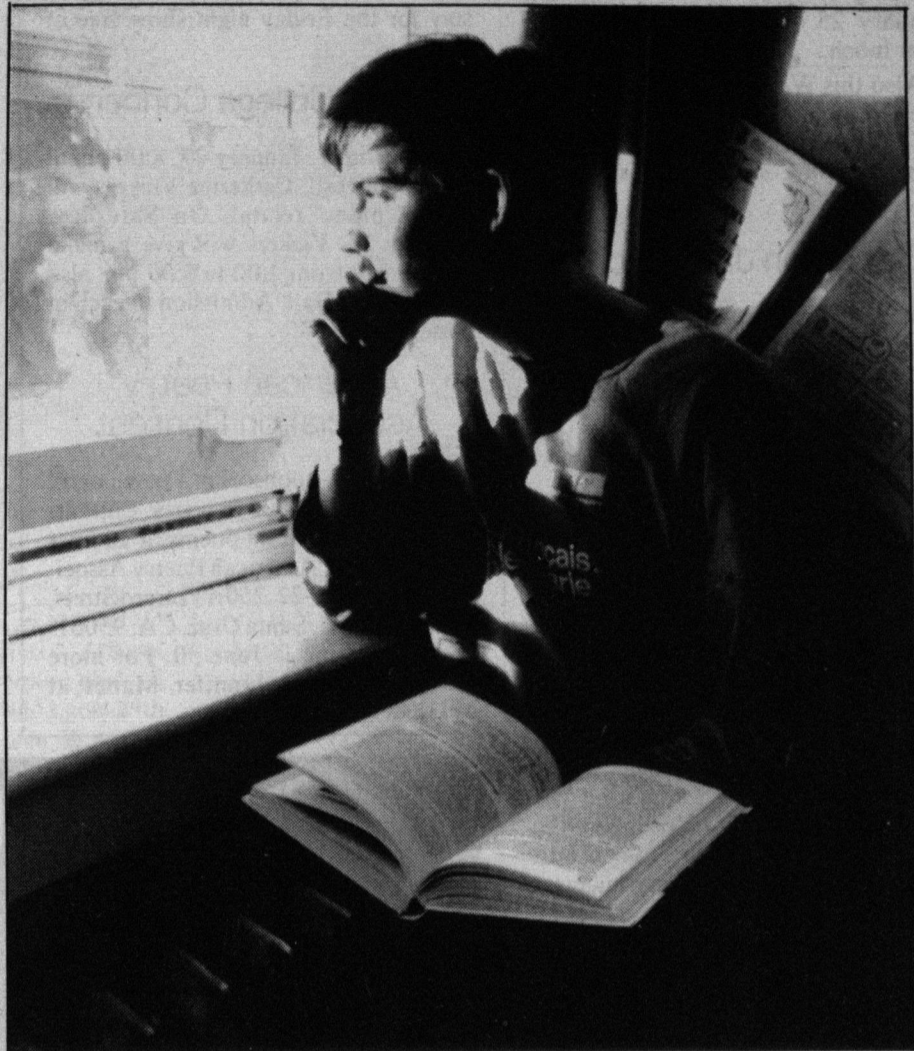
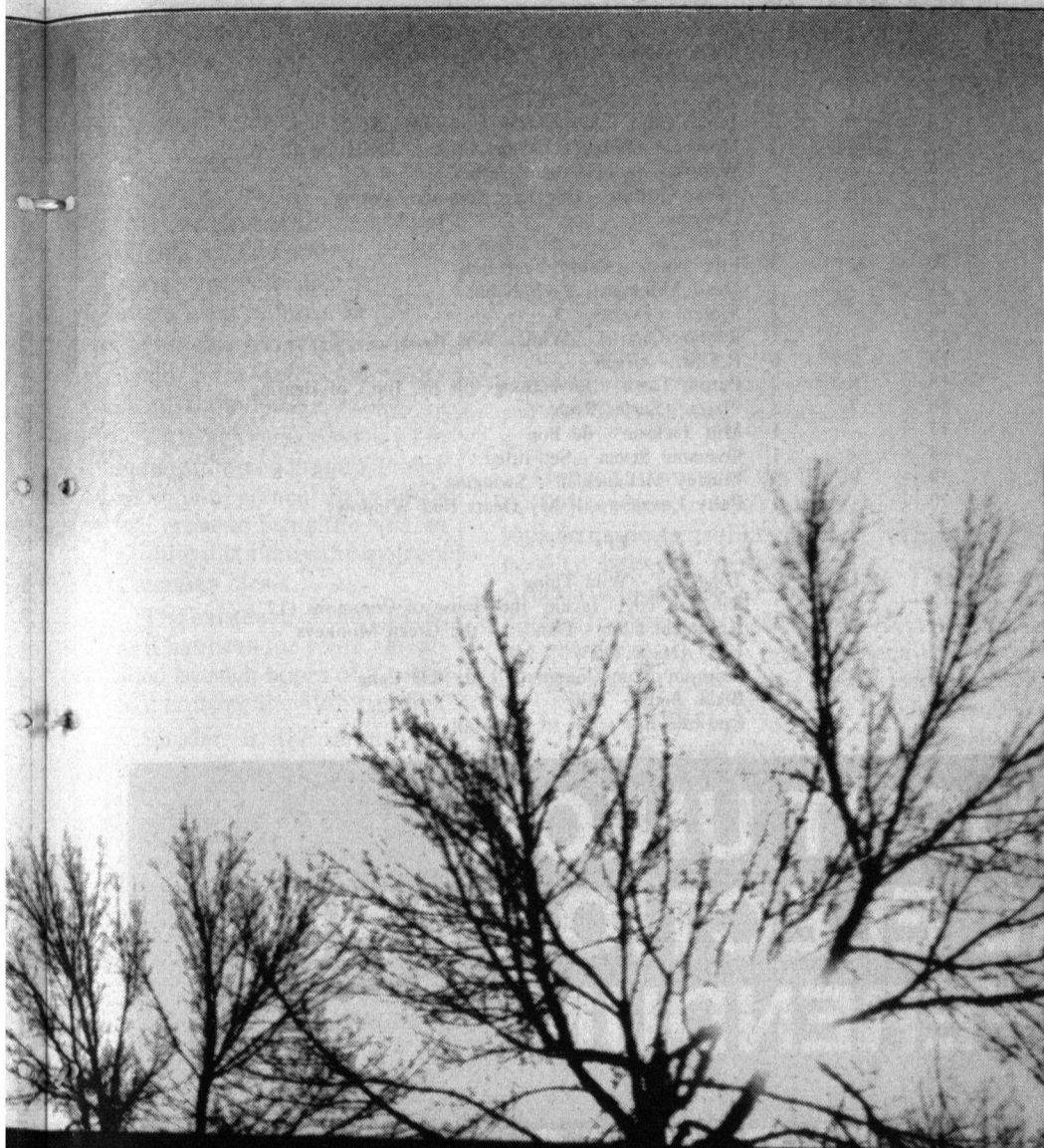


Ice crumbling culture



Tom Kalis, a third year education student, finds it difficult to study with the double distractions of a sunny day and a noisy heater.



...tunity to study while perched on the balcony railing. Milligan, along with other Faculte residents, is U of A administrators will save her community.

antics of Frere Antoine can often be nted as the moaning and groaning of an ilding, but many strange events have never xplained. During a Trivial Pursuit game in dent lounge, a wine glass shattered — g red wine on the table and floor. "But we went to clean it up the wine had eared," Rathwell says.

no wonder Frere Antoine wishes to guard efully nurtured atmosphere of the ice. After spending a few minutes at the ice, the special qualities of the unique r are apparent.

student lounge continually throbs with y. Visitors, foreign to the Faculte life, feel as if they've entered a foreign country. is winter carnival weekend. A large wearing the remnants of their cross- y ski attire, lounge in one corner. Sipping chocolate they tell tales — perhaps about

the ski trip or perhaps about the bistro the night before. Whatever it is they discuss, they do so loudly, in French, and in the European tradition their hands help them do the talking.

A smaller bunch of Faculte students crowd around a backgammon board, and two men are heartily involved in a strenuous game of ping pong. The intensity of the room is accentuated by the serene view of snow strewn fields which is framed in the lounge windows.

A winter carnival organizer strays from the group of skiers to discuss the night's party with Fisher. After a rapid French conversation, Fisher explains that the students ran out of beer at the Friday night bistro and borrowed some from the residents' association.

Every Friday the Faculte students feature a bistro from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. "It's a very deep tradition... It gives us a chance to socialize and

Feature by Shannon Taylor
Photos by Jeff Cowley

have a relaxation period at the end of each week," Fisher notes.

Besides the bistros, the residents' association periodically sponsors parties. The parties are held in the dormitory chapel which doubles as a day care centre. The chapel is left over from when the priests owned the facility.

Along with the annual winter carnival, Faculte student groups participate in the maple sugar festival held at Fort Edmonton Park every spring.

The special activities help to reinforce the distinct francophone Canadian culture, Fisher says. Along with the special events, there are approximately ten Faculte student groups which contribute to life at the campus.

Because of the strong, uniquely Canadian culture that Faculte residents have created over the past decade, the students are dedicated to preserving the residence. While they agree the building cannot be maintained in its present state, residents' association executives have made suggestions to the university administration.

"While many alternatives must be considered, our hope is that the facade of the building can be saved, and the rest of residence can be rebuilt," Fisher says. This would save the Faculte residents' community, and the historic look of the building.

Fisher says he knows the costs of renovation would be high, but asks what price tag can be put on preserving culture. By saving the Faculte residents' community, the U of A administration will be taking a step towards preserving a unique part of Canadian culture.

