

# Forum

## Government says take a hike

Your tuition fees are going up by about \$100.00 starting next September. The Alberta government just set the maximum fee increase at ten per cent. It's going to be tougher to get your student loan next year. And when next year's freshmen finish their university career, they can expect a lot less money in loan remission. The Alberta government is probably chopping \$15 million dollars a year out of the loan remission program.

I would not argue that education should be a sacred cow when it comes to budget time. But, if I may borrow another cliché, education is an investment in our future and, as such, should be handled carefully.

Education is a billion dollar industry in Alberta. So is unemployment insurance and so is welfare. Only one of the three will return something to Alberta, and Alberta's future. But who gets dinged in the pocket book? The people using the education system, of course.

Students voluntarily take themselves out of the work force and they pay their way through school. If they require financial assistance to get through, students are required to pay it back.

The unemployed? Not likely; they only take from the system, without providing hope that in the future they will help replenish what they have taken. It's not the fault of the unemployed — the system is askew.

If the government is going to give away money, it should be doing so for people who will have some hope of making the province's future brighter.

The unemployed should be receiving remission on their loans and students should be getting a cheque in the mail every month.

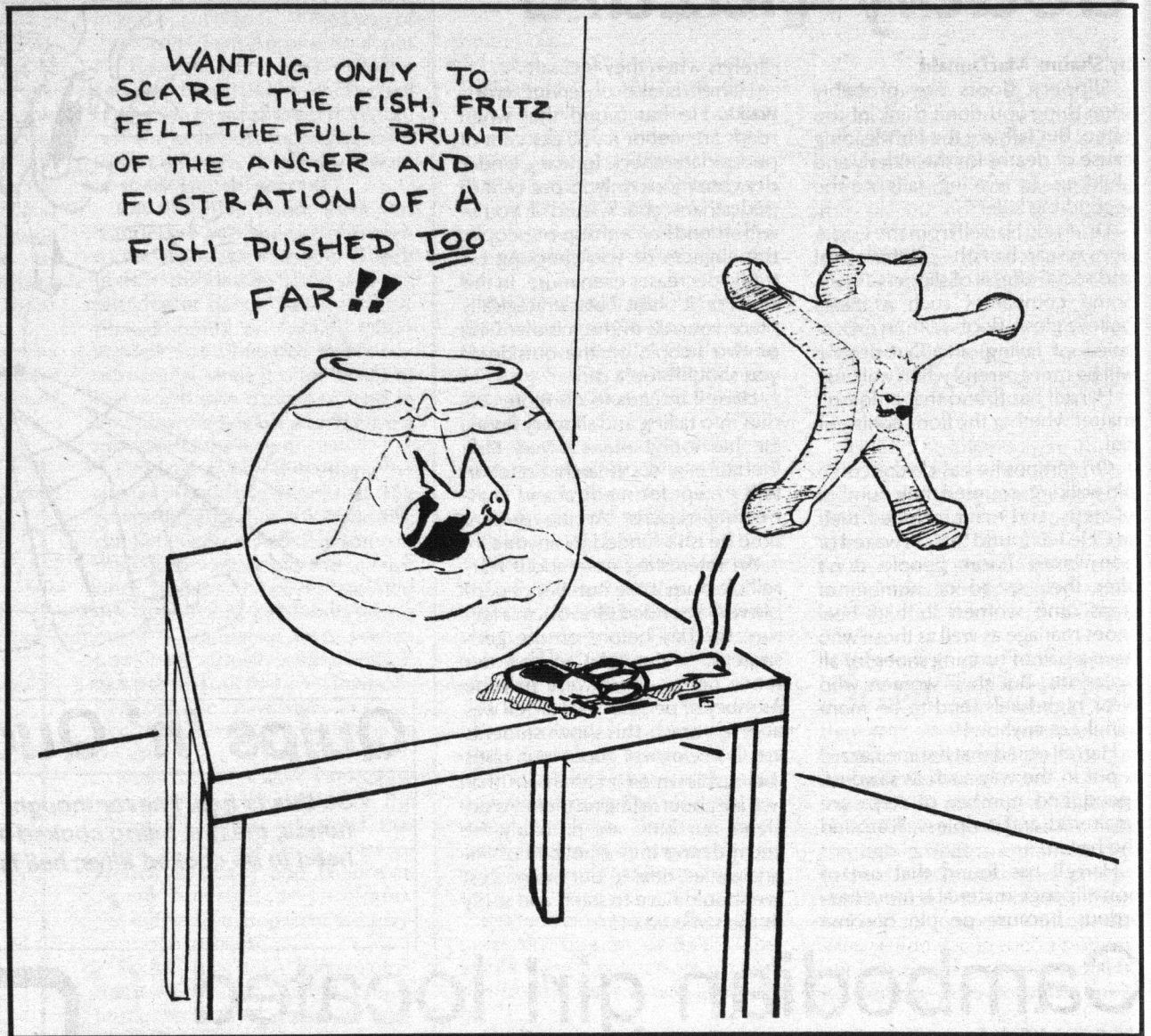
John Watson

## The Gateway

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## Your Letters...

### Faculte St. Jean bristling in self-defense

To the Editor:

It is with no small amount of pleasure that I find myself writing this note addressed to Mr. Arthur Bobke with the intent of enlightening him about what the Faculte St. Jean is and what it stands for.

The Faculte St. Jean is one of only two faculties west of Winnipeg whose administration, faculty, and student body have French as their language of communication. The function of the faculte to the U of A seems little more than a political ingredient needed for the title of 'bilingual university'. But the faculte has a much, much more vital role, and that is to the community itself.

Collectively, the staff and students of the Faculte St. Jean have a responsible mandate in the preservation of what remains of the francophone culture in Alberta. Though this goal is difficult at the best of times, without the Faculte it would be nearly impossible. The need for the faculte can also be seen, given the growing demand for French teachers (by this I mean teachers who can teach math, science and so on in French) throughout the province. If one doubts the great demand for the quality of graduates from the Faculte St. Jean simply talk to any student from the Faculty of Education.

One thing that you have apparently not learned as yet in your three years at the U of A Mr. Bobke, is that competent is based on knowledge. To this end I suggest that you do yourself a favour and research your ideas before going public, use the system to learn.

Let me conclude by saying that I, for one, do not mind paying an increase in my tuition if it means maintaining the quality of education that I now receive at the Faculte St. Jean.

Scott Royce

To the Editor:

Re: Arthur R. Bobke's letter "Faculte For Sale"

After having read your letter in *The Gateway* of January 27, 1987, the Faculte Saint-Jean was stunned to learn that there are still people that are not yet familiar with our faculty. What ARE we doing here anyway? Let us take this opportunity to respond to your question.

Out of 441 full-time students, our enrollment is up by 21.5%. This is the highest increase of students in all faculties

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for the school year 1986-87. Why do students continue to pour into our Faculte? What services do we offer that make us so special? Why is there such a demand for the Faculte?

To begin with, we offer four separate programs: B.A. (general); B.A. (special); B.Ed.; B.Sc. (general).

Perhaps these programs themselves are not entirely unique, but the fact that they are all offered in French makes our faculty unique in all of Western Canada.

As well as being academically inclined, we are also extremely active socially and culturally. On January 17, the Faculte Saint-Jean collaborated with the Faculty of Nursing to provide a very enjoyable evening at Dinwoodie Lounge with "The Regular Guys". Every Friday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. we have open "Bistros" to get a head start on our weekends!! We participate in numerous sports on "main campus" (golf, softball, volleyball, hockey, etc.) and we even have our own special student newspaper and radio, en francais of course. ("La Presse Active" and "La Radio Active".)

To conclude this letter, we would just like to take a moment to openly invite everyone to the "Fac" (located at 8406-91 St.) to find out exactly just what we ARE doing here.

La Faculte Saint-Jean

To the Editor:

I feel that Mr. Bobke has made some very interesting points in his letter January 27, 1987. His final comment about the Faculte St. Jean is definitely the most interesting. Perhaps we *should* sell the Faculte. It has recently been getting some bad press in the French newspapers of Alberta and it appears to be falling apart, not only as a building but an institution. Lister Hall has been "tossing around" the idea of destroying the old residence building at the faculty for a few years now. Perhaps we should continue on our never-ending quest for progress and newness by destroying some of the older buildings on campus. I mean, what purpose does St. Joseph's College serve on campus?

Perhaps I may answer this obnoxious question for the Catholic community that values St. Joseph's College. St. Joe's serves as a Catholic refuge in the University — promoting their culture, way of life and of course, their religion. In the same light, la Faculte St. Jean is a French centre of the University of Alberta. Through this faculty, the only bilingual University faculty west of Manitoba, a student may

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Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.