

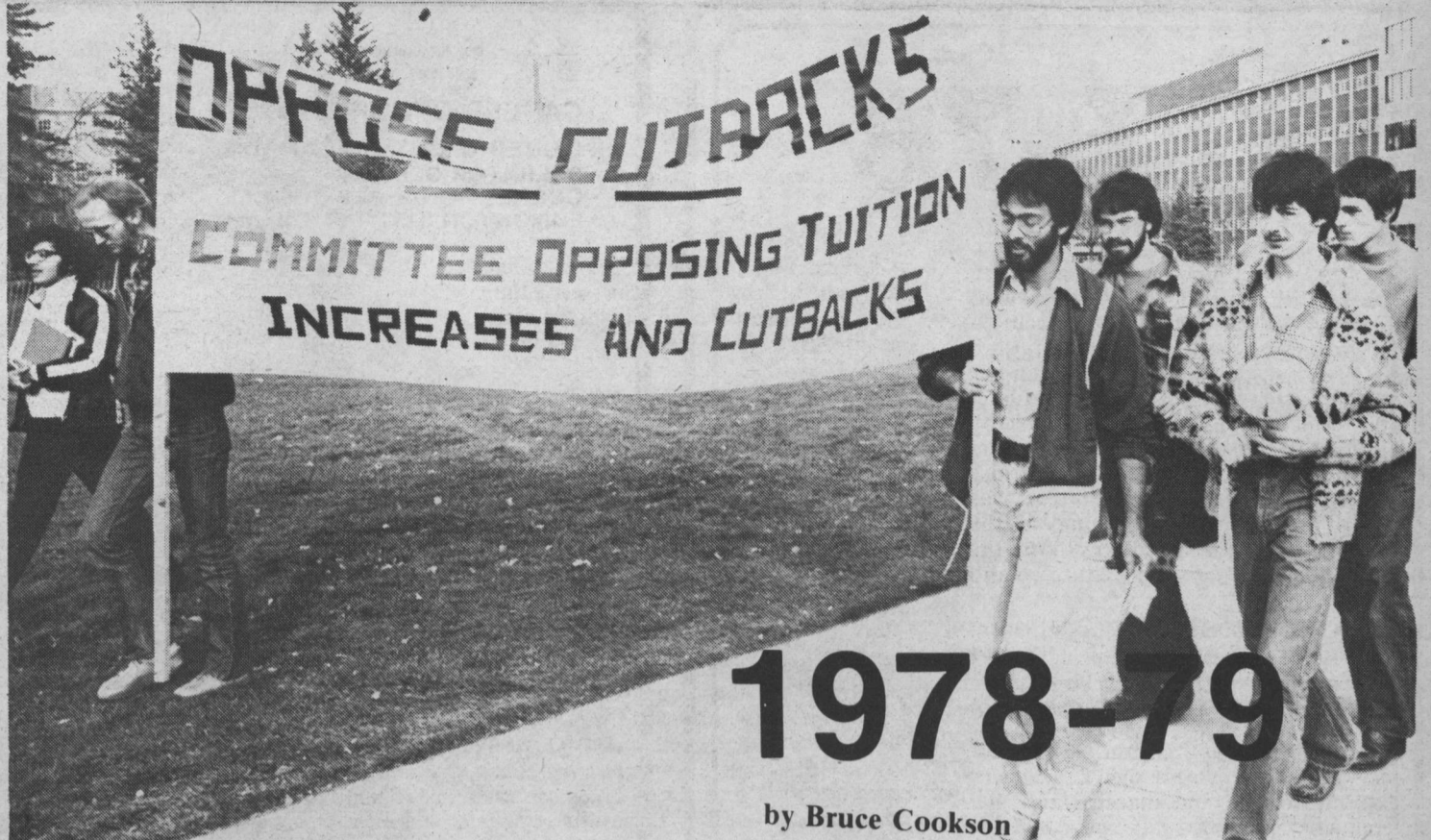
1978-79 was not a year of student unrest on the U of A campus. As the end of the decade approached, it became obvious that students had traded in their placards for Packards and their protests for complacent acceptance. A sparsely attended COTIAC (Committee to Oppose Tuition Increases and Cutbacks) rally in November symbolized the decline of student activism and participation in worthy causes.

Of course, blanket generalizations are unfair. There were individuals and organizations willing to defend and promote student interests. One example was the Federation of Alberta Students, which remained active all year, pressuring the Alberta government over its niggardly attitudes towards post-secondary education. One of their moves was a court action against Advanced Education Minister Bert Hohol, on the grounds that differential fees for foreign students were illegal. The courts, however, didn't agree.

Students' Union president Cheryl Hume was also active in sticking up for students. At one point, she effectively debated Board of Governors member John Schlosser about whether student demonstrations were a legitimate and effective means of lobbying the provincial government. Unfortunately, Hume's term in office was hampered by a badly split slate, so her year was far from a success. One piece of good news, however, was a contract between the Students' Union and its part-time and casual employees which ended a bitter year-long dispute.

If students were not following their predecessors of the Sixties by bombing and burning, then some unknown individual was doing it for them. Pembina Hall was damaged by arson and became the target of several bomb threats. The Education building was also threatened in what turned out to be a hoax and not someone's solution for cleaning out the deadwood in the faculty.

While an unknown was tampering with the Pembina residence, the bureaucrats were busy in Lister Hall. In an unpopular move, Gail Brown, director of Housing and Food Services, dissolved the student government in Lister because of its supposed incompetence. She justified the move by saying "We're not attracting and we're



by Bruce Cookson

No one showed up for this rally and the trend continued in 1978-79. Students just didn't seem to care that they were getting less for their money.

not keeping people here." Ah well, the problem continues.

On the Arts scene, it was a pretty good year. Certainly a big event by anyone's standard was the visit to SUB Theatre by famous American playwright Edward Albee in a program called *Albee Directs Albee*. Other notables in SUB Theatre included Maneige, Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Bruce Cockburn, Paul Hann and CANO.

Academically, there was one nice surprise as the university finally recognized film as a discipline worthy of study. Well-known Edmonton film critic Bill Beard taught the first run of what turned out to be a very popular and successful introductory film course.

In sports, the Golden Bears hockey team continued their domination by winning a second national championship. Other successful U of A sports teams were the Bears track and wrestling teams, which won Canada West

championships, and the Pandas gymnastic team, national champions for the second year in a row. The Pandas basketball team didn't fare as well, but they did halt the University of Victoria

Vikettes' 66 game unbeaten streak.

#### NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

The Dean Olmstead slate with Kyle Peterson replaced Cheryl Hume and her outgoing executive. Myer Horowitz succeeded Harry Gunning as president of the U of A and Jean Forrest, newly selected university chancellor, gave her inaugural speech at Fall Convocation.

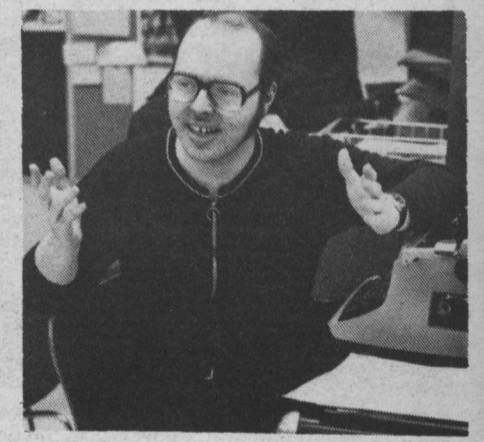
Though basically a mundane year, these were some of the events that marked 1978-79 as unique in the ongoing parade of university life. However, it's nice to know that there is some continuity from year to year. The lineups at SUB Bookstore continued, last-minute cramming for exams survived as a popular pastime for about 18,000 university students, abortion remained a hot item in the Letters section of *The Gateway*, and John Savard retained his cherished role as leading campus reactionary.



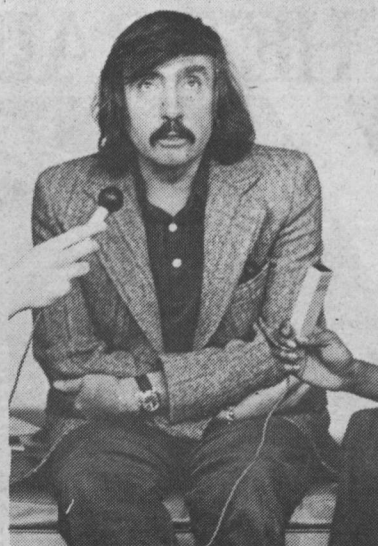
Rachel Paiment and CANO came to SUB Theatre and proved why they had no equals in Canada.



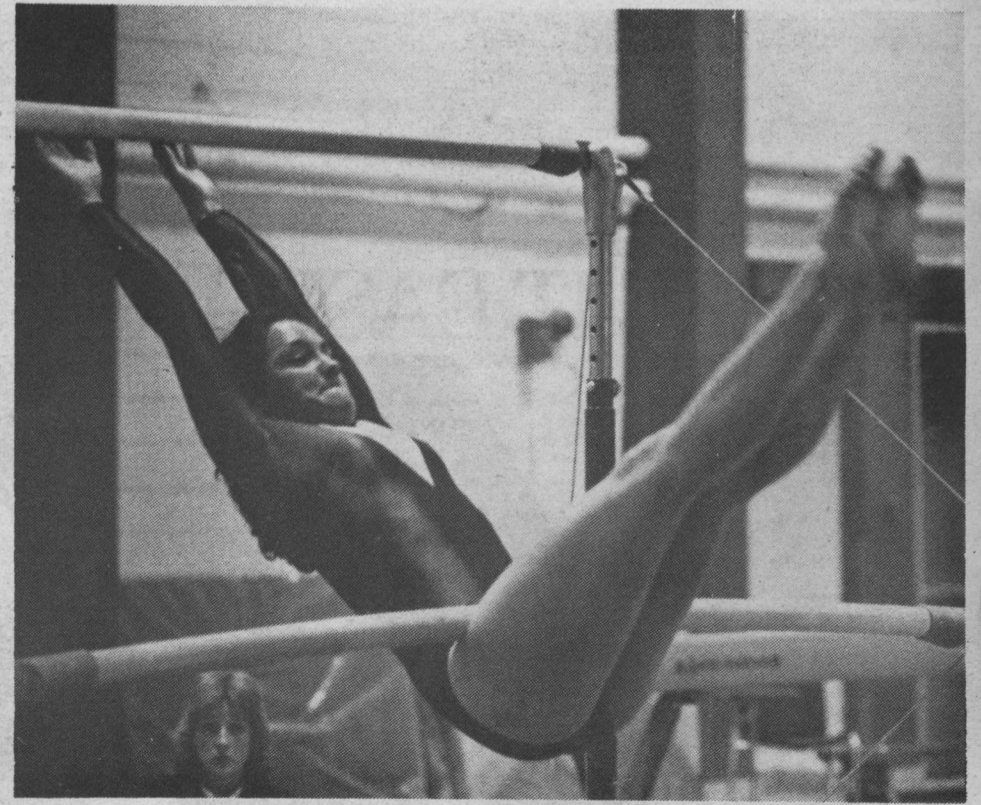
Some things never change: The Med Show and Gateway letter writer John Savard were alive and well in 1978-79.



Cheryl Hume was a radical in an apolitical executive.



Edward Albee is under attack.



The Pandas gymnastic team joined the hockey Bears by winning a second straight national title.