

editorial

### What do we drop?

One thing we can't ignore when discussing Students' Union expenses is the fact that HUB cannot be dropped from the budget. Much as we would like to do just that. Many students' unions in Canada don't have even one building; we have two, and it's only to be expected that the expenses will be large.

It's a regrettable fact that at this point HUB is costing us huge sums of money. When HUB was originally conceived, it was expected that the building would provide students with low cost housing while operating on a break even budget.

However, between the time the contract was tendered for HUB's construction and the time financing was finalized, mortgage rates had risen two percent over original expectations.

The mortgage was signed in early 1971 with a five-year renegotiation date, locking the Students' Union into its present financing until 1976.

It would be silly to blame the present executive for HUB's problems. They, along with the rest of us, inherited the monster and are making an honest effort to increase HUB revenue.

But until HUB is making money, or at least operating on a break even basis, there is nothing the Students' Union can do except to tighten its belt and cut back in other areas.

From an economic point of view, services operating at the largest deficit will have to be the first to go. And the fact is, there are a lot of services offered by the Students' Union that make life rather comfortable for those of us who use this building. Take a look around you. Which could you do without?

In previous years the SU was able to operate SUB Theatre at a deficit. Now it's on a break even budget, and forced to turn to more and more commercial tenants to take up the slack.

Student Cinema is able to offer excellent entertainment at ridiculously low prices because they get a good rental rate on the Theatre. However, unless extra money comes from somewhere, the rentals will have to be raised which means ticket prices will go up.

Arts and crafts is presently being subsidized by the SU to the tune of \$9,000. It's entirely possible that fees to participants will have to be raised if money cannot be found elsewhere.

The record co-op is projecting a \$1,700 deficit this year. They cannot expand for fear of inviting pressure from more commercial record outlets in the city to stop distribution from record companies.

The information desk has cut back drastically on operation hours. They have kept prices static while having to pay increased rates for merchandise.

CKSR and the Gateway have been forced to cut back on their budgets while being pressured to increase advertising content.

Should beer prices be raised in RATT? Or should the listening room and art gallery be cut again? Maybe grants to clubs should be stopped.

There are six budget areas making money right now. These are RATT, Student Cinema, the games and billiards areas, vending machines in the basement, the blotter and the handbook and directory.

RATT day services and Media Productions are the only two areas to operate on a break even basis. The rest of us operate at a deficit. Charlie Hall has told me that the deficit has been decreased by \$13000 from the projected \$158,620 in the final budget. It's great. It shows we're all co-operating in keeping costs as far down as possible in order to keep services coming to you. But it's still not enough.

Three dollars will hardly get you an evening's entertainment these days. It'll get you into a movie and buy you a box of popcorn. You're not going to miss three dollars from your pocket. But you will miss it in Students' Union services if you vote "no" on Friday's referendum. So do yourself a favour. Vote yes.

Allyn Cadogan



**Applications**

**are now being**

**accepted for the**

**position of**

**editor-in-chief of the**

**Gateway**

**for the 1974-75 term**

Application forms are available

in room 282 SUB

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5 P.M.

FEBRUARY 13, 1974.

There will be a public interview of all applicants by the Publications Board at 2 p.m. February 14,

### Fees

Friday the Students' Union is holding a fee referendum but like most other requests for an indication of student opinion a handful of students will come forth. Of those who vote many will be mis-informed, ill-informed, or not informed at all. Others will vote simply on the basis of a gut reaction to being asked for three dollars. Three dollars is the price of a case of beer.

For those who imbibe the Students' Union has now provided such a service in the form of RATT. Naturally, this service brings in revenue but many other services do not. The Students' Union like many other organizations has experienced the crunch of inflation. Those services that do not bring in revenue will be the first to go but even those that make money will be soon to follow.

The record co-op in HUB provides records at 50 cents over cost. This according to Poundmaker is the best deal in town. Student Help has been widely acclaimed and the faculty association grants provided by the students' union help provide Engineering week, Bar-None, and BACUS activities. There are many other such services and even though I am a Med student I have had the opportunity to enjoy many of them. On Friday, I will vote in favor of the fee increase because I know it's important.

Robert McIntosh Med 1

