



photo Fon Mah

You, fellow students, may think winter has set in for good. But here is one fine fellow who thinks autumn days are for sitting in the shade of a maple tree. Mind you, most of us would park our faithful bicycles and sit in the shade if we were assured of pleasant company and a bit of lunch.

## Tues. classes cancelled

In reaction to the widely publicized controversy over the living conditions of the people on the Cold Lake Indian Reserve, the U of A Students' Council is sponsoring a teach-in on Indians' problems next Tuesday afternoon.

The teach-in organizers have contacted the Indian Association of Alberta, a number of Alberta Indian chiefs, and Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien's office in an attempt to get speakers but, as yet, none have been confirmed.

The teach-in is planned as a panel discussion beginning at noon. The Students' Union can declare two days of every year to be Students' Activities days and classes are cancelled for these days. Tuesday's date was chosen by last year's student council.

A teach-in on the Canadian economy had originally been scheduled for Tuesday but this was changed this week by the Students' Union Forums Committee because, according to Doug Black, Students' Union Coordinator, "we couldn't get a minister from Ottawa to talk about the economy and because this thing came up and we consider it far more important."

Students' Union Academic Vice-President, Dave Biltek, says that the problem of the Cold Lake Indians is primarily with the educational system. Indians from this and other reserves are being bussed to white schools because the federal government believes the reserve schools to be inferior. However, Biltek maintains "the Indians want control over their own education

like everyone else has. Right now they have no say at all."

Recently Robert Moses, an assistant to Jean Chretien, visited the Cold Lake reserve and was reportedly appalled at the people's living conditions. He said he had never seen living conditions so poor, "not even in northern Quebec."

Moses' tour resulted from an Indian boycott of white schools.

Biltek says that the Indians have tried everything available to them to get better living conditions but that the government has shown little interest in remedying the situation. "They may now be forced to use more violent methods such as occupying the local Indian Affairs Offices."

Students' Council has budgeted about \$3,000 for the teach-in. the

## Memorial council evicted

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)--Students at Memorial University in Newfoundland, aided and abetted by the newspaper *The Muse* and former student leaders, ousted their entire student council in a referendum.

The reactionary council, led by 34-year-old Dave Rooney, who is connected with the provincial Progressive Conservative party, were facing their second non-confidence referendum since being elected in an election last spring.

This time the council's usually

efficient political machine could no longer hold out against the charges of corruption and patronage. The final vote in the referendum was 1,530 against Rooney's council, with 895 supporting it.

Politics, the provincial sport in Newfoundland, are decided on the university level here much the same as on the provincial level, by personalities rather than by issues.

But the student bureaucracy at Memorial during Rooney's prematurely-ended reign was

also run in a manner akin to provincial politics: by patronage rather than by democratic means.

The directors of the council's \$80,000 Opportunities for Youth program read like the list of council executive members, and most paying jobs in the council bureaucracy went to council members or Rooney supporters. Rooney himself was accused by *The Muse* of taking a \$1,000 salary as summer president in addition to \$1,500 as the OFY program director.

# DROP-OUTS ENCOURAGED

## Indian children sent to mental institutions

By Fiona Campbell

The Indians in Alberta are demanding better schools on reservations with emphasis placed on inherent Indian cultural backgrounds.

Last night at a benefit concert sponsored by the Students' Union, Mr. John Pehinec, Special Projects Officer of the Indian Association of Alberta, spoke of the conditions on the 42 Indian reserves in this province, with special reference to the boycott action being taken in Cold Lake.

Privilege, Manna and Hot Cottage gave their services free of charge to support the Indians in their efforts to pressure the government into some action especially in the field of education.

### DEPLORABLE SITUATION

A pamphlet, available at the door contained a form letter to be signed and mailed to Jean Chretien, Minister of Indian Affairs in Ottawa and said: "It is a deplorable situation when funds from your department are spent on 'White' schools that allow only 10% of the enrollment to be Indian, and when excrement from a pig farm is allowed to flow into the reserve's water supply, and when white teachers encourage Indian students to drop out so that the class average will remain high."

Pehinec began with a general outline of the state of affairs as they developed from pre second world war days. At this time, Indians were not considered capable of being educated. As a result, the few who gleaned smatterings of a formal education number approximately 5% of the parents who are now fighting for fairer opportunities for their own children. In essence, the request is for educational facilities on the reservations and in decent schools that will include the Indian influences.

In addition, they demand better roads and decent bus service to the schools presently operating, and unpolluted water for general usage. Better homes and a generally more equitable standard of living would also facilitate the Indian programs and perhaps reduce the drop-out rate which numbers 50% before grade 6 and 96% by grade 12.

Pehinec suggested schools on reservations would teach children decently during the day, and educate the parents at night.

The policy of the Administration of Indian Affairs in Ottawa centralizes its focus on schools built off the reserves and busing the children away from what seems to be considered the inferior or detrimental influences of their homes and culture.

### CHILDREN SENT AWAY

The children are sent outside the reserves and are placed in schools where no Indian can sit on the Board as Indians are exempt from taxes and outside municipalities. Here there seems to be a tendency to cut the children off short.

Pehinec cited numerous examples. These included poor texts, teachers encouraging students to drop out to maintain class averages, direct racism, inefficient bus facilities, the language factors, refusal of regular health care unit medication, and the most outstanding case of all where children who were to write remedial examinations were placed in an institution for the mentally retarded last year. Examples, Mr. Pehinec said, could be quoted all night.

### POOR DESIGN

The actual schools that have been constructed have been glaring examples of poor design; sewage removal pipes line the ceilings and drip every time they are used, and the drinking water of the school in Cold Lake is polluted by a nearby pig farm. The Indians proposed a water system costing 700 dollars whereby a clean spring would be utilized; the design submitted and now in effect cost \$25,000 and pipes in water that has been declared unfit for human consumption.

Pehinec asked for concentrated support through force of numbers to pressure the government into taking a long hard look at the deplorable conditions that exist on the reservations. After the profuse promises of help from students across the country two years ago and the subsequent dissipation of fervour, Pehinec feels that the current crisis is one where the university student can help tremendously.