

# Teachers, money — election issues

by Roberta Franchuk

Better teachers and more money are among the many issues on the line during this year's Students' Union election.

On March 9-10, six students will be selected by the campus at large to represent the students of this university to the administration, the government, and the general public for the next year. As the Students' Union executive, these people will be holding the reins of one of the largest and most powerful Students' Unions on the continent, and their performance in office may affect your tuition, your campus, and the quality of your education for years to come.

Some hard and pressing issues are facing the two slates which are squaring off for the battle of the ballots.

This election promises to be no mudslinging fest based on personalities or which candidate belongs to which fraternity. Instead, there looks to be a head to head battle over job performance.

Tuition fees are going to increase next year — by how much? Is the Students' Union going to be able to keep the increases to a politically acceptable level? How are they going to deal with the demands of the administration that fees must go up to pay for costs?

Controlling tuition increases can be a key role in SU administrations. Last year, through protests, petitions, and active lobby-

ing, the SU showed that students' voices were heard among provincial officials helping to knock a proposed 10 per cent tuition increase down to 3 per cent.

Candidates this year will be representatives going before the government next year, and their diplomatic skills could translate to dollars on your university fees.

The Students' Union executive may also be able to make an impact on the process of teaching at the University. The university has finished its report on Teaching Effectiveness, and is looking at putting some of the report's recommendations into effect. A coordinated SU response could dramatically alter teaching on campus.

There are many other hot issues facing the candidates, including the state of the Faculte St. Jean, distribution of the \$2 million SU budget, and student services. The question that faces students remains, "How will the candidates represent my interests and concerns?" In eight days of election campaigning, students will be expected to be able to make a decision on this question.

With the population of full-time students on campus over 24,000, most people simply will not have any way of knowing who the candidates are, what they are running for, or even why it should matter to them. Not everyone on campus cares about the SU or its elections and this is reflected in the historically low

voter turnout. Over the last few years, fewer than thirty percent of eligible students bothered to vote.

An unwillingness to exercise the vote because of the lack of visible benefits, a pattern of non-involvement in wider areas of the university, and a disinterest in student-run politics are the most powerful reasons which keep students away from ballot boxes, say political analysts.

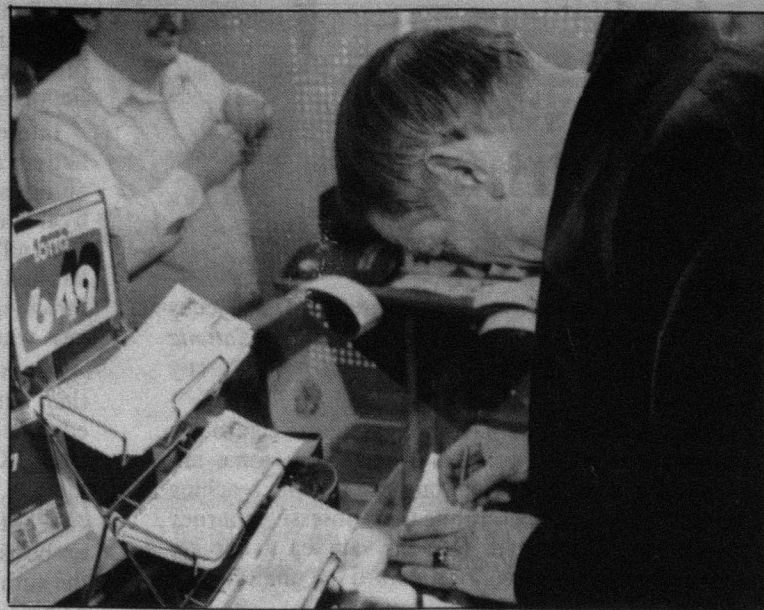
For example, the education faculty has a strong internal political structure. The Education Students' Association (ESA) is a fairly influential, respected group in the third-largest faculty on campus. Yet for many years education has produced fewer voters than smaller faculties such as Business, Engineering, and Agriculture. In 1987, education ranked ninth out of eleven faculties tabulated.

ESA officials acknowledge that apathy toward the SU elections has been a problem. They also point out problems the faculty has had in dealing with the Students' Union.

"Most executives don't bother to give back SU fees to Education," noted Prosper Goodnoo, Students' Council Education Rep. "We don't see anything tangible in return ... There hadn't even been a polling booth in the education building until 1987."

Goodnoo and the ESA are confident, however, that relations between the faculty and the SU are on the upswing, especially if

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Jeff Cowley

## The Winning Strategy

Playing his family's birth dates is Don Getty's strategy for winning Alberta's Lotteries. The Alberta Premier, who took a stroll through old Strathcona Saturday to try and draw votes for MLA candidates Jack Scott and Doug Main, took a break to cast his own ballot.

## Getty romps

continued from p 1  
flesh-pressing.

The next campaign stop was the Army & Navy, a decent establishment where I understand the Premier himself does a great deal of shopping.

Here he walked among Adidas and big felt bow ties, and paused to purchase a lottery ticket. A symbolic gesture? What do lottery tickets represent? Prosperity? Prosperity by chance? A tax on the stupid? If he wins, will he quit his job and go live in Hawaii?

The Premier moved on to Greenwood's Bookshoppe, where he spent some time in the relationships and psychology sections of the bookstore. Then he moved on to Hub Cigar.

Dating back to 1894, Hub is the city's oldest newsstand still in operation, well-known for its selection of wholesome family magazines. He then went onward to the Princess Theatre, where a showing of Never Cry Wolf had just ended. Said one passer-by, "I can't believe he shook hands with me."

After a quick scrum in which nothing was either answered or questioned, the Premier climbed back into his Lincoln and was driven off.

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We will adjourn after the meeting for liquid refreshments.

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THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD,  
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present the Edmonton premiere of:

## THE WORLD IS WATCHING



*The World is Watching*, a film directed by Peter Raymont, is narrated by Elizabeth Gray and features ABC-TV's Peter Jennings and John Quinones among others. It is a film about news-gathering and news-making: the key moral issues of the electronic age. The film is the winner of a Gold Hugo Award at the 1988 Chicago International Film Festival and the Ecumenical Prize and Public Jury Prize at the 1988 Nyon International Documentary Film Festival in Switzerland. It premiered at the 1988 Festival of Festivals. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion which will include:

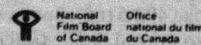
George Oak  
Managing Editor,  
Edmonton Journal

Tim Spelliscy  
Assignment Producer,  
ITV

Peter Raymont  
Filmmaker/Journalist

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 7:30 pm  
SUB THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Admission: \$4.00, students: \$2.00



The Gateway

