innovative solutions to common problems," says Larry MacDermott, president of Plenty Canada.

This Friday at 7:30 p.m., Plenty Canada will present a slide and video presentation in the Multi-Media Center of the Education building (located in the North wing).

"It is basically to let people know what is happening," MacDermott explains. "We will show solutions in the third world. Basically make people aware of the problems."

Plenty Canada has a variety of projects underway and has been prominent in the past.

"In Guatemala, we went down there in 1976, just after the earthquake, to help build homes and schools," he says. "We also got into a program of growing beans and vegetables."

"We also introduced a cooperative of farmers. We showed them how to use soya beans in the home, and set up a soya dairy."

The soya dairy is a method to produce soya in different forms to add variety to a diet. Common

products are soya ice cream and tofu.

"The people (in Guatemala) we work with are in the highlands, so it is important to get as much protein as possible," MacDermott explains. Farming soil in the highlands is at a premium, and soya bean is the most nutritionally complete source of vegetable protein.

A 26 kilometre gravity fed water system was built with Plenty Canada's help. This system feeds a number of villages and farms with fresh water.

Plenty Canada also maintains a network of ham radios, and works with the Greenpeace Organization and UNICEF.

"Mother Teresa invited us to build a soya dairy in Haiti, where she maintains her orphanage," he says.

The slide and video show will

show all these activities, and some ongoing activities in Lesotho, South Africa.

"We have projects in Lesotho. We're building training centers using indigenous materials," MacDermott says. "We also are incorporating a solar design."

"We are also building an education building, using again, traditional materials. We are incorporating voltaic cells for lighting."

In Lesotho, the community is geared towards a mining type of life. The men work all day in the mines while the women are left to take care of the family and home.

Plenty Canada has set up vegetable gardens, provides seeds and plots to the community.

Displays will also be set up with the slide and video shows.



Students' Orientation Services requires a

DIRECTOR and ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

responsibilities include:

- program administration
- making budget, financial policy, and fee recommendations to Policy Board
- develop and run promotional campaigns for the program
- all program activities

responsibilities include:

- making recommendations on the recruitment, maintenance, training, and evaluation of leaders to Policy Board.
- making recommendations on seminar content and format to Policy Board
- assisting the Director with general program administration.

These positions demand interested and dedicated individuals. Each position requires the specified responsibilities, as well as sitting as a member of the SORSE Policy Board.

Students' Orientation Services (SORSE) is a large, student-based orientation programme. Successful candidates will be interested, enthusiastic, and have time to contribute to the program. Experience with orientation is a definite asset, but not essential.

The term of office is one year, beginning December 1, 1981. The positions offer full time employment over the summer, and part time salary for the winter months.

Further information may be obtained from the SORSE Office. A letter of application and a detailed resume should be submitted to:

DAWN NOYES, Chairperson
SORSE Selection Committee
Room 278
Students' Union Bldg.
ph. 432-5319

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: November 4, 1981

THE CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

It was during my third drink at the free lunch following the grand opening of the new Ag-Forestry Centre, that I was struck by a sudden flash of illumination. I had been sourly contemplating the load of gibberish that the Hon. E. Peter Lougheed had dumped on the audience during the opening ceremony, and suddenly it dawned on me. Here was the real reason for university cutbacks: government fear of good English.

Isn't it true, after all, that clear, precise thinking, and its concomitant, clear, precise English, is the one thing that is taught in almost every faculty from Home Economics to Medicine? Even in Arts and Law, where the predominant tendency is to obfuscate English, the felicitous expression of ideas makes some headway.

The implication for the Alberta PC government (or virtually any government, for that matter) is clear: if education is funded at the level it should be funded, the populace will become more intelligent and more critical of what they are told, ergo, throttle education as much as possible so the public doesn't wise up to the garbage fed them by the politicians.

In Peter Lougheed's case such a throttling is an urgent necessity, for his English is grotesque and horrendous, even taking into account the low standards common to politics. Take, for instance, this meaningless statement uttered by Lougheed to the Wetaskiwin Chamber of Commerce when he was still opposition leader (a tip of the hat to the Edmonton Journal, who embalmed it in an article January 1970):

"In the turmoils of our rapidly changing society there is a need to reflect on our values and consider the areas in need of attention. Real inequities exist where there is poverty and need and difficulties of communication, and we must consider what can be done to overcome these problems."

Or how about this tortuous string of verbiage by Premier Pete, quoted, presumably as a pearl of wisdom, in a glossy government promo booklet "Alberta North in the '80s" last October:

"I sense we are into a different era in northern Alberta — a different era in time, in not competing for new opportunities, but in managing the opportunities we have as well. I sense also that your test will be: Is it good for the people who are living here now?"

With all due respect to the ringing phrases in the above sentences, both are completely devoid of even the faintest trace of an intelligible idea. They are full of sound and fury and signify nothing.

Lougheed's Ag-Forestry speech was more of the same blather: sonorous platitudes about "challenges" and "opportunities" (two of Lougheed's favorite words it seems), excruciating metaphors like, "The basic research foundation must be supported" (foundations don't need support, Peter, they are by definition the support), bloated phrases like, "The forestry aspect of Alberta life," and condescending motherhood statements (e.g. "We have complete accord that the university continues with its vitality.")

After Agriculture professor McCalla's dignified, pertinent and well-phrased speech (McCalla has read his T.H. Huxley, I'll bet) Lougheed's was an insult to the intelligence, even leaving aside his evasion of McCalla's searching (yet restrained) comments about the grave consequences that follow from underfunding university research.

(The audience, incidentally, took the insult like Albertans: they gave Lougheed a bigger round of applause than McCalla.)

If you are not yet tired of Lougheed's illiteracy, there are some more examples from the Oct. 14 Hansard which just arrived in the office mail. Take this bowler:

"My credit goes to all who were involved."

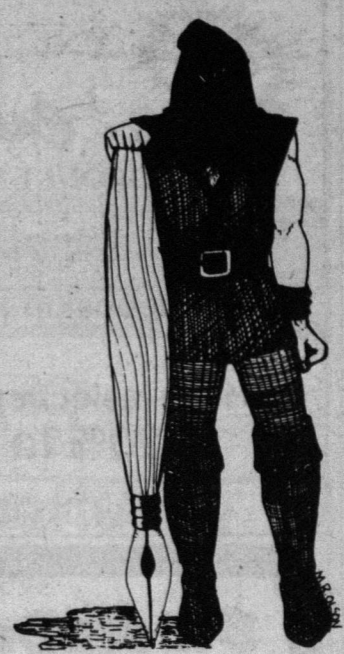
Or: "Those of us in public responsibility."

Or: "That's for a later occasion to respond to."

I conclude with the following run-on sentence/paragraph, which among other things displays Lougheed's curious obsession with the word "thrust" (as in "The home ownership thrust of the government."):

"In my judgement, a second very important event, because of my strong feeling about volunteerism, was referred to by the Member for Edmonton Mill Woods: the awarding of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games to the city of Calgary; important because, as we saw with the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, as we observed to a different degree but with the same thrust in seeing our own Alberta Summer Games in Lethbridge, what we've seen over the same period of time: events of this nature can have a great deal of impact upon a community in a positive way, in resurrecting and assuring that even as communities grow larger and larger, the sense of volunteerism, which has been very much a part of our Alberta way of life, is not lost."

I suggest that the above be used as a short and economical alternative to the U of A's English Competence Exam. Anyone who detects less than ten errors in the quotation flunks.



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