

An expert: someone who stayed behind . . .

the Gateway

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. . . when everyone else graduated.



photo Brad Keith

A winter campus scene. The snow drifts higher around the Fine Arts Building.

Two Alberta universities increase tuition fees by 10%

(CUP) — Despite student arguments that fee increases should not be brought down before new student aid policies are set, boards of governors at two Alberta universities have decided on 10 per cent increases in tuition. Students and administrators alike are concerned at what this kind of funding says for fiscal autonomy in the province.

Although the dollar figures of provincial grants to post-secondary institutions have not yet been announced, both the universities of Calgary and Lethbridge have set tuition increases of 10 per cent.

The student aid changes requested by various university and college groups ask for an adequate loan/grant/remission system that's practically available to both full and part time students. A decision on those changes, promised since last September, is now expected "in time" for the 80/81 school year.

Foreign students will pay the largest increase, the U of L notes. In Alberta, foreign students already pay high differential fees. Students on visas are also not eligible for student loans.

Hamish Kerfoot, president of the Federation of Alberta students, challenged the board's autonomy by citing Horsman's announcement of a fee increase last September. The announce-

ment "didn't speak well for the autonomy of this board," Kerfoot said.

The U of C board chairperson assured Kerfoot that the board had no input into Horsman's statement last fall, and that the board was acting on what it thought was best for the university.

"The board is not acting on the action, advice or coercion of the minister," Ross McKimmie said.

Student leader gets free trip to Iran

MONTREAL (CUP) — The president of the McGill Students' Society has been offered a free all-expense paid trip to Iran to participate in the first anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

John MacBain said he received a telegram last week from the preparatory committee of the Iranian Revolutionary Council sending the invitation to him and one other person of his choosing. The celebrations are scheduled for February 4 to 11.

The telegram directed MacBain to contact the nearest Iranian Consulate to arrange the details of the visit. MacBain said he did not want to comment immediately on whether he would accept the invitation but he admitted he would be "bothered about going to a country holding international hostages."

MacBain also said he was checking other universities to see if other student presidents had been invited.

And U of A Students' Union president Dean Olmstead says he has not been contacted by the Iranian Revolutionary Council.

Kerfoot also disagreed with both boards' general acceptance of the inevitability of tuition fee increases.

U of L president John Woods said discussions with Jim Horsman, Advanced Education Minister, lead him to believe the government is planning annual increases in fees.

The increases have yet to gain final approval from the minister.

Student vote may be illegal

by Peter Michalyshyn and Lucinda Chodan

U of A students living away from home may be breaking the law if they vote in Edmonton ridings in the upcoming federal election.

But Students' Union president Dean Olmstead says students should try and register to vote anyway.

It's all very confusing.

And it all hinges on whether students are considered to be independent from their parents.

According to The Federal Elections Act, a student must vote in the polling division in which he *ordinarily resides* — "the place that has always been your home, to which you intend to return when you are away from it."

Moreover, the act specifies that "temporary absence from a place . . . does not cause a loss or change of place of ordinary residence."

However, Edmonton South returning officer Elizabeth Hunter says, "A student who considers himself independent has the right to register himself in Edmonton South."

What is independence? "Being financially independent from your parents," says Hunter. She says if parents pay any part of a student's expenses, he is financially dependent.

In Edmonton South, at least.

Hunter suggested that Chief Justice Sinclair, in charge of voter list revisions in urban Alberta, might be able to help.

But Sinclair had no answers either.

He says he appointed substitute revising officers (SRO) in each of the 144 urban polls in the province. Each SRO is responsible for revising voter lists in his own poll.

Among lowest in Canada

SU raises salaries

by Alison Thomson

Money talks — and Students' Council proved it Tuesday night by voting the Students' Union (SU) executive a \$600 annual raise at a regular Council meeting.

The salary hike, which pushes the executives' salary from \$5,400 to \$6,000 annually, is effective in April for next year's executive.

This is a reasonable amount for someone taking a full year off from his studies, SU president Dean Olmstead pointed out. SU executive salaries are among the lowest in Canada, he said.

Students not supported financially by their parents should be able to afford to take these offices, vp academic Chanchal Bhattacharya added.

Arts representative Alan Fenna moved to amend the figure to ten thousand dollars, to "reflect professional competence", he said. The amendment was defeated.

Council also granted \$4455 to Student Help. External Affairs Board member Robin Kramar outlined four areas of

"They're each responsible for interpreting the law themselves — that's their job," Sinclair says.

"As far as I'm concerned, they're on their own."

He says he is "not in a position to say" whether each SRO might interpret the law differently.

Because this is the first federal election held during the school year since 1965, the Chief Electoral Office in Ottawa has published a Student Voter Guide to help students understand voting regulations.

Even the Voter Guide is unclear about the issue of independence, though.

While it specifies residence requirements, independence is not discussed.

SU president Olmstead isn't satisfied.

He says the residence ruling may cause students who are "out of touch" with candidates and issues in their parents' riding to vote unintelligently.

He plans to send a letter to the federal government after the election to clarify the issue of student voting.

The National Union of Students (NUS) has received a verbal comment from the Chief Electoral Officer that students can use their own discretion in voting in their

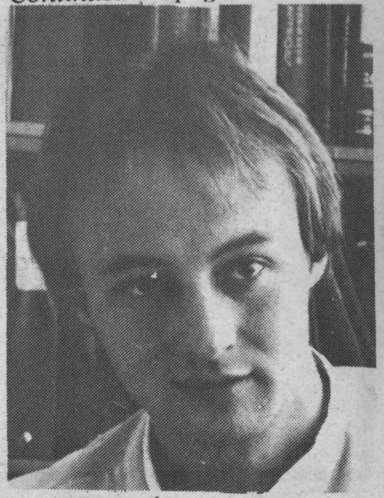
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concern which had been discussed by the board.

He said the board felt Student Help should submit its budget earlier, keep better records and break down the cost of office renovations. The board did not think a parking staff "for emergencies" was a justifiable expense, Kramar said.

Vp external Tema Frank broke down the Student Help budget for council and noted

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Dean Olmstead