

EDITORIAL

Upping the ante

The university and government are locked in a high stakes poker game. The prize is next year's operating budget and tuition fee level. It goes something like this:

Round I: Jim Horsman, Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, says he will not raise tuition fees next year. But — hold it — he only said he won't raise them until he has seen the federal-provincial report on student finance and until he has formulated a policy on tuition fees. That could happen tomorrow.

Round II: The university asks for a 15 percent increase to cover only the maintenance of existing programs. Last year it asked for 13 percent, and received 9½. This meant more staff cutbacks.

Round III: University non-academic staff announce they will ask for a 20 percent increase in salaries and benefits to achieve parity with the rest of the public sector. A 15 percent increase in the government grant will not cover this.

Round IV: University president Myer Horowitz says that if the university doesn't get "a sufficient amount" from the government, tuition fees will be raised. He does not, however, say what "a sufficient amount" is.

Round V: The government feels the pressure. For every one percent increase the government does not grant, tuition fees would have to rise 11 percent.

Will the government give in to university pressure and grant the 15 percent increase? Will the university settle for much less? Will the non-academic staff strike illegally for a 20 percent pay increase? Will the government announce a policy of indexing tuition fees to wash their hands of the problem?

Will students get shafted? You can bet on it!

Going, going ...

Bulldozers will show up in North Garneau in May, and the destruction of at least some portion of the neighborhood seems inevitable. Given that, the plan presented to Students' Council last Tuesday is likely the best of a number of very bad alternatives.

The plan does, however, display a shocking lack of commitment to the long term preservation of any portion of North Garneau as architecturally intact student housing. Although only 22 of 85 houses will be destroyed, only 13 will be renovated for continued student use.

The rest will be allowed to deteriorate, leaving the university with the option of declaring them unfit in the future and destroying them. This allows the university to remove bit by bit a neighborhood they couldn't wipe out in one swipe.

As well, the university is considering constructing a parking lot in the middle of North Garneau, razing a further six houses. It is sheer folly for the university to consider building a parkade in the middle of a residential area when they could easily build one east of HUB. (Plans already exist for this.) Unless, of course, one assumes they intend to expand into Garneau further with academic construction. Does the university possess some long term plans for North Garneau and the surrounding area which we are not being told about? It certainly looks like it.

Director of Housing and Food Services Gail Brown's confirmation that the remaining land in North Garneau will be preserved for future academic expansion, the university's refusal to consider renovating homes in the area, and the generally slipshod architects' evaluation of North Garneau homes is indicative of a "we're not concerned about student housing" attitude on the part of university planners. In their headlong rush towards the World Student Games, they are leaving behind a wake of unanswered questions students have a right to know about.

But unless students themselves get together and begin asking these questions quickly, the fate of Garneau will be decided far beyond the minimal destruction slated to begin in May. Garneau will be finished.

Keith Krause

the Gateway

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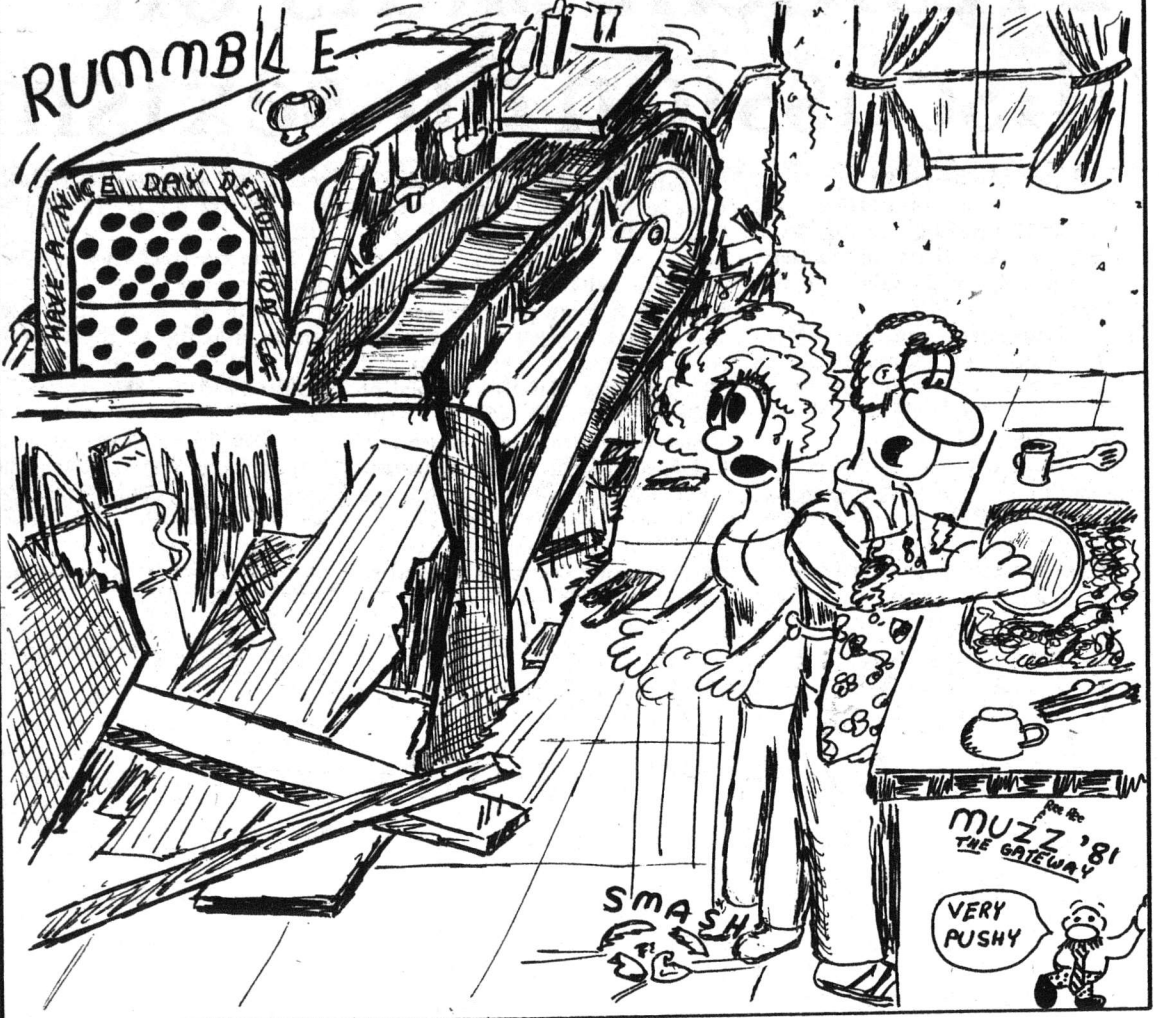
And in those days the great hurricane Engineerus subsidized, and life on the pleasant island returned to normal. Jens Andersen, Murray Whitby,

Sue Jurczak, John Barry and Tom Freeland gathered coconuts, while Alex Corinthians, Igor and Jessica Leventhal, Cathy Emberley and Maureen Laviolette went fishing. Eida Hopfe, Mary Ruth Olson and Alison Thomson went hunting for wild boar, while Steve Hoffart and Barb MacRae lent their moral support. Nina Miller gazed out over the lagoon and sighed, "Where are you, Wes?" And John Roggeveen measured out the distance between two trees for his hammock. But — alas! — no one in this merry crew was listening to the weather reports, so they were completely unprepared when the twenty foot waves of Typhoon Electionus swept across the coral reefs and smashed into their placid isle...

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NEWS ITEM: NORTH GARNEAU HOUSES PEGGED FOR DESTRUCTION



I SAID: HOW MUCH OF A RUSH CAN THEY BE IN? THE WORLD STUDENT GAMES AREN'T FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS!!

Monty Python and sexism

Ah, sexism! Love it! Nothing like it to expose one's foibles (which sounds disgusting but, dear Aspidistra, is not).

That article from CUP, describing women as a minority, for example. Since there are roughly as many women as there are men, that makes men a minority too, right? Two minorities don't make a totality. Somewhere out there is a third sex, neither male nor female (rather like an Arts Student), and at least 1 in 3 of us is one (just like an Arts Student in fact). Come out of your closet, whatever you are.

Then someone said that they couldn't understand how anyone could have written that nameless article in *Godiva*. Well, it's like stuffing Brussel sprouts. You just sit and do it. I was more surprised that "Pediophilology" came as close as it did to being spelt correctly.

And, of course, Aspidistra opened her column by saying she wasn't going to give *Godiva* any free publicity, then spent the rest of the article doing just that. That one was a collector's item.

I love kicklines, princesses, kicklines, boatraces and the rest, even though in my eleven years on campus I've never yet par-

Women's center sexist

Hear, Hear! I loudly applaud the Students' Union's support for a women's center. Such an area is greatly needed in this university community. As pointed out in last week's *Aspidistra* column, this "could be a drop-in area, the center of political action, a feminist library..." What a fantastic idea!

But why stop there? Let's allocate a men's center on campus as well. Then we men could drop in, get together, and be "sexist." Let's plan our humiliation, degradation and contempt for women. We could even form a political action group based on the premise "Abuse and exploitation

anticipated. I never did find out whether the antis are lefties, and go home to squat on the bare boards and indulge in communal readings of obscure Marxian tracts, or righties, who go Bible-thumping every Sunday and denounce alcohol as the Devil's brew. Both sides are capable of censorship, and they all suck. Well, those who are trained do.

Forced into one mold

To the three and twelve others who "are in favour of covering up concrete with pretty faces":

What is sexist about a poster of a pretty face? Well, what decides that face is pretty? "Pretty" is only an acknowledgement that a person (generally female) conforms to the conventional ideas of physical beauty. Those conventions are the rules of tyranny to any thinking woman.

I, for one, am tired of pictures of prettiness. They stare from magazines, from film screens, are frozen in store windows. The message is: "This is the way you ought to look."

Women, in response, may perform all kinds of grotesque rituals — they pluck their

I remember the letters the British press printed when Monty Python first hit the screen, full of sanctimonious hand-wringing and pious horror, just like those you ran last week. So far as I know, no one was so affected by Python that they nailed the parrot's feet to the perch.

The REAL Tony Redunzo
Geology

eyebrows, shave their legs, paint their nails, diet to the point of anorexia. Surely this alone convinces you that women are under tremendous pressure to "improve" (conventionalize) their facades. We do not need more examples of conventional prettiness to remind us that society has very standard standards of what we ought to be.

Magazines may feature "handsome" men. So may movies. But "pretty" women are by far more often used (in more ways than one) and men are admitted to have "sex appeal" even if their faces are only "interesting," their bodies not "standard."

Covering concrete with something of artistic merit (or anything with creativity rather than conservatism as its basis) is an excellent idea. But if it is to be covered with mere prettiness, I prefer the naked inoffensive wall. I agree with the sage who said, "The ugly can be beautiful, the pretty, never."

Deirdre Ah Shene
Arts II

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Thursday, 4 p.m.

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