

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Trying too hard

It seems the university administration is trying harder than we know to balance its budget.

And as in the past, it has come to the students for support. We have been quite generous: every year, when students pay tuition fees to the Comptroller of the university, we also pay to the university's banker our Students' Union fees. At \$40.50 per full-time students, plus partial fees for part-time students and fees paid for the Federation of Alberta Students, the university collects some \$715,000.

Of course, the Comptroller *only* collects that money in trust (and traditionally, in good faith), and then transfers it into the SU account in two equal installments, one in October and one in February.

However, while the SU fees are not in SU accounts, the university is collecting interest on our money.

According to figures given Students' Council Tuesday night by vice president finance and administration Elise Gaudet, the university will earn over \$17,000 this year in interest from students' money. That \$17,000 is in effect a direct grant to the university from the Students' Union.

Until recently, this windfall has not been questioned by the Students' Union. The comptroller collected our fees conveniently along with its own, and as well along with Health Services and University Athletic Board fees; like most other Canadian universities, there was no charge for this service.

However, last year in February the university advised the Students' Union that fee collection would cost us \$13,000. The students protested, and the university backed down by deferring payment of the collection fee until 1982/83 (plus adjustments for inflation).

The university has had second thoughts about that arrangement; around Christmas time, the Students' Union was again advised that it would cost (only) \$10,000 *this year* to collect students' fees.

Add the interest earning of \$17,000 and the university is, in effect, asking students to pay \$27,000 for a service which the students at the University of Calgary get for a "cup of coffee" according to Gaudet.

No doubt deep down in the university bureaucracy there is some administrator just trying to do his job, which is getting money out of his customers.

But as Gaudet points out, "It's not a matter of them (the university) being generous; it's a matter of them being honest."

No doubt when the appropriate 'higher-ups' like university vice president finance and administration Lorne Leitch and president Myer Horowitz realize just which party is the generous one, we will be able to look forward to an honest settlement to this problem.

Peter Michalyszyn

Cold fish

Student Councillors might have sensed their fate Tuesday by collectively sticking a wet finger in the tepid air of Council chambers to see which way the wind was blowing.

Which was no way. By 11 p.m. the defenders of students' interests were choking visibly on the precious little support coming from the defenders of Council's interest, the five-person executive.

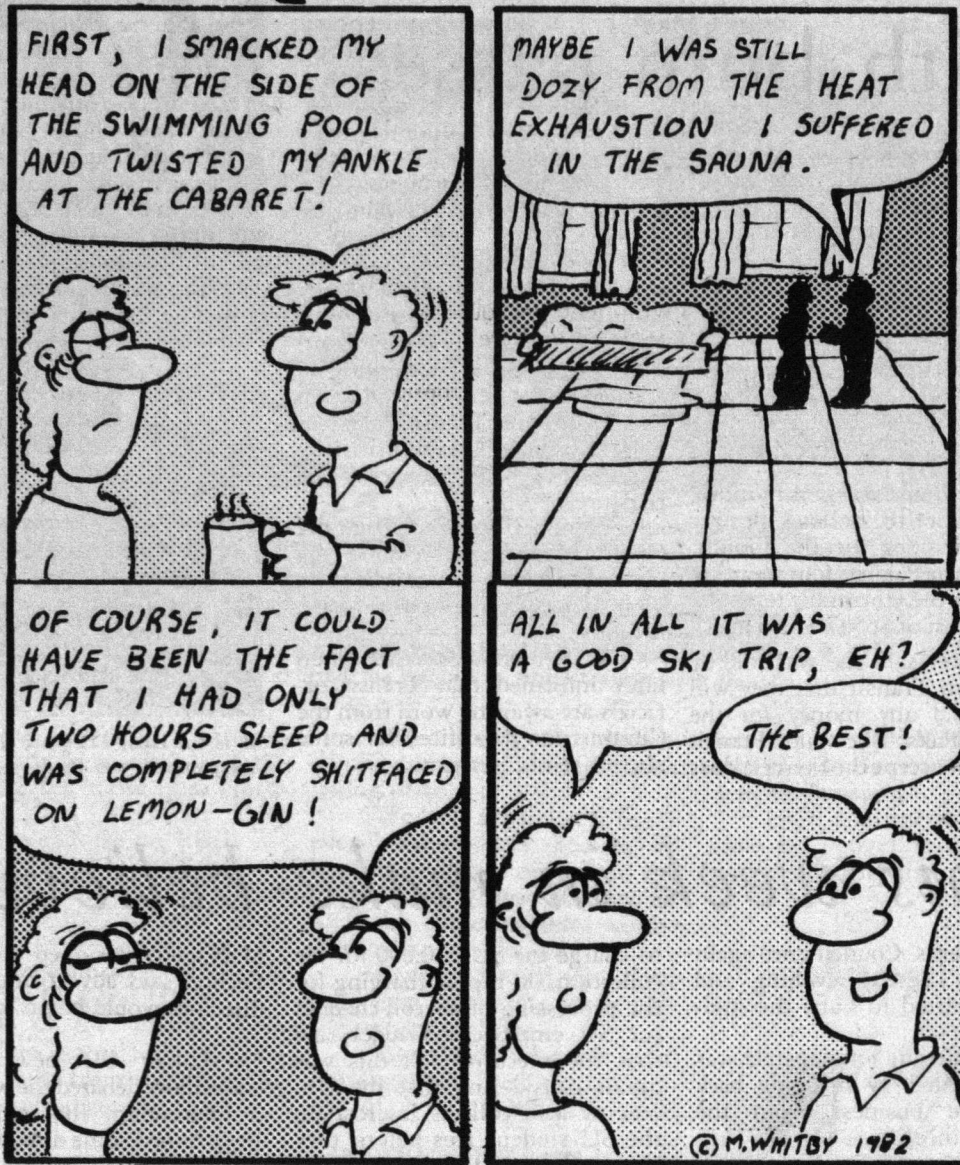
Councillors showed great faith generally in hanging around for three hours late into the night talking about an agenda which had not even been available at four p.m. that same afternoon.

In spite of their own commitment to get Council agendas out *reasonably* early (like the Friday before each Council meeting), the executive said *nothing* when asked why the agendas were so pitifully late.

Councillors reacted by partially refusing to ratify a not-so-recently completed union agreement. It wasn't as if they didn't know they were merely rubber-stamping a negotiated document; it was vice president finance Elise Gaudet telling them so plainly that Council was irrelevant.

A note...

to Engineering rep John Koch: not to worry, John: your conduct at Council this week has hardly changed our opinion of you.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

U.S. chooses not to commit suicide

Mr. Sharon's articles in the February 9th and 17th *Gateway* are definitely moving and astoundingly logical. Unfortunately, most of what he says is twisted, slanted or just plain wrong.

Mr. Sharon begins by expressing his shock at statements made by Ronald Reagan on the "feasibility of nuclear war".

Mr. Sharon...Wake up! Nuclear weapons are an integral part of defense policies, international relations and politics of nations all over the world. Unfortunately, as the name suggests, they are weapons and can be used to kill people. Because of their existence, there is a possibility of a nuclear confrontation. It would be incompetence for any leader to ignore that fact.

Mr. Sharon also can't keep his own facts clear. In his Feb. 9th article he quotes James Schlesinger, thereby getting his figures of 20 to 30 million U.S. dead after a nuclear war. He also mentions Reagan's admittance that a nuclear war might occur. In his Feb. 17 article, however, these two points are lumped together with the "Europe as a nuclear battlefield" concept, all in one sentence, all as if stated by Reagan.

About anti-Americanism, don't let Mr. Sharon fool you into believing that being anti-Reagan is being pro-American. Reagan was recently elected by an electorate of Americans. He ran on a distinct platform that he would stop letting the Soviets get away with murder. The electorate supported him. Therefore, by

being anti-Reagan, he is, in fact, being anti-American.

Mr. Sharon goes on to tell us that the U.S.A. is "hell-bent" for nuclear war, and that this insane desire for mutual destruction is the sole reason for American plans for placing medium-ranged nuclear missiles in Europe. He does, however, fail to mention the Soviet SS-20. This missile is comparable to the Pershing and cruise missiles in range and size. It has recently been deployed by the Soviets well within strike range of Europe. Reagan has made a statement that he will not order the placement of missiles in Europe if their Soviet counterparts are dismantled. The Soviets (obviously) refused.

Finally, John Sharon condemns Reagan for not signing the SALT agreement. The reason for SALT II's failure to be enacted was the Senate's refusal to ratify it in 1979. That was under the Carter administration and is surely not Reagan's fault.

Reagan has failed to try once more for SALT II because it forces the U.S. to sacrifice a great deal, while the Russians sacrifice next to nothing. He has, however, proposed new negotiations, called START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks).

The Soviets have not shown themselves to be over-eager. In fact, they are not exceptionally eager in keeping agreements already signed. Gas warfare was prohibited in the 1970 Geneva Convention. Now there are reports flooding in from Afghanistan about nerve gas

being used by Russian troops (you know, Afghanistan, the country who asked the Soviets to come in and keep peace!)

The USSR is an aggressive military state. That is evident by their invasion of Afghanistan and their promotion of world terrorism. As anyone could guess, arms limitations and reductions cannot be imposed unilaterally. There must be agreement, and therefore, concessions on both sides. But as long as the Soviets refuse to co-operate, I fail to see why the U.S. should put all their efforts into leaving themselves defenseless. It's a path to suicide which they are definitely justified in not taking.

Don Murray
Engineering I

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject, regardless of how much you normally run off at the mouth. The fact that you are hot under the collar doesn't impress us in the slightest. Also, spastic, disjointed and semi-intelligible writing is pure migraine to read, and should be saved for your professors, who deserve it. Thirdly, the statement "I think" is just a theory, and considering the evidence - 3,877 predictable letters on every subject - a rather dubious theory. Finally, we reserve the right to hack, chop, or shred any windy, illiterate, or defamatory correspondence. Furthermore, if you persist in sending us such diatribes, *Gateway* special assistants Vito and Ernie will take whatever extralegal measures as are necessary to insure that you bother us no more.

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Staff this issue: Just when you thought your sensibilities were safe from assault... Gateway pictures presents a Hal Zalmonowitz production more terrifying than anything you've seen: *The Election that Wouldn't Die*. Ane Stephen, Kent Blinston, Michael Skeet, and Jordan Peterson star as the candidates whose hopes were crushed by a reversed election ruling. Geoffrey Jackson, Jim Miller and Dave Cox star as the persecuted public who are mercilessly subjected to the resurrected, living-dead election. And Karl Wilburg, Garnet DuGray, Martin Beales, Peter Jarvis and Murray Whitby star as the mad and morally bankrupt scientists who breathe life into the goddess beast that rested in its grave. Coming soon to a classroom near you.