

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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EDITORIAL—Cartoonists—Alan Shute, Janice MacPhail.

STAFF THIS ISSUE—Only a few of the die-hards made an appearance Wednesday night as they eleventh issue made its rise from the ashes. For all you once-upon-a-time staffers who think you have been forsaken come up to the office Friday at 4 p.m. and greet Bev Bayer, Ted Drouin, Ron Yakimchuk, Alex Ingram, Shirley Kirby, The dusty Great White Father, Bob Povaschuk, Frank Horvath and that ever-faithful ever-loyal snake in the grass yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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a poor system

The Universities Commission today is faced with the impossible task of making \$175 million stretch out over demands for \$350 million.

The sum of \$175 million seems like a lot of cash when it is thought of in terms of 27 students' union buildings or 9 biological sciences complexes, but when it is considered as the total amount of money available for capital expenditure on three university campuses, it can only be viewed as pitifully inadequate.

The situation indicates that the current system used by the provincial government is unfair and totally unreasonable.

The capital expenditure estimates should be based on the university needs of the province as a whole and on particular needs of each campus.

An arbitrary allotment of capital seems similar in many ways to a father handing out a fixed allowance to his children.

As the government's "children" grow up, they naturally need more money. But, unlike children, universities cannot just be told one day to go out and make their own money.

We can only hope that somewhere, there are enough former graduates of U of A who have millions of dollars to spare.

what is relevant?

The administration of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology has seen fit to remove the editor of the student newspaper there for academic reasons.

"Excessive" involvement in extra-curricular activities has been a problem at the U of A from time immemorial. It has reached the stage where such people as the students' union president and The Gateway editor are allowed by students' union bylaw to take only one course, if they so desire.

But the problem is by no means restricted to these positions. Last year there were a particularly large number of academic casualties due to extra-curricular activities. Most prominent in this regard is David King, the late vice-president of the students' union. But there were very many others.

It is a mystery exactly why students involve themselves to such a degree. Oddly enough, some people seem to thrive in an over-worked condition and do their best work under circumstances that would drive the rest of us mad.

Others seem to derive more satisfaction from their extra-curricular work, back-breaking though it may

be, than they do from their academic interests. This implies two things, either or both of which may be valid.

Students who live for extra-curricular activities may be emotionally unstable. Some of them seem to lack the ability to project their needs on a long-range basis. They must see some sort of immediate, concrete result of their intense labours. This leads them to relegate their academic side of life to the bottom of their scale of priorities. Extra-curricular activities are seen as in some way making university life "real".

On the other hand, it can be argued that academic life, especially in the non-professional faculties, is in fact unreal.

It is one thing to study human behavior in a psychology class. It is much more interesting to experience human behavior through intense involvement with people in an activity.

On the basis of these two factors, we ask two questions.

Is the university relevant to people?

Are people relevant to the university?



—reprinted from the peak

jim rennie

hail to thee dear sub

When I think about our wonderful new students' union building words fail me.

When any criticism is levelled at this new home of student culture, union officials and assorted SUB stalwarts are astounded and deeply hurt. The idea that someone could consider this magnificent edifice anything less than perfect is incomprehensible to them.

I agree.

The only real problem seems to be one of communication. The building is misunderstood.

Take the outside finish for example. It is definitely not a dirty, drab, blah color. It is simple and functional. It lets the herds of drab, milling students who jam the corridors every day supply the needed color. (The purple and orange paintings also provide color, but their true appreciation and interpretation is best left to our fine arts staff). So you see, it isn't a dull dwelling at all, it just looks that way.

The same point can be made about the furnishings. Those simple, rickety-looking chairs are not really cheap. Nor are they comfortable. This ensures the constant flow of students, and prevents over-use and too rapid depreciation of furniture.

The strategic placing of such chairs by the main thoroughfares of traffic also helps congest the building. This provides students with the welcome opportunity to meet and befriend other trapped students.

The new building also creates an atmosphere of trust.

The lack of keys for the doors makes this unavoidable. But it is a healthy, albeit dangerous, atmosphere to work in.

There is also an attitude of trust created for the soundness of the building itself. This too is necessary,

because there is so little actual proof of permanence of construction.

Loose, shaky handrails on the stairs and leaking ceilings don't do much to inspire confidence in the building. It takes real faith to continue to frequent the halls of SUB after seeing these things.

Similar apparent deficiencies in the building are actually just clever attempts at rustic and old-fashioned finishing. The cracks in the new wooden steps in front of the building best illustrate this feature of SUB.

But the most heartwarming, and perhaps most misunderstood, aspect of the SUB philosophy is the care and consideration taken for the health and well-being of each and every student.

Let the cold winds blow, everyone in SUB will be safe and warm. And I do mean warm.

There is little or no control of heat, but the temperatures usually run around the broil mark. And to make sure no one foolishly wastes all this lovely warmth, air conditioning has been left out. You can't even accidentally open a window and carelessly expose yourself to nasty, germ-filled, freezing fresh air. There are no windows to open.

There are many more marvellous features about SUB that most students don't fully understand or appreciate. There are lights that won't turn off, water fountains that spew forth strange yellow liquids, and an impressively loud and obnoxious public address system. The unforgettable cuisine, the soothing U of A radio music, and the fast, efficient bookstore are only a few more of SUB's highlights.

This building belongs to you dear student, so love it and cherish it. Understand it and it will understand you.

And always remember, SUB is beauty.