

# March - April

by Neal Watson

Reaction to the University's proposed quotas on the number of first-year students next year dominated the serious news in March, while at the ridiculous end, eleven candidates spent \$10,000 to contest the second VP External election.

March was also special for Gateway staffers as former Gateway editor, Prime Minister, and Tory Leader Joe Clark visited the Gateway offices for a touching reunion.

For the serious stuff, after University President Myer Horowitz's February announcement of quotas, the SU Executive launched a public campaign aimed at educating students and parents about the quotas.

It is estimated that as many as 1500 academically qualified students will be denied admission for the 1984-85 academic session.

SU Executives also met with Advanced Education Minister Dick Johnston and emerged from the meeting calling Johnston "belligerent, confrontational, and abrasive."

Johnston maintained at the meeting with student leaders and later in the Legislature that there is room to accommodate all students who want to attend university.

On February 19, General Faculty Council (GFC) - the body responsible for university academic affairs - approved the quotas motion before a packed house of concerned students, parents and administrators. GFC then sent the motion to the Board of Governors for final consideration on April 13.

University VP Academic George Baldwin estimated that students planning to enter university in the fall of 1984 would require at least a 75 per cent average to ensure admission.



The Bears couldn't do it in Trois-Rivieres.

Quotas were virtually ensured after the March 29th provincial budget which saw funding for post-secondary education increased by only 6.5 per cent.

The U of A's operating budget was raised by 1.6 per cent over last year - not even enough to make up for inflation.

The budget did feature a doubling of the funds allocated for student aid.

It was also reported during March that SUB Theatre was facing a \$100,000 deficit - due in large part to the failure of the musical

Rock and Roll which lost \$53,000.

A \$90,000 cut in the budget for the U of A's department of Art and Design means the Industrial Design program will almost certainly be cancelled next year.

Art and Design Associate Chairman Robert Sinclair said students wishing to enroll in Industrial Design program "would be advised against it."

The cuts are a result of the B of G's decision to cut \$5.5 million from next year's operating budget. The Faculty of Arts was forced to cut \$500,000 from its

budget; in turn, Art and Design had to cut the \$90,000.

There was plenty of comedy available last month as the 11 candidates for VP External crowded the pages of the Gateway and filled the air in SUB Theatre with their pleading rhetoric.

After reading the various candidates' platforms in the Gateway and listening to them at the forum in SUB, my eyes were watering and my ears were ringing. Boring.

The VP External by-election was made necessary after Watts'

slate candidate Paul Alpern lost a yes-no ratification vote.

Campus reformer Richard Stedman ran a no-campaign and apparently convinced enough students there was no need for a VP External.

However, SU political-types maintained that students could not survive without a VP External to champion their rights down at the Legislature, and in the end Alpern was elected by 487 votes out of 2720 - 11.2 per cent of eligible voters.

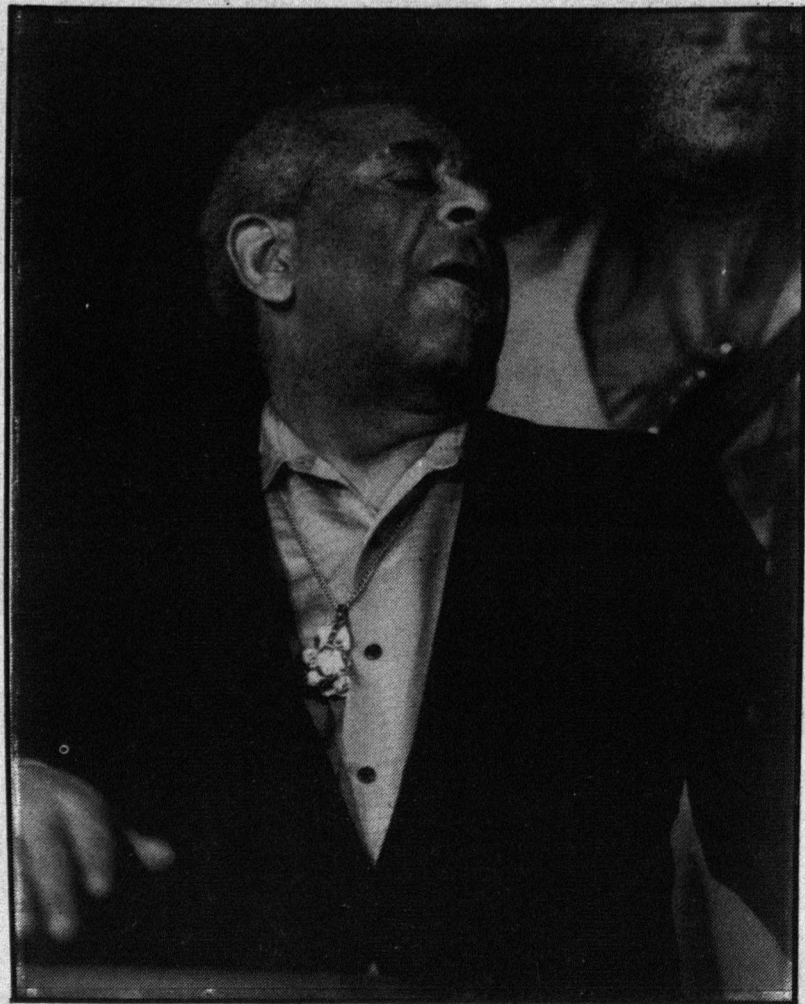
Taking the award for the bizarre episode of the month was the Students' Union general meeting called to decide whether another CFS referendum would be held.

The meeting attracted only 238 students - a mere 966 short of quorum.

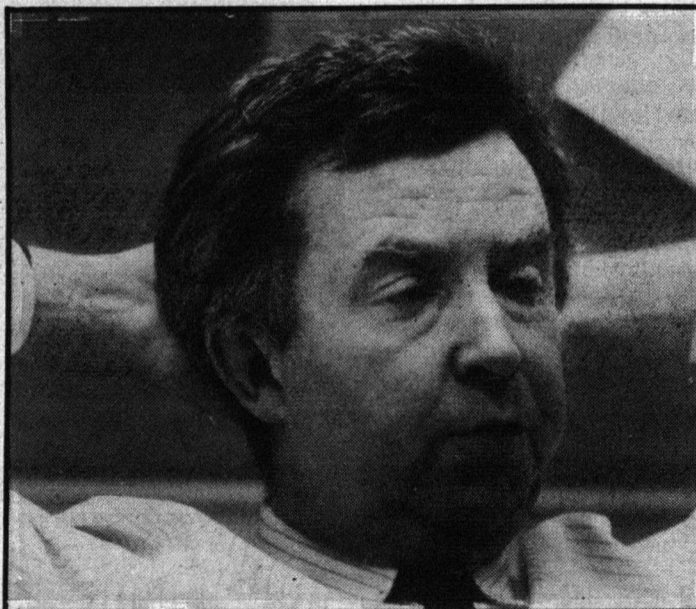
The meeting which began at 12:00 was cancelled at 12:30, but not before SU President Robert Greenhill and incoming President Floyd Hodgins battled in a SU "clash of the Titans."

The Presidents clashed over who was responsible for the failure of the meeting.

Rob blamed Floyd and Floyd blamed Rob, and that was that. Finally, for something that really matters, the Golden Bears hockey team won their 14th trip to the CIAU hockey final, but were defeated by the Concordia Stingers in a three game total point series.



(Above) This is not Dick Johnston



"I'm at which University?"



"Clash of the Titans"