

People who like  
sausage and respect  
the law . . .

# the Gateway

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. . . shouldn't observe  
the making of either.



April fool! The old and new Students' Council executives seem to be having a chuckle over Willie Gruber's plan, approved at Monday's changeover meeting, to send Gateway editor Gordon Turtle on a one-way fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe. Just wait until they find out where next year's editor plans to send them . . .

## Clean up act, says MLA

"The university has got to clean up its act, or the government will do it for them."

That's what new Students' Union president Nolan Astley was told last week by MLA (Edmonton Glengarry) Rollie Cook.

Astley was meeting with Cook as part of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) lobbying program, designed to inform MLAs of students' positions on university funding issues.

Cook told Astley that the University of Alberta is a "fourth rate institution with fourth rate professors," and named the tenure system as the reason for government reluctance to provide more funding for the university.

Astley asked Cook if starting the university into submission was an appropriate analogy, and Cook replied that it was.

The Gateway contacted Cook on Monday, and the MLA basically reiterated the points he discussed with Astley.

"Until the university shows some leadership," he said, "they have two choices; to continue with the status quo or to face line-by-line budgetting."

Cook thinks that financial problems can't be solved until a review and overhaul of the tenure system are completed.

"When the university was growing rapidly in the sixties, a lot of professors received tenure who really didn't deserve it," says Cook. "It's a major problem because many of the university's professors are not first-rank scholars."

Cook bases his assessment on the time he spent here as a student as well as his observations of other universities' systems.

Cook concluded by saying the university must put a priority on hiring high quality professors.

Astley said that his discussion with Cook degenerated into an argument.

"He acknowledged that the university is underfunded," said Astley, "but noted that nothing will be done until the tenure system is overhauled."

Astley and Cook agree on one issue, however, and that is the question of student aid.

"The government will increase grants and loans to students proportional to the increase in tuition fees," Cook told *The Gateway*.

Things have gone a bit better for other students meeting with government members. One MLA, Eric Musgrave, has made a speech in the Legislature advocating free education and reiterated that opinion in his interview with a Calgary student.

## Computer new TA at U of A

by Keith Krause

Installation of the new PLATO computer will give the University of Alberta a "national and international reputation in the area of computer-assisted instruction."

This comment was made by university President Myer Horowitz, at the unveiling of the PLATO (Program Logic for Automated Teaching Operations) system Friday. The \$2.3 million unit was developed at the University of Illinois to utilize all the capabilities of large scale computers in an instructional setting.

"We've acquired a computer that will permit us to do the things we have been looking forward to for a long time," said Horowitz.

The PLATO system will be in operation by September, initially with 60 terminals. The Faculty of Medicine, which already teaches a computer cardiology course to second-year

students, will be the main user of the system.

The computer can be used for almost any teaching purpose though, Horowitz says. There are already 7000 courses developed for the PLATO system.

The decision to acquire the PLATO system was made in January by the Board of Governors. The system is a replacement for the current IBM 1500 computer which IBM is removing this spring.

But PLATO is also intended to expand the university's computer instruction capability. It can be upgraded to handle 2000 simultaneous users, although the current equipment can only operate 170 terminals.

"We will probably have far more potential users than we can handle," said Dale Bent, Director of Computing Services.

Because large-scale expansion "may cost several million dollars," departments will have

to compete for scarce computer time, he said.

"We must be prepared to develop policies to achieve maximum use of the computer," said Bent.

The PLATO system will also enjoy province-wide use,

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## FAS changes its stand on tuition

by Alison Thomson

Increasing the accessibility to education was adopted as a long-term goal of the Federation of Alberta Students, (FAS) at their spring conference at the U of A this weekend.

Delegates from the University of Calgary (U of C) in particular said they believed this would be a policy much more readily supported by students in general, than the previous policy of advocating free tuition.

FAS president Hamish Kerfoot disagreed. "You can't trash our long-term policy because a few students disagree with it," he said.

Supporting accessibility to education does not preclude supporting the abolition of tuition fees, though U of C grad student representative Dave Fager pointed out.

Delegates also agreed to a restructuring proposal originally put forth by the U of A a year-

and-a-half ago. Although there were some objections to the hastiness of the action, the proposal — which creates an executive with one representative per institution — was approved in principle.

The proposal will be studied by FAS members over the summer and discussed at the fall conference.

Students who prepared the

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## Intercollegiate sports may be cut

Four intercollegiate sports may be axed because of funding shortages. Department of Athletics sources have revealed.

Men's and women's track and field, cross-country, judo and women's field hockey may be on the block because they failed to meet criteria set by the Athletics department. *The Gateway* has learned.

Any program changes depend on the 1980-81 Athletics budget, which will not be finalized until the return from Moscow of department head Ed Zemrau next week.

Members of the Athletics department executive used a set of 14 criteria to determine which

programs would be cut. Director of Men's Athletics Brian Heaney revealed.

The criteria include revenue-producing ability, media interest, a success record, facilities available, coaches on staff, cost, participant quality, high school strength, community interest, Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) championships and adequate competition elsewhere.

The proposed cancellations may be a bargaining tool to convince the federal government to provide increased funding.

Heaney and Women's athletics director Debbie Shogan say,

But if no additional funding is forthcoming, the programs will be dropped, Shogan says.

In addition, decisions to remove women's athletics staff are not made by women's athletics, she says.

The decision is representative of the board, Heaney says. "I don't think any one member had enough influence to push one sport up or down."

"The thing I liked about the process was realizing my own preferences didn't have much to do with it," he adds.

"I didn't feel too bad about it at all," he says. "It was the mandate of the executive."

Shogan says she believes

some of the criteria used to evaluate programs are "irrelevant," particularly a sports revenue-producing ability. On the other hand, participant interest is the most important factor, Shogan says.

Some committee members were also concerned that programs were weakened because finances were spread thinly. Heaney says cutting sports will encourage "first-class programs".

"I don't want to be in the situation where a large quantity of programs exist," Heaney says, a situation which would give the U of A a second-class image.

Thus, he says, everything

from first-class facilities to uniforms are important in creating national champions.

But women's director Shogan says programs which will be cut in the future are obvious.

"If available money doesn't change," she says, "revenue-producing ability will be an important criterion."

"We've got to understand what we represent," Heaney says. "There can't be debate."

Fencing, water polo, alpine skiing, nordic skiing and rugby have all been eliminated from intercollegiate competition during tight financial situations in the past.