

Liberals decide to meet sans phone booth

by Juanita Spears

While some of you were bombing down some ski slope or basking in the sun on some southern beach during Reading Week, some of the campus Liberals were slugging it out in the trenches at the provincial Liberal Party's annual policy convention, Feb. 13-15, in Red Deer, Alberta.

Apparently the days of holding Liberal conventions in phone booths are long gone. A record

number of delegates in recent years, approximately 500, attended the convention.

One of the main items on the agenda was the resolution to delay the party leadership from May of 1988 to the fall of 1988. Sixty-four per cent of the delegates voted in favour of the delay.

One of the strongest supporters of the resolution was Edmonton's Mayor Laurence Decore. He had stated he was very interested in

throwing his hat into the ring, but would be unable if the leadership race was held in the spring and not the fall of 1988.

Decore claimed that he would be unable to complete enough of his agenda by the spring.

Mayor Ralph Klein of Calgary had also expressed an interest in dethroning the incumbent leader Nick Taylor.

Klein also preferred the later date because of his city's commit-

ments for the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Another potential candidate for leadership is Edmonton Meadowlark's MLA Grant Mitchell. Mitchell lobbied strongly on the opposite side of the issue wanting the earlier date to stand so that the party would have enough time to ready itself for an election.

Incumbent MLA's Bette Hewes and Sheldon Chumir have not yet expressed any interest in joining

the fight to lead their party into the next provincial election.

The ever-cool Nick Taylor seemed undaunted by the debate. Playing the wise politician, he abstained from participating in the discussions on whether or not to postpone the convention.

Delegates also passed a motion proposed by Taylor that sets the next annual convention for March of 1988 so as to set out the rules for the fall leadership fight.

Delegates leave education out of policy talks

by Juanita Spears

Although the resolution to delay the next leadership convention dominated the convention, about 500 delegates were able to wade through a substantial amount of policy issues as well.

Liberal leader Nick Taylor insisted that policy was the convention's number one concern, saying that the party must develop its policies to keep pace with its growing popularity.

The delegates spent the better part of the weekend (Feb. 13-15) hashing out major issues relating to agriculture, energy and natural resources, social concerns, labour and employment, senate reform, and fiscal management.

Three resolutions of the 12 passed concerning agriculture support of a 12-month moratorium on farm foreclosures, a federal-provincial agreement to neutralize international grain subsidies, and to increase research and development funding to develop a broader agricultural base for the production of food, fibre, biomass, and other industrial products.

For the energy sector, a resolution was passed calling to support a national energy program.

The national agreement would feature a \$25-a-barrel incentive price for oil to help producers counter low world prices. It was also agreed that the government should reconsider its support of deregulating the natural gas industry. Further, a resolution was passed for the equitable balancing of accounts between federal and Alberta governments for the monies foregone when oil prices were kept below world market prices.

Highlights of the workplace and social service resolutions included agreements to establish a provincial pay-equity agency to fight wage discrimination against women and improved standards and accountability for day-care centres.

Among the resolutions for labour and employment were the raising of the minimum wage to \$5.00 —

that it be tied to the annual cost of living and be raised accordingly, and several proposed amendments to the Alberta Labour Act.

With regard to fiscal management, Liberals set the responsible elimination of the provincial government deficit as its top priority.

Two miscellaneous but important policies that were passed were to increase regional meetings to formulate and pass policies and to insure that any policy resolutions that do not make it to the floor to be voted upon at the provincial conventions will be sent to and reviewed by the Provincial Executive.

No education policies made it to

the floor to be voted upon.

Michael Hunter was among a number of U of A students that attended the convention. Hunter pointed out that the Liberals, out of the three provincial parties, seem to have the momentum in their favour.

To support his theory, Hunter mentioned the natural "checks and balance" tendencies that Canadians seem to follow. For example, since the Tories won the federal election in 1984, three provinces made a change in governments and elected Liberal provincial governments to naturally balance the two administrations that govern them.

Hunter also noted that the numbers in the last provincial election showed that a number of elected candidates were elected with fewer votes than they had lost with during the election in 1982, thereby negating any apparent momentum gained by the ND's. No ND member could be reached to comment on Hunter's claim.

Although Hunter is excited with the growing popularity of the Liberal party, he recognizes the fact that the Young Liberals on campus have not been very visible.

"I think the leadership has been lacking of late. Until we get a campus Liberal leader with a strong mandate, I think there will con-

tinue to be problems with recognition and credibility. However, I think we're headed in that direction."

When asked why the Liberals had failed to pass a policy on education, Hunter cited time as being a major factor. "I'm disappointed that we didn't have an education workshop. And I think this shows how far we have to go (in terms of passing policy)."

He felt it was in their best interest to pass well thought out policies rather than trying to pass policies for the sake of quantity. "I'm glad we didn't try to shove some poorly thought out education resolution through."

Ukrainian culture

by Greg Halinda

The Ukrainian Students' Club will be one of several Canadian Ukrainian campus groups to celebrate Ukrainian Week, March 1 - 7.

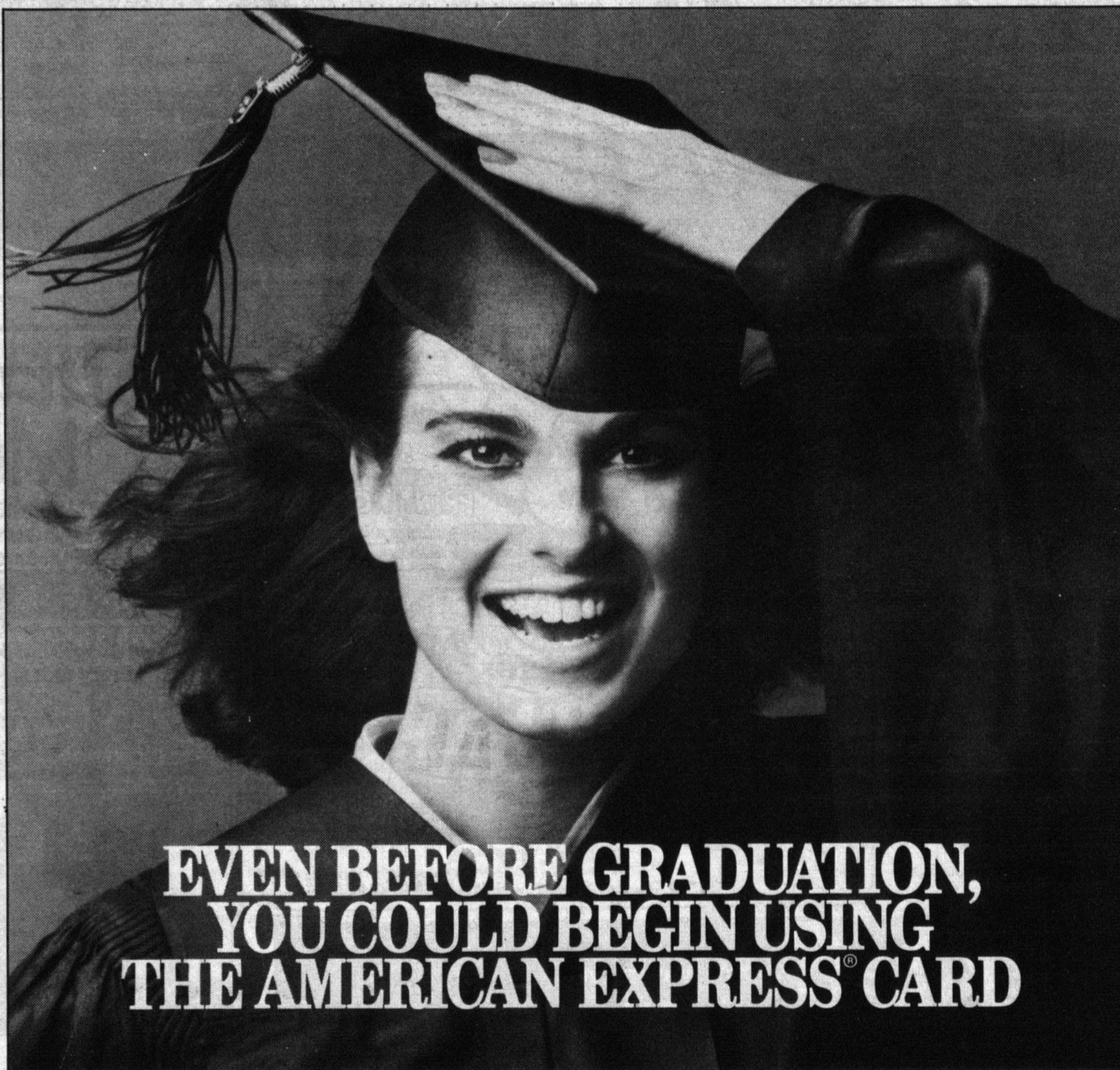
A highlight of the week will be Tuesday, March 3, when Edmonton Mayor Laurence Decore will speak on campus about ethnic leadership.

March 3 and 4, students will be able to buy kobasa on a bun, on sale in SUB.

Thursday and Friday (the 5th and 6th), a display of Ukrainian culture will take place in HUB gallery lounge, including examples of Easter eggs, wood carving and pottery.

Representatives from various Ukrainian museums in Alberta will be on hand in traditional costumes.

"The purpose of this week is to share the wealth and the richness of our heritage with the rest of the students and staff on campus," said Vera Pastuszenko of the Ukrainian Students' Club.



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