

"Roses are reddish,  
Violets are bluish.  
If it wasn't for  
Christmas..."

# The Gateway

"We'd all be Jewish."  
—From *Three Men on a Horse*

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## Styrofoam scare snuffed

by Dawn Lerohl

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's), a hazardous substance formerly found in foam cups, are no longer present in foam cups on campus.

CFC's are known to contribute to the greenhouse effect as well as to erode the ozone layer.

John Haggerman, the vp general manager of Canada Cup, states the CFC's are not the blowing agent used in the production of their cups, but rather pentane, which is a common substance found in gasoline. Although this gas is more difficult to use because of its relative instability, its benefits are that it is not harmful to the ozone layer and does not contribute to the greenhouse effect.

Canada Cup, which manufactures Dixie Cups, Styrocup, Sun-spin products, and Plexiglas as well as Fiesta Cutlery, is the major supplier on campus, providing cups to all campus food service locations as well as establishments such as Java Jive. Canada Cup has never used CFC's as a blowing agent.

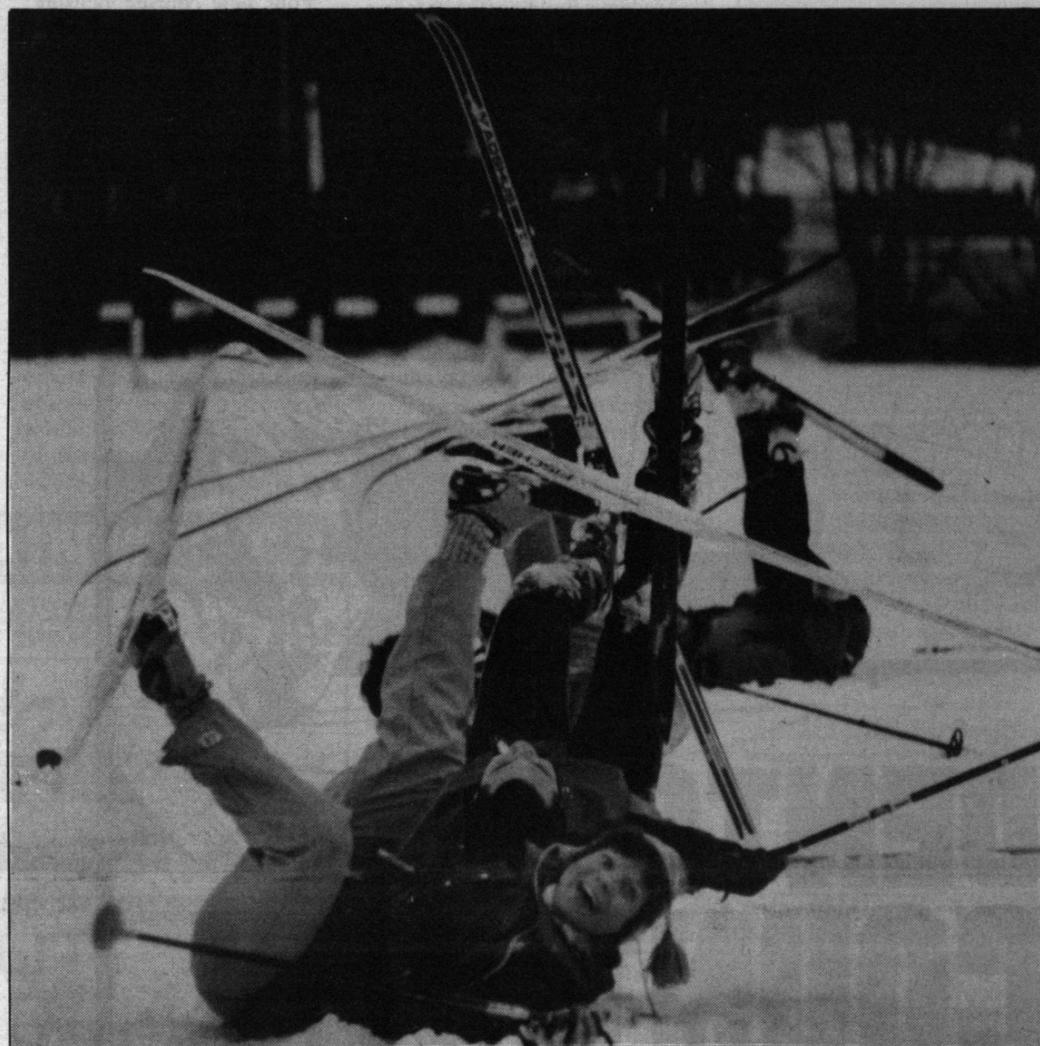
Recently, the controversial issue of the dangers of foam cups was figured prominently in the news. In October, *The Gateway* ran a story concerning Dr. Jean Lauber, a Zoology professor who is campaigning to remove all foam cups from campus. Her concern arose from the hazardous effects of CFC's. Lauber said that regardless of the blowing agent being used, "foam cups are still practically non-biodegradable."

Although most foam cup producers no longer use CFC's, the chemicals can still be found in many common items such as refrig-



No, it's not a model of City Hall. It's a mound of CFC-safe cups in CAB, as Troy Trotter demonstrates.

Byron Collins



Dr. Glenda Hanna demonstrating the latest moves in nordic freestyle. The physical education instructor took her students through the moves on the first day of cross-country ski class on Varsity field, Tuesday.

Clive Oshry

## Big bread to buttress butterdome

by Kevin Law

Structural problems with the U of A Butterdome could cost a lot of bread to fix.

The problem lies with moisture penetrating the panels that cover the building.

"Moisture is penetrating from the outside in and from the inside out depending on the time of year," said the director of physical plant Gordon Bulat. He explained that rain in the summer and condensation in the winter is seeping between the outer panels and inner insulation, causing the insulation to deteriorate and the structural steel to rust.

The U of A Board of Governors has approved \$185,000 to correct moisture penetration on the east wall of the Butterdome. "This was done before Christmas to avoid further deterioration," Bulat said, noting it is only part of the problem.

Much more money will have to be spent to keep the five year old sports facility from further structural decay. "The estimated overall cost will be about \$2 million," said Bulat.

At this point it is unknown whether a settlement for damages will be reached with the building's architect and contractor, according to associate vp facilities J.B. McQuitty.

"We can't say yet if the problem is with the contractor. We need to determine specific causes, so at this point we are investigating internally and seeking assistance from experts," said McQuitty.

McQuitty noted the problem has been recognized for about two years.

"We are meeting before the end of the month with all parties involved," McQuitty said.

## Future uncertain with Xmas money

by Jeff Cowley

University officials are not completely happy with an early Christmas present received from the provincial government.

A five percent bonus in their operating grant was promised to Alberta post-secondary institutions in December, but the University of Alberta administration is concerned that the increase is

erator insulation, furniture and automotive seating, and mattresses. However, the danger from these substances is minor in comparison with the former danger from foam cups. This is because foam cups are destroyed continually, releasing the CFC's into the atmosphere, while insulation and padding have a longer life span.

Even the CFC's found in insulation and padding may soon be a danger of the past. Research is presently being done in the United States to develop a less damaging form of chlorofluorocarbons called HCFC's. These are CFC's containing hydrogen, and they decompose in the lower atmosphere before reaching the ozone layer. Where CFC's have an atmospheric life span of 65 years, HCFC's last only about 1.5 years.

not sufficient.

The \$38-million grant is barely enough to keep the school's head 'above water, said president Myer Horowitz.

"In order for us to have operations similar to where we were before (the operating budget was cut back in 1985) we would need a minimum of a 10 to 15 percent increase," he said.

"With the accumulated deficit it would take more than the five percent to bring us back." The university has been running a deficit in its operating budget since last year.

Students' Union president Paul LaGrange is also unsatisfied with the grant, saying that an increase of twenty percent "would have given us the money to do the essential extras".

LaGrange added, however, that he is pleased that the government is following through on its commitment to education. "They have told us time and time again that education is their number one priority. This puts their money where their mouth is."

The boost in next year's budget ensures that the university will not have to cut staff and close departments, said Horowitz.

"We would have been forced

to cut more positions which are cut enough now." Funding will go towards university staff. "We must hold on to the good people we have."

"The government has to think of the allocation as an investment in the future," said Horowitz. "If the government intends on making Alberta a brain centre they will have to make a special investment."

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