

MARCH, APRIL

by Wes Oginski

For a slate that maintained a low profile all year, the Astley administration instituted some drastic changes in March.

It all began with the Students' Union relieving SU general manager Bert Best of his duties. A discovery of a \$320,000 deficit last fall caused Best's operation to come under close scrutiny.

Student Council voted unanimously, with three abstentions, to relieve Best of his duties on Tuesday, March 3.

The issue did not end here, however. "His (Best's) lawyer has written a letter saying he would like to take legal action," said SU president Nolan Astley at the time.

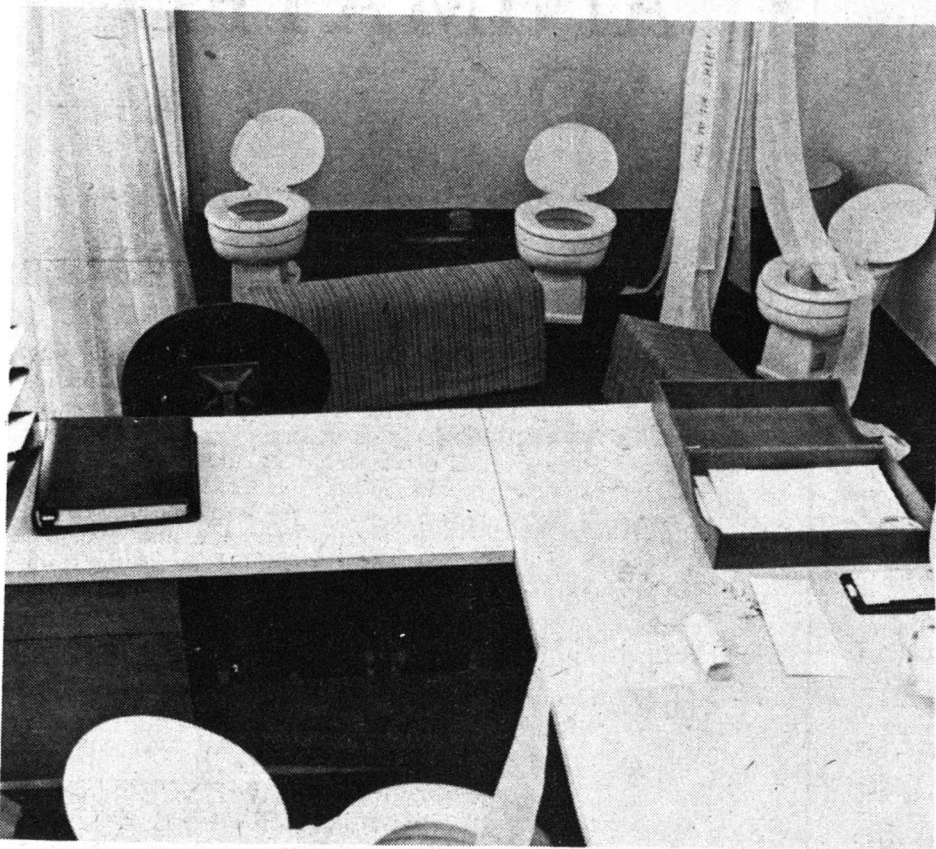
On March 19, Best officially sued for legal action against the SU. His suit asks for the amount owing on his contract, \$82,300. If the court rules in favor of the SU, Best will ask for general damages at a cost of \$65,500. If both counts fail in court, the SU will owe him only three months salary in severance pay.

The Students' Union were not the only people with problems. The University discovered and made some of its own.

A long-range plan for land use in



One man with a big say whether or not North Garneau survives or is mowed down indiscriminately: U of A president, Myer Horowitz in the foreground, looking on.



Parts of the SU executive offices redecoration. The object lesson is clear get off the pot, Phil

"I called (the university department of) Housing and Food Services and told them about it, and never got a response," he told the *Gateway*.

The university hopes to solve the asbestos problem this summer. It will most likely be a program where the asbestos is removed a floor at a time.

In the realm of student politics, Students' Council decided 22-2 to shut down the food services in both RATT and Fridays. This was only a temporary solution for RATT, which like the legendary Phoenix, will rise from its ashes in rebirth (and hopefully revamped) form next fall.

As for Fridays:

"I'm warning you, don't try it," said SU finance manager Glyden Headley, to several councillors who wanted to give Fridays restaurant one more try. Council took Headley's advice and shut down the Fridays kitchen rather than pumping more money into the perennial money-loser.

APRIL:

Though April is only a week old, "helzapopin".

Advanced Education minister Jim Horsman promised the government would not raise tuition fees next fall.

But the Board of Governors finance committee ignored this promise, and proposed a 15 percent tuition increase. That would make tuition \$695 or with other fees a total of \$780 for most students.

Student protest is already mounting, but the decision will be made at the April 10 Board meeting. Time is limited.

The only other incident on campus was the turn-over (not apple) of power in the Students' Union executive.

Nolan Astley's leftist-conservatives surrendered to public opinion and gave way to the people's proletarian group led by Phil Soper. The exchange took place in the early morning of April 1, at the SUB (aka Berlin) Wall.

Have a nice summer. Your fall could be pretty dismal.



May isn't far off, and neither is Spring Session.



...and here are the masses who can't change what's going to happen in North Garneau.

North Garneau was proposed in mid March. The plan designates half the area as permanent housing, and the rest for future expansion.

Facilities Development Committee member Bryan Achtem, said he was unhappy that the principle of land use planning was discussed before the details, calling it a backward approach.

"We've discovered details during numerous meetings, and discussed the land use and sealed the fate of North Garneau in 2 1/2 hours," he said earlier.

The most dangerous problem discovered on campus was not North Garneau, however; it was asbestos in student residences.

"Lister Hall ceiling finishes contain high concentrations of chrysotile asbestos," according to U of A projects Manager Dan Pretzlaff.

Asbestos causes lung cancer and asbestosis, a potentially fatal scarring of lung tissue. There is no known safe level of exposure for humans.

Asbestos was first found in the Michener Park residences. The residents will be evacuated this May for the cleanup.

Bob Brewster, a Michener Park resident, says he notified proper authorities after finding asbestos in his apartment last fall.



But remember, there's always next year, with eight months of winter.