

# Universities neglect tolerance and understanding

by Rick Warren

Universities should do more to create better understanding and tolerance in Canadian society, says a University of Alberta professor.

"We should not allow the university to perpetuate the discredited myth that it is neutral in regard to value issues and that its task is simply to pursue the truth while making no comment on moral values," Educational Foundations Associate Professor Dr. Ivan DeFaveri told the provincial committee on tolerance and understanding in Edmonton last Wednesday.

The Alberta Government formed the committee after Eckville teacher Jim Keegstra was fired for teaching students the Jewish holocaust in the second world war was a hoax.

Neutrality is not only undesirable - it is impossible, said Dr. DeFaveri.

The University should substitute a clear and unambiguous commitment to the value of equal rights of all people in place of any claims that the university is value free, he said.

He added that the university's internal policies and unwieldy size should not be allowed to serve as an excuse for making only a token gesture in approaching the problems facing the commission.

A major step the university could take, he said, would be to ensure that students preparing to become teachers receive a better liberal education than they do now.

"In it's (the Faculty of Education) pursuit of multiple purposes

it tends to lose sight of it's major goal: to educate future teachers and not merely train them. On the one hand it wants students to become liberally educated: on the other hand it also wants to promote the technical expertise future teachers will need," said DeFaveri.

The university best contribution would be made if it placed more emphasis on the cultivation of well educated teachers rather than technical aspects of the teacher education programs.

DeFaveri said technical aspects are learned on the job (including student teaching placements) with more lasting effect.

The original version of a university where free, informed and rational minds are cultivated should be taken more seriously

than it has been in recent years, he said.

"It will include an attempt to encourage all students to care about the well-being and flourishing of other human beings. If this takes place in the emotional lives of our students, our commitment to the equal rights of all people will be translated into action," said DeFaveri.

Education students should be less concerned with such things as teaching methods, computer literacy and the training of rats." They should aim for an education centered around the humanities and the social sciences, he said.

DeFaveri says "students should be required to take fewer courses giving multiple choice questions on final exams, fewer courses whose final examinations rely almost entirely on memorization, and fewer courses the

mastery of which requires nothing but common sense."

"Then future teachers will learn about the social, historical economic and ideological forces that have given rise to intolerance. Then they will be most likely to have those experiences which will best prepare them to make the many decisions related to tolerance that will confront them when they become teachers.

Committee Chairman Ron Gitter called the DeFaveri presentation very important saying it will enable them to get a better grip on their task. The committee is due to present it's report to the provincial government in December.

The Committee on Tolerance and Understanding has been touring the province and receiving submissions for the last four months.

## ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING GROUP

Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:00 PM  
March 7, 14, 21, & 28, 1984

To register, contact:  
STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICES  
102 Athabasca Hall  
432-5205



## LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK?

The Students' Union requires three students to work approximately 10 - 15 hrs./wk. to coordinate the new typing pool.

Application forms available in Rm. 259 SUB, 432-4236.  
Application deadline Friday 2 March 1984.

## Multiculturalism should be taught in schools

by Suzette C. Chan

Second year Education Student Carol Leroy believes "an important starting point in teaching tolerance is the development of teachers who not only have tolerant attitudes but who truly appreciate the diversity of our multicultural society."

Leroy's comments were part of a Student Union submission to the Committee on Tolerance and Understanding.

The committee wrapped up 25 days of province-wide hearings with a five-day stay in Edmonton last week.

The SU also presented briefs by Ward Milligan (Ed IV) and David Paterson, who along with Leroy is completing an after-degree B.Ed. program.

VP Academic Barb Donaldson, co-ordinator of the student

presentation, apologized for its limited scope due to "time constraints."

Apparently, SU President Robert Greenhill received an invitation in September to present briefs to the commission but forgot to tell anyone until Christmas.

In a written submission, Milligan, who was unable to attend the hearings, says "the university's job is to equip...teachers with the tools needed to combat discrimination."

He suggests that the B.Ed. program should include "a course on multiculturalism that would allow students to gain an understanding of various cultures."

Milligan further recommends "potential teachers who continually show a lack of understanding towards various groups and cultures within our society...be removed from the education program."

Leroy says one of the weaknesses of the current education program is that potential teachers are not taught adequately how to approach minority children in the classroom.

"We do not learn how to effectively work with them and we are often left with the impression that their culture, not the system, is at fault for their failures."

To improve "cultural exposure" for education students, Paterson recommends "a variety of placements for student teachers," such as on Indian reserves and in northern and rural schools; lectures by cultural and ethnic leaders; and "at least one required course in multicultural studies."

He also agreed to points made by Dr. Ivan DeFaveri earlier that week (see above). Although Paterson prefers education students to have complete freedom to develop their own style of dealing with moral questions in the classroom, he recognised that his is a minority view.

"Many education students feel they need more specific training...they can't handle ideas. We need to find the middle ground between a completely liberal approach and specific tolerance training."

## Right versus left

Toronto (CUP) - A member of a campus right-wing Christian group disrupted a recent meeting between University of Toronto Gays and Lesbians Club and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

The Sisters of Indulgence are gay men who wear nun's habits as a statement on religion and sexual guilt feelings, founded in San Francisco.

Mike Kelly, who attended the meeting, said a Marantha Campus Fellowship member broke into the room and "started yelling 'we're sinners and we're all going to hell.'"

Kelly said he thought the man was a "Sister" at first, playing a joke as "we had just heard a presentation on why such people (who criticize gays) look silly" he said.

The meeting helped support individuals "troubled" about their sexual preference and served as a discussion on what to do about people who abuse gays and lesbians.

The Marantha group has been removed from some university campuses because members refuse to tolerate other views.

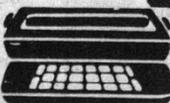
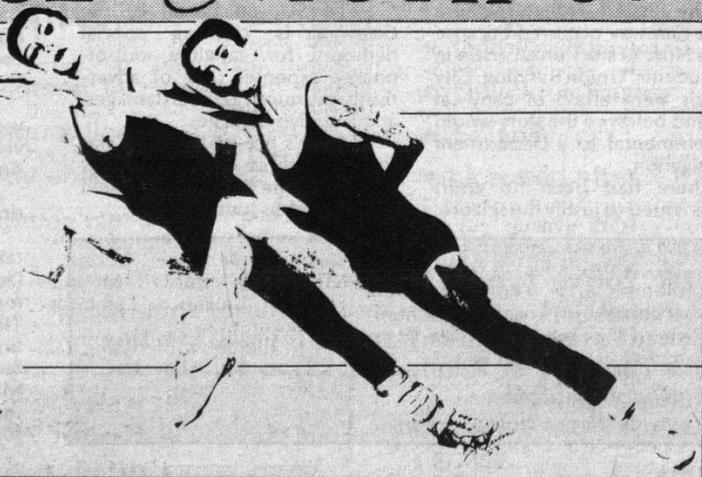
FROM \$420 A MONTH  
AT...  
THE Village  
AT SOUTHGATE  
A Quality Rental Project  
More Lifestyle for your rent  
10711 47 AVENUE  
434-9215  
A MIDWEST RENTAL PROPERTY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

ORCHESIS CREATIVE DANCE PRESENTS:

## DANCE MOTIF '84

March 2, 3, 1984  
8:00 p.m.  
Student Union Theatre  
tickets 5.00  
available from  
Orchisis members  
or the Sub ticket office  
information 432-5601



ACCORD  
STENO  
SERVICE

Typing & Photocopying Service

North end of HUB Mall

433-7727