

## "Oil crisis a myth..." Nader

by Greg Neiman

"Unless the myth of 25 years (time left until North America's oil reserves are depleted) is broken and broken decisively the consumer will pay heavily."

Ralph Nader, universally hailed as "America's foremost consumer advocate," says he doubts the energy crisis reportedly looming on our near horizon is as serious as many would like the consumer to think it is.

Speaking at a press conference held before his scheduled speech at the Jubilee yesterday, Nader said the consumer majority is at a less powerful political position than the oil company minority.

"The aura of an oil scarcity has helped the oil companies get what they want," he charged. Things like price increases and tax concessions from the governments in North America are based on reports constructed by the companies themselves.

He said official estimates of potential usable petroleum in America roughly total 200 billion barrels, which if the present consumption rate is held, would last only 25 years.

"This is utter nonsense," he said pointing out that recent finding in Alaska alone have been estimated at 100 billion barrels, and offshore potentials

that have been quoted in Congress range from 200 billion to 1500 billion barrels of achievable oil reserves.

This is not to say that we all can merrily consume ourselves into a stupor.

Nader himself owns no car, and by his own estimates spends only \$5,000 dollars a year.

He said that with proper consumer management, America's consumption of energy alone by the year 2000 could be 69% of what it is now.

Questions from the floor ranged from alternate sources of energy he felt were usable to the international implications of our own tar sands development.

Speaking to local issues, Nader felt that Premier Lougheed should make a trip to Washington to discuss Alberta's oil policy in an open meeting.

He said that whenever MacDonald or Trudeau went to the American capital, meetings were held in private, and consumers could never be sure as to what was discussed at them or the outcome of these discussions.

He regarded the energy question as an international one, saying that energy policies had over-the-border implications, but hesitated to say one way or the other whether resources themselves were national or international possessions.



Ralph Nader questions oil crisis at press conference.

photo Brent Hallet

As to alternate sources of energy, Nader felt that solar energy and geothermal energy have not yet been thoroughly looked into yet, and that nuclear energy is a poor second resource if and when oil reserves give out.

"There are too many risks involved with nuclear power," he said, saying nuclear wastes had to be disposed of in a manner that would be safe for a quarter of a million years and presently there have been near misses with "the big catastrophe". Human, mechanical, and earth errors are

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## Students vote in bloc:

### advanced registration saved

After a hotly disputed debate at Monday's GFC meeting, a motion put forward by Dean of Education M. Horowitz, dealing with the abolition of advance registration for all students was defeated by a 37-31 vote.

The motion, which required a 2/3 majority due to its "notice of motion" nature, would have abolished advance registration for the '75-76 term.

Dean Horowitz stated that though he had been in favour of advance registration when it was first proposed, he now believed that it had failed to fulfill any of the criteria that a registration system must cover.

He was supported in this by a number of other professors, some of whom stated various "horror stories" in which students had blown their registration.

In answer to this, student representatives stated that advance registration had hardly

been given a chance to prove its worth, particularly as the Registrar had said there had been no advance test of the system, the sole trial being the period in which advance registration was used by students.

As well, two student reps mentioned that in two individual surveys they had carried out, only one student wished for a return to the old system of registration.

Dean Horowitz still has the option of presenting his motion again for the Dec. 16 GFC meeting if he so wishes. If he does, the motion will require only a 50% majority, which some believe it might receive.

However, argumentation will likely have to be made to convince students as to the unviability of advance registration, as they voted solidly in a bloc against its abolition in this case.

## Foster unlikely to approve

by Scott Partridge

Minister of Advanced Education Jim Foster is unlikely to approve funding of the proposed BAC Building planned for construction in the near future, according to Rollie Cook, recently appointed to the Campus Development Committee.

The reason for this, he says, hinges mainly on the university's lack of long-range planning.

As reported earlier in *Gateway*, recent government

policies concerning the U of A state, in part, that the Department of Advanced Education would provide funds for the construction of two buildings, if and only if the university can show immediate need for them.

The response was that the university said it required an Agricultural Building (for details, see *Gateway* November 21st) and a BAC Building.

The Dean of Business, Administration, and Commerce, however has stated he could

move his faculty into the presently-unused Arts Building (throwing in a little refurbishing and added to the space that faculty already occupies in CAB) thus relieving the need for a new one. But, says Cook, the university also needs a General Faculties Building (similar in function to CAB) to relieve space pressures on other faculties.

The decision for a BAC complex, says Cook, was purely political, as the university

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# University resources available to community

by Mary MacDonald

In light of recent GFC developments concerning the Department of Extension, it is necessary to do a study as regards the programs, purpose, and future hopes of this department, and perhaps future faculty.

"We need continuing education. People have more time, more complex business expansion opportunities. They must update themselves." These are some of the reasons people are drawn to the programs offered by the Department of Extension, according to its acting director, Charles Lockwood.

"Our purpose is to make university resources available to the community," he said. Varied

programs are offered to fulfill the desires and needs of the public.

"Professional people form a large part of our clientele but we also have liberal studies programs such as languages and psychology."

The extension department has several divisions. Programs are offered in fine arts, community development (which is becoming increasingly important), agriculture, public administration (programs to further educate those already in municipal government), liberal arts, etc.

In addition the department runs an educational media. It has the second largest 16 mm film collection in a Canadian university which is open to the

campus and the province for low rental fees.

Also in the Rutherford basement is a library from which books are loaned out free to people in areas which do not have library facilities.

The department is expanding more into the community for the needs there. Lockwood says they aid people in the community by giving assistance to organizations to develop their goals.

One instance where the department may have had a great deal of influence is in regard to public transit.

Some studies had been done on the question of roadways and the suggestion of more public or light rapid transit had been made

before it had become a popular theme.

The group catered to most, in Lockwood's words, is "the adult over 25 who has been out of school for a number of years."

"The fees per program vary. A management course of 50 hrs may cost \$120 which includes books and goes toward the direct cost of instruction," said Lockwood. If someone takes a management course "to improve his vocation the fee goes toward the direct cost of instruction plus a contribution to overhead."

Lower fees are charged for programs which would be more for self interest such as the art programs.

The instructors for these

courses are made up of approximately 60% of those who already teach at the university with the other 40% coming from those qualified in the community.

To fund its work, the Department of Extension relies on a government grant plus whatever they can raise themselves from fees and services.

Lockwood said that in a typical year the expenditure would be approximately \$1,550,000, of which \$750,000 would be a grant with \$800,000 being raised by the department.

As is the case everywhere, inflation also claims money. This department so far, says the

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