



editorial

17,000 take pot luck

President-elect Graeme Leadbeater takes office April 1st with the knowledge that twice as many voters participated in this election as did in the last presidential election. That in itself could be seen as an indication of a renewed interest in the politics of the Students' Union. It might also be seen as the beginning of the union's much needed re-vitalization of awareness in areas such as student housing and government-financed loan systems.

But probably closer to the truth is identifying the twenty percent turn-out at the polls as being an indication of the still prevailing apathetic view taken by Union members towards their own system of government. If only 4,000 voters of the potential 19,000 can be bothered to cast their ballot, something is terribly wrong in the system.

Perhaps the confusion lies in the fact that campaigning is only allowed for six days. Consequently the barrage of posters, banners and public speakers fight a time element in trying to reach as many persons as possible, without proper time to fully develop their campaigns. Added to this are professors who do not co-operate by allowing speakers 10 minutes of their classtime for election purposes.

There was a time when classes were cancelled to allow as many as possible to attend the Election Rallye, the only co-ordinated function that allows the electorate to hear all candidates speak, but that too was missed this year. A meager crowd of 300 attended.

The fact that there is no auditorium or suitable open-space area to accommodate the electorate usually results (as it did this time) in elections coming and going without many being aware of their existence.

Maybe having large signs to attract voters to the polling booths would also increase the turn-out, but who knows? At best, we can hope things change next year. If twice as many persons vote in 1976, and if the trend continues again in 1977, we will, at that time, be electing officials to office not only with a majority of votes, but by a majority of eligible voters.

Unfortunately now is the time that our financial position is the most critical, and now is the time that student input is singularly most important asset needed in curing our woes.

Only 2,000 voters can rejoice in having their choice of president elected to office, and all the rest can do is simply hope for the best. Mr. Leadbeater is now working in their interests whether they care or not.

My only hope is that the election trend set this year will continue to the point where the electors do justice to the electoral system, and the elected officials will be properly mandated while serving their term of office.

Bernie Fritze

Pholk-o-what?!

Pholkophiles unite! There is a place in Edmonton where you can find peace - as well as good music, good food and good company. The Edmonton Folk Club meets every Sunday night at Garneau United Church (84th Ave and 112th Street) at 8:30. They offer a broad range of music from traditional to contemporary, with an emphasis on traditional. This is also the place to discover local musicians.

Yes, Virginia, they do exist and they're often damn good (and almost ignored by all of the local media).

Admission is a humble 2 dollars. Memberships are 5 dollars per year (which means concerts are 1 dollar for you and you receive the monthly club newsletter).

Coming events: Feb. 23 - "Glory Hill", bluegrass music; Feb. 28 - Gathering at Dave and Andy Spalding's, 14 Belmont Crescent, Spruce Grove.

For further information, come down any Sunday and see us, or phone Susan at 436-0247 or Richard at 433-8681.

P.S. don't phone Wayne Chase at 433-0649, he only handles the money.

Susan Burwash

LIBERAL- the one true party

I freely acknowledge that there are good people in all our Canadian political parties; people who in their own way are seeking to serve the best interests of the Public. However, to give a little balance to the scale after the appearance of letters openly favouring others, this comes to you from one who is one hundred per cent unashamedly Liberal. Abe Lincoln said that "They can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but they can't fool all of the people all of the time." It takes "guts" to be a Liberal in Alberta (in these days of political blindness). It is to the credit of Albertans, that one in every four Albertan voters voted Liberal in 1974 in the face of a

predominantly hostile press and great false propaganda concerning energy matters. Liberal strength increases as the truth is recognized. Young people everywhere, and those who are young at heart are turning to the Liberal movement. When a 'hanger-on' in the cabinet of a reactionary provincial government, (one who should know better) tells us to "stand shoulder-to-shoulder" against Ottawa, then the name of our nation's capital is used as a euphemism for "Canada". We Canadians of Alberta will not stand with anybody against Canada! In troubled times, when lies and sedition jostle for our attention, there is one patriot faith to hang on to, for those of us who love our country and nation; Canada! now, and Canada always. The Liberal Party is the true Canadian Party which will not fail us. To those who would divide this land, there can be but one answer. In the words of a fine anthem, The Maple Leaf for Ever!

Arthur Yates CD
(Rocky Mountain Liberal)
U of A student

Heartwarmer -- sports editorial

After reading the sports editorial in the February 6th Gateway, I was filled with a rosy glow of well-being. To think, all of those fine people of the University Athletic Board and the Faculty of Physical Education are co-operating to find the best way to spend my \$15.

By why should they be spending my money at all?

I resent being forced to contribute to allow students from the Faculty of Physical Education to creatively express themselves in a very expensive way. I realize that it is not exclusively PE students who use UAB facilities, but they do tend to dominate many of the sports activities. The point is, only 12% of the fees levied against all students was budgeted for intramural activities, the UAB programs in which most of the non-jocks participate.

If the principle is granted that the student body must support the creative drives of a portion of the students, then those interested in physical activities shouldn't be the only ones the benefit.

A fee of \$15 should be collected from all students to

establish a literary magazine with wide circulation throughout the University community. English students would dominate and benefit most, but contributions would be accepted from anyone who wished to be creative in prose or poetry.

Science students should set up a University Experimentation Board, to be funded by everyone in the student body. This organization would make equipment, raw materials, and supervision available (free of charge) to students who find recreational value in original laboratory work.

How about a University Law Board? Through this body we could buy a bus so that teams of promising young lawyers could travel to other law schools for competition in judicial debating.

I'm sure I'll be asked, "Where's your school spirit?" Aren't you thrilled when your U of A team wins a championship? Well, rah-rah-rah.

I'd rather be required to give \$20 to a worthy charity like UNICEF or Amnesty International than to be dunned \$15 for the UAB before I can attend University.

A provision should be made for students to opt-out of UAB "benefits" and responsibilities. Many students have recreational and physical fitness activities entirely outside of the UAB program. They get no benefit from their \$15.

How much good does your \$15 do for you? Remember, only \$2 of that goes directly to intramural activities.

Jeffrey Bell
Science 1

Unless you would like to see the abandonment of all intervarsity sports (which, judging from your tone, isn't beyond the realm of possibility), I would recommend that you try to make some use of the services and privileges you are paying for, if that sort of thing isn't beneath your dignity. The money will either come from UAB or increased tuition fees.

Cam Cole

122-inch A-hole

I ain't crying.... but I've had three extension cords stolen in the past month, and if I catch anybody monkeying around my car, there will be sweetmeats served for supper in alternate of having his rectal temperature