

## New format picks student pockets

by Lisa Hall

A new spring and summer session format is soon going to be introduced at the U of A. This new format is going to pose many difficulties on students who want to take summer courses.

Instead of offering three credit courses during a three-week period, the University has decided to change the course length to six weeks.

Previously, a student could take a course during spring session, be finished by June, and then could get a summer job. Now students will be faced with a course which eats up more of their summer.

The logic for the new format is that three weeks is too short a time to properly learn the information in a three-credit course, and six weeks would be better. This assertion has admittedly not been researched. If it were true that a student needs six weeks to learn the three-credit courses, then it doesn't make sense that six-credit courses will remain being taught in six weeks.

Students will now have to make some decisions.

If they take a six-week course, they will have a much shorter time during the summer holidays to earn money for the following year. In these times of financial difficulty, a student needs to have as much time as possible to work and save.

Other students may try to handle both a job and a course. This would not only jeopardize their success in the course, but also would limit the number of jobs available, because the class is held during the daytime.

Many students rely on their being able to take a course during the summer and have an adequate time in which to work, and it is unfair to take this away from them, especially when there is no documented proof behind the reasons for the changes.

Since the University of Alberta is experiencing its own financial crisis, and is expecting the students to shoulder much more of operating costs, it doesn't make sense that they would endorse a policy which could potentially cut a student's earning capacity in such a fashion.



## LETTERS

### SU is not representing students

Re: Mixed Reaction over proposed fee increases (Oct. 31)

Wade Deisman is quoted as saying "ours is the second lowest tuition in the country." Being somewhat skeptical as to the truth of this, I looked up a few figures available in the library, under "University Calendar."

A full time student at Laval University pays \$258-\$348 tuition per trimester. A full time McGill student pays about \$570 tuition per year. Other Quebec universities charge tuition at similar levels. I'm left with the feeling that our outspoken V.P. External is either misinformed or a liar. Why are Quebec tuitions so dramatically lower than ours? Because our provincial government cannot grasp the importance of accessible and affordable tuition.

Our weak-kneed S.U. has acquiesced to so-called inevitable tuition hikes without asking students how they felt about it, as far as I know. What good is the S.U. if they lack

the balls to protect our interests? Should we trust them and continue to hope they are watching out for the students?

Andrew Bizon  
Engineering IV

### Ng not guilty yet

Re: Ng should face the music

Mr. Bhardwaj flapped his literary gums a little too freely in his October 31 article regarding Charles Ng.

Bhardwaj labels Ng a "serial killer" and states that he broke American laws. This is only his opinion, and cannot be stated as fact. Ng must be considered innocent until proven guilty.

The only real issue here should be the fact that, by hearing Ng's extradition case, and by considering hearing appeals, our justice system seems to be violating Ng's right to be assumed innocent until proven guilty. Certainly Ng should be deported to the U.S., but not for execution — he should be deported

to stand trial for the crimes he is charged with (not necessarily guilty of).

Erik Munck  
Engineering IV

### Merde! Are we embarrassed

On behalf of the U of A Liberal Club, I would like to thank you for the attention paid us in the October 31st edition of *The Gateway*. We can always use the publicity, I suppose. You chose an appropriate day, as well; Halloween of 1989 is sure to evoke a sour look from the Liberal Club executive for some time to come!

While we are here, we would like to extend an invitation to our next few events.

The editorial staff of the *National Enquirer* will be here, speaking on the importance of choosing one's words carefully, followed later in the month by G. Weegoofed, host of T.V.'s "Life's Most Embarrassing Moments."

Until then, keep on smiling, and keep up the good work.

Rod Frey  
V.P. Communications  
U of A Liberal Club

### Gateway deplorable

I think it is deplorable that there was no paper on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1989. Being Exam week is not an excuse. In three years at the U of A I have never seen this occur, except on short weeks. If you people cannot get it together, you should get some staff who can. A newspaper is not a game or a toy, even if it is only a university paper. Stop treating this paper as if it was your personal toy and start treating it as what it is: a regular, twice a week, service to 29,000 students.

Shannon Enns  
Science III

*Editor's Note* — The Gateway would like to apologize for not advertising that we were only running one issue a week in exam weeks. We have found readership extremely low on Tuesday of midterm week. We are also publishing two more issues than we did last year.

The Gateway

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