

NASA CHALLENGED

by Don Truckey

Take-over suggestions from Alberta Union of Public Employees (AUPE) to members of the university's Non-Academic Association (NASA) are getting little response, NASA executive spokesmen said Wednesday.

A March 3 meeting on campus sponsored by AUPE was attended by only a handful of NASA members, said NASA executive secretary George Bolan. "I think this indicates

how much interest our members have in AUPE."

"The AUPE sees itself as an old-style English militant union," said NASA past-president Dave Tomlinson, "and it's always getting them into trouble. We don't believe in wild, militant, far-out demands."

NASA was formed in 1969, breaking away from the Civil Service Association (CSA), the predecessor of AUPE.

The recent meeting, according to NASA interim affairs manager Mike Bolan, is part of what seems to be an annual ritual

for AUPE. "Since NASA was formed, they've made roughly one attempt a year to re-take the membership, AUPE has always tried to approach the membership, without first talking to the executive."

AUPE's Bill Finn denied any attempt on the part of his organization to "re-take" NASA members. Finn said only: "AUPE has always had the right to bargain for these people."

The Crown Agency Employees Relations Act

stipulates the now non-existent CSA must represent all provincial employees in negotiations.

But Tomlinson scoffed at the validity of the Act, saying NASA falls under the jurisdiction of the Universities Act, which doesn't name a negotiating agency.

"The Employees Relations Act is outdated," Tomlinson said. "AUPE has considered taking us to court over it, but their lawyers always advise against it. They have no chance of winning."

NASA's 3000 members would pay between \$300,000 and \$500,000 into AUPE if they joined, Bolin said, while they pay a total of only \$85,000 to NASA. "They offer professional negotiators and affiliation with the Canadian Labor Congress among other things, but my feeling is our members aren't interested in those sorts of things."

NASA is currently in its annual contract re-negotiation

with the university; Bolan predicts AUPE will claim it could have done a better job once the contract is settled.

"But we're not terribly worried about them," Tomlinson said. "AUPE has done too many things in the last few years—either not too bright or downright embarrassing. They just don't have much credibility."

Illegal strikes by AUPE were one example Tomlinson gave to indicate why NASA's members are not interested in joining AUPE.

Neither organization has the legal right to strike; NASA is not registered as a union, but falls under the Societies Act.

AUPE may have been using methods other than scheduled meetings to contact NASA members—a woman called *Gateway* recently complaining she had received phone calls late at night from AUPE people persuading her to switch organizations.

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photo Grant Wurm

Hanging high.

A crane towering over the Clinical Sciences Building is removing exterior bldg. facing which was loosened last fall in high winds. Preliminary examination, involving removal of 12 to 15 slabs, will cost \$60,000 — if the whole wall must be replaced, \$1.5 million.

HUB hazards to be reduced

Pull-handles for emergency fire escape doors will be installed in HUB apartments from March 14 to 18 during an inspection of the building for fire hazards by HUB management staff.

A notice handed out at the beginning of the week said apartments would be inspected, pull-handles installed and noise-control rules and regulations for HUB posted (many emergency exits connecting apartments have been taped shut to reduce noise).

Dec. referendum - no valid results

A December referendum on the department chairmen committee's proposal to reorganize the university's governing structure cannot provide "any valid conclusions" says the university department asked to analyze the referendum results.

The university's office of institutional research and planning, in a report released to the Board of Governors Friday, says "owing to the format" of the controversial referendum, it is "not possible to really analyze the results and provide any valid conclusions."

The referendum "ballots" were banned by the Association of Academic Staff U of A (AASUA) and the Arts Faculty Executive Council because,

while the ballots provided a checkbox for those supporting the proposal, they did not provide a checkbox for those directly opposed to the proposal.

Institutional research notes that even though the form of the questionnaires was faulty, the proposal caught the interest of many academics who took the time to write in comments varying in length from one line up to four typewritten pages.

The report summarized common responses as follows:

—time spent on committees would not necessarily be reduced;

—it is not proper for the Council of Chairmen to supersede the Council of Deans;

—Students do not provide any positive input, are too transient, etc. and thus should not be given any representation;

—Students' opinions are very valuable and thus should have a voice in a body which has broad University legislative powers;

—The proposal is contrary to the Universities Act;

—Chairmen should not be given any more power than they presently have;

—The present system, although inefficient, allows input and is thus more democratic;

—There appears to be too much self-interest or a desire for power motivating this document;

—Reduce the size of GFC which should make it a more efficient body.

Debby Underdahl, who lives in an apartment above one gutted by fire Feb. 16, said firemen had inspected her apartment this week for fire and smoke damage — "But everything was alright," she said.

City fire crews from two stations toured HUB just before reading week to orient themselves to the building in case they were called there in an emergency. The men were from two southside firehalls not involved in the Feb. 16 HUB fire.

The crews confirmed the locations of exits and water outlets within the building, then discussed the merits and problems specific to HUB in a firefighting emergency. Three fire trucks idled in waiting outside while the men walked through the building. Radio contact was kept with the trucks in the event the crews had to leave to answer an alarm.

HUB's roof exits will remain locked, said Gerry Durrant, building manager. "I've talked to the fire chief and the architect, Rick Wilkin, and two inspectors from the city and we're not too keen about having anyone on the roof of a building, especially at night during a fire. They'd be hard to find if they got into trouble—it'd be hard to see up there."

He also noted that heat and smoke would be rising up the stairwell above a fire and it would be dangerous to climb up into it. "We're not going to let this drop," he said. "Some of the stuff here was not up to 100 per cent, but we're going to get it that way."

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SC agrees

Recommendations from Students' Union boards took up most of Students' Council's Monday night agenda as five students were named to SU official positions and \$4,700 was handed out to various groups.

Council approved the appointment of Harold Kukertz (Law 1) as Housing Registry Director for a second year, and ratified a Publications Board recommendation that Don McIntosh (Arts 3) be appointed *Gateway* editor 1977-78.

Michael Amerongen (Arts 3) continued to p. 2

Marmalades up there?

SAN FRANCISCO (ZNS-UP) - Small creatures living under the Martian soil could be responsible for contradictory data sent back by U.S. Viking landers last year.

Several of the Viking experiments discovered some soil samples that showed evidence of oxygen, suggesting life might be present. Other experiments found no traces of organic compounds, believed to be necessary by-products of living organisms.

According to *Astronomy* magazine, small burrowing organisms which prey on oxygen-containing plants could be the missing factor needed to explain the data.

According to the theory, the animal-like predators would take shelter from light and would attack and eat plant-like organisms for food and oxygen.