

# MARCH/APRIL

by John Stewart

March came and so did the post-reading week blues. When we returned from skiing the provincial election campaign was in full swing, with Grant Notley promising to abolish tuition fees if the NDP was given the people's mandate. Nick Taylor said differential fees were a form of discrimination, Peter Lougheed once again asked "how can you have a cutback when you have an increase?", and Bob Clark advocated that students pay 10% of their total education costs.

The Pandas gymnastics team won their second consecutive national title during the first weekend in March. Two weeks later, the Golden Bear hockey team, led by CIAU player of the year Randy Gregg, duplicated the Gymnasts' feat.

Sandwiched between the two national title victories was Varisty Guest Weekend. Controversy raged over the success of the recently revived VGW with organizers terming the affair a triumph while critics questioned turnout figures offered by Ian Fraser.

One thing is certain about those who attended VGW, they got to see history in the making: the *Gateway's* inaugural Women's Supplement, published March 9.

Cano, Gordon Turtle's answer to the question 'Does divine music exist?' appeared at SUB Theatre March 6 and astounded all those in attendance by answering affirmatively.

Also answering queries was Jim Horsman, the new Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. Appointed to the provincial cabinet shortly after the first anniversary of the march on the legislature protesting cutbacks, Horsman quickly announced that the University's grant for 1979/80 would include an 8% increase, at least .25% less than the university had hoped they would receive.

During March individual awards were handed out to two U of A students: B of G representative Randy Read won the Gold Medal Award for outstanding academic and extracurricular achievement; R.C. Carpenter won Alberta Culture's Playwright competition for one act plays.

Reverend Fletcher Stewart also drew notice but for a different type of occurrence. A U of A chaplain, Stewart was fired by the Ecumenical Chaplaincy Board, shortly after one of his associates resigned, because of his "style."

Two thirds of the way through March Gail Brown, Director of Housing and Food Services, under pressure from residence students, promised that a student government proposal would be forthcoming.

Dean Olmstead and his slate, elected to serve in the SU offices for the 1979/80 term, took over student government duties from Cheryl Hume, et. al., and then was interviewed by *Gateway*. Olmstead admitted that the SU election was "a personality race to a certain extent."

While Pierre Trudeau was busy asking the nation to prepare to go to the polls, the University Athletic Board made a similar appeal to the full time undergraduates on campus. A referendum asking the students to accept an \$8 increase in athletic fees was presented and adopted. 70% of those who voted opted for the increase although only 3000 of approximately 19,000 eligible voted. Some students felt forced to vote for the increase because of an implicit suggestion made by the UAB that intramurals would suffer most without the \$8.

Late March, famous Tory cum Liberal Jack Horner spoke on campus and put forth this theory on party politics: "When you sell your soul to a political party you forfeit your right to think." Nevertheless, Horner spouted the Liberal Party line when it came to Alberta's use of oil revenues.

Without appearing, those vaunted April showers caused the *Gateway* to sprout roots. After seven long years, issues of the *Gateway* dating back to the 1920's were restored to their rightful owners.

And not wanting to go out without a bang, University Health Sciences hosted a series of explosions and a fire early this week.



Mel Watkins expressed, again, his concern over American manipulation of Canadian culture and economics.

## IN MEMORIAM



Known as the "friend of the oppressed" Dr. Richard Frucht was a member of the University community since 1965. He was described as having a "passion for life; doing things that others only talk about." In his field of Anthropology Frucht travelled extensively, living and doing research primarily on the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis in the West Indies. He was also active in politics. He passed away suddenly in March at the age of 43.



The best university hockey team in the nation? The Golden Bears, of course. The Bears dominated all opposition at the national finals in Quebec.



Ah, Aggie week, an invitation to all cretins to boogie till you puke.