

The Gateway



Bear Rick Stanley will be named CIAU's top rookie hoop player. P13

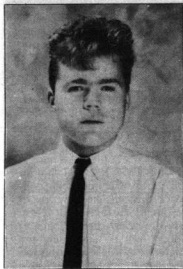
SU candidates change

by Roberta Franchuk

Two independent candidates for Students' Union offices have dropped out of the race, citing the difficulties of working with a partial rather than a full slate.

Ward Deisman, presidential candidate, and Steven Sieker, finance candidate, withdrew their applications Friday. The two had been members of the Leadership Project slate, but ran as independents when the other slate positions went unfilled.

"We've done a lot of talking about the organization now, without a full slate," said Deisman, "and how much we could really achieve if we got in, just the two of us, given that we wouldn't have any kind of real network to work with. We decided that we probably wouldn't be able to accomplish the goals that we were promising to give to the students."



Ex-Presidential candidate Deisman

"We didn't feel that with two people we could be quite as assertive as we would have liked," said Sieker.

The organization behind Leadership Project will be turning their attention to other areas of student involvement, said Martin Levenson, one of the slate organizers.

"We'll be doing some things to get in touch with the students," he said. "We'll be doing the things the Students' Union hasn't been doing."

One of these possible goals, said Levenson, is "setting up a student issues research group to research the issues in a credible fashion."

The final plans of the candidates are "uncertain," said Deisman, adding, "I might even write for the Gateway."

Sieker, who is in his first year at the U of A, plans to spend next year becoming "more familiar with the politics."

"I'll be able to present a stronger image next year," he said.

Among the other candidates, Cyndy Bedard of the United Action Slate has dropped from the running for VP Finance. Security Chief Yar of the Star Trek II slate was disqualified due to academic ineligibility. The position of Vice President of Women's Athletics has gone to Janice Morrison by acclamation.

The position of Vice President of Men's Athletics may be contested for the first time in several years, as two people, Kendall Baleshko and Glen Allen, have applied for the position. Cheryl Ferris is the sole candidate for President-elect of Athletics. These candidates have yet to be officially approved by the Chief Returning Officer.



These youngsters spent Sunday at the Campus Rec. skating party

Photo Rob Galbraith

Upgrading required for playground

by Dana Nyquist

The Students' Union Daycare in HUB is currently attempting to raise funds for the spring renovation of their children's playground. The existing site is considered largely unusable for various health, safety, and design reasons.

Due to the type and distribution of soil in the playground, grass cannot grow and available space is wasted. Rains turn the playground

into a mud pit and dry spells cause dust to rise, at times seriously endangering the health of asthmatic children.

The soil is distributed on either side of a concrete walkway. One side is dominated by a large mound of dirt and the other side recedes into a wide depression. Grass cannot grow either on the hill or in the depression due to water drainage and collection problems.

Certain play structures are considered to be potentially hazardous to the children's safety. Logs of unequal length placed vertically

two way street, and the distribution of the soil into large areas of lower and higher elevations inhibits the use of these areas for games requiring levelled, grass-covered ground.

Karen Watts, director of the daycare program, hopes to eliminate these health and safety problems and promote optimum utilization of the area by implementing a new design for the site developed by the University of Alberta Planning and Design Section. The total cost of redevelopment has been estimated at approximately \$30,000.



Photo Paul Menzies

around soil at higher elevations to keep the dirt intact are used by the children to walk on, at the risk of endangering their safety. A large sewer pipe utilized as a tunnel for children to crawl in is potentially hazardous due to its location not far from the base of the hill. Children coming down the hill may trip and crash into the pipe.

These design problems not only affect the health and safety of the children but severely limit optimum utilization of motion to that of a

The Daycare is a non-profit organization subsidized by provincial and city governments, with parent fees covering a very small portion of the total cost of daycare. Eighty percent of their clientele is reserved

PLAYGROUND P2

If I drop dead tomorrow, at least I'll know I died in good health.

Bum Phillips
Pro football coach

CONTENTS

INTERVIEW
Speaking with Ben Wicks reveals a conscientious cartoonist P6

MUSIC
Review of volume 3 of the underground music release "It Came From Canada" P7

FEATURE
Inner-city kids find refuge in student-run woodwork program PP 8-9

SPORTS
Two Golden Bear football players were drafted by the Edmonton Eskimos P12

FILM
John Huston's last movie, *The Dead*, is Irish enchantment P10

Computer chess

by Drago Ruiu

To some, Edmonton seems an unlikely locale for a convention of battling chess giants. But between May 28 and 31, 1989, twenty-four of the world's toughest computerized chess players will enter combat here in the World Computer Chess Championships.

Edmonton beat out other bidders such as San Diego and Seville, Spain, to be the site of the championships. They will take place concurrently with the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) convention. The contest alternates locale and continents between Europe and North America every three years. The next championship will be held in Spain at the same time as the 1992 Olympics.

One of the reasons behind the locale of this championship is because one of the main contenders is from Edmonton, University of Alberta Computing Science professor Jonathan Schaeffer is the primary author of Phoenix, one of the world's top four chess programs.

Phoenix runs on a network of Sun 4 micro-computers in competition. It plays against competitors like Cray-Blitz, a brute force program that runs on a 16-Processor Cray supercomputer, and Chiptest,

a customized-chip chess processor that is currently the fastest 'thinking' chess machine.

"I don't have the sheer processing power of Cray-Blitz or Chiptest," says Schaeffer. "I have to offset that number-crunching with knowledge. We can't afford machines that cost tens of millions of dollars, or require special fabrication.

"It's very difficult to get a chess master to sit down and explain how he thinks when he plays. Often, they will explain moves they make with phrases like 'that situation is safe,' or 'good.' It's very tough defining abstract concepts like 'safe' or 'good' to a computer. It helps that I'm a chess master myself."

Phoenix has been nine years in the making, and is nowhere near 'done'. It is constantly being worked on. "After every game, we sit down and analyze what happened." For this next championship, Schaeffer is incorporating a new 'secret' weapon into Phoenix, a library of every grand-masters game ever recorded.

Even with the advances we are making in computing, machines still can't beat grand-masters at chess. Currently the machines are playing at a strong masters level. But it is a moot point, because the

COMPUTER P2