

Student politicians gear up once again

by Nina Miller

Has apathy given way to political involvement at the U of A — or is it just an excuse to get drunk on Friday afternoons?

Either way, mainstream political clubs are flourishing on campus.

The Liberal party campus club has a registered membership of over 100, the NDP campus club over 60 members and the Progressive Conservative club around 30 members.

This is a considerable change from last year. Both the Liberals and the Conservatives had no structured organization here. The NDP's had a small informal group, according to Todd Race, current president of the NDP campus club.

Perhaps the reason all these political clubs are doing well is because it's trendy.

The clubs all have a common purpose: they say they want to educate students, increase their political awareness and inform them of party policies.

Activities do not vary radically. Beer socials seem to be the most popular form of congregation for political debate.

The campus NDP has general weekly meetings and informal discussions of "what is going on in the world," says Race.

The Liberal club has brought many speakers to campus, primarily from Ottawa. They have also sponsored forums, including one on energy last weekend.

As yet, the Conservatives have not sponsored any speakers. But Sheena Cox, ex-president of the campus club, says, "We are hoping to bring someone to speak." She says they had arranged for an MLA to come but "he had to cancel" because of an important caucus meeting.

When asked to comment on their party's philosophy, leaders were initially at a loss for words.

"I think it is a hard thing to put down in a few sentences," said Cox, "and they'd only be my own opinions." Later she said, "I guess it is free enterprise."

"No one party follows a set doctrine," says Dale Normand, president of the campus Liberals. "We all hold the same values;

that's what makes a party ... we all come from Liberal roots."

"It's the democratic socialist party," says Todd Race, president of the campus NDP club. "We want to improve the lot of the people. We're the people's party."

The campus Conservatives and NDP are both affiliated to the youth corps of their respective parties and claim their chief form of input is through this channel.

The Liberal party is not affiliated with the youth section of the party, but Normand says, "It is surprising the amount of input we have in the party." The campus club is affiliated with both the national and provincial wings, as are the other two parties.

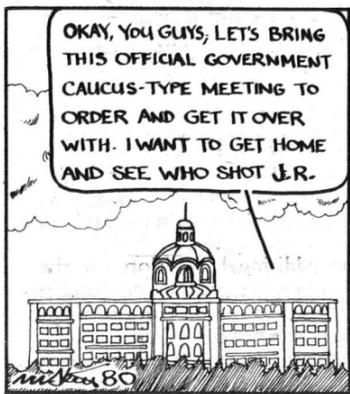
An explanation for this sudden interest in politics on this campus could be the present constitutional crisis, and other hot issues concerning Canada at the moment.

Provincially, it could be an expression of dissatisfaction with the government.

Or, perhaps it is a situation, where once one club formed, others quickly got their acts together, not to be outdone and to form some opposition.

There has been some talk of forming a mock parliament sometime after Christmas, says Liberal president Dale Normand.

Baz by Skeet



NAIT strike deadline set

by Jim McElgunn

Instructors at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) may go on strike if they do not accept the results of a binding arbitration board decision to be released Tuesday.

The instructors, members of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE), have been without a contract since April 1. The two main issues in their

dispute with the government are pay and classroom content hours.

Instructors at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) have also indicated they will walk off the job if a satisfactory settlement is not reached by then.

The instructors are paid about \$5000 less than similar instructors at Grant MacEwan Community College. Many have

been moonlighting to make ends meet, and their teaching performance has suffered, according to Steve Buckley, vice president of the SAIT instructors union.

If the instructors reject the imposed settlement, their only option is to strike. But Bill 41, which has been condemned by the International Labour Organization as "repressive labor legislation", makes it illegal for provincial employees to strike.

Negotiations for all Alberta institutes of technology came to a halt last month. Instructors were offered an 8 1/4 percent wage increase. That offer was turned down by a two to one margin.

The government applied for and got binding arbitration despite opposition from the union. Of the three members on the arbitration board, two are government appointees; the other

was chosen by the Public Service Employee Relations Board, which is responsible for the binding arbitration.

AUPE Public Relation Officer Bill Finn says the union opposes binding arbitration because "it takes away the sense of urgency."

The NAIT Students' Association and student newspaper the *Nugget* have refused to take a position on the dispute, and are urging NAIT students to study the matter and reach their own conclusions.

Some NAIT students are planning a boycott of classes to show support for their instructors if they go on strike. But the administration is asking students not to boycott classes; instead, they suggest students make the best use of their time by studying if classes are not held.

Theft trial for a proxy "banker"

MONTREAL (CUP)—"I am satisfied that there has been sufficient proof made to oblige me to open a trial."

With these words, Judge Raymond Stalker told the courtroom November 18 that Universite de Montreal student Guy Heroux would stand trial on three counts of theft. The charges carry a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment.

The charges stem from an occupation during the summer of the offices of the Director of Residences by students irate over an 8.5 per cent increase in residence fees. The proposed increase would raise the fees from \$82 to \$89 per month. The students gave Heroux a mandate to hold their rent cheques as a protest measure.

The text of the law under which Heroux is charged defines theft as "depriving or intending to deprive someone of property permanently or temporarily."

"I wonder what he was mandated for if it was not to deprive the Universite de Montreal of this money," said Judge Stalker.

Defense lawyer Real LeBlanc had argued that charging Heroux with theft of the cheques made out

to the university was analogous to charging persons who occupy an office or a building with theft.

Heroux faces two other charges - one of stealing the petty cash in the residence Director's office and the other of making over \$300 worth of photocopies.

The defense attorney produced a letter to the Director of Residences stating that all money owed would be returned as soon as a detailed account of such sums was received.

Heroux testified that he personally told Residence Director Gilles Morrisset that the money was in safekeeping and would be turned over as soon as a receipt was offered.

Morrisset testified at the previous session of the preliminary hearing that no one had offered to return the money to him at any time after the occupation.

Despite the November 18 testimony, Judge Stalker said the charge of theft of \$756 stands. He said the offers to return the money accompanied by demands for precise accounts were "very conditional."

With the preliminary hearing now concluded, the date for Heroux's trial will be set on January 25.



photo Bill Ineier

Enrolment stats

The following is the number of full-time students in each faculty as of October 23 according to preliminary figures released by the Registrar's office.

Faculty	1980-81	1979-80	Change
Agriculture and Forestry	657	695	-38
Arts	2964	2907	+57
Business Administration and Commerce	1316	1315	+1
Dental Hygiene	79	74	+5
Dentistry	196	192	+4
Education	2945	3178	-233
Engineering	1733	1642	+91
Faculte Saint-Jean	246	244	+2
Home Economics	345	357	-12
Law	526	497	+29
Library Science	3	3	-3
Medical Lab Science	97	97	-7
Medicine	797	774	+23
Nursing	349	320	+29
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	389	389	0
Physical Education	571	585	-14
Rehabilitation Medicine	293	315	-22
Science	3076	2914	+162
Total Undergraduates	16,572	16,498	+74
Graduate Studies and Research	1,987	1,933	+54
Total Full-Time Students	18,559	18,431	+128