

Bright kids discussed

by Michelle Waritzky

The fifth lecture in a colloquium series on giftedness presented by the Centre for Gifted Education was held last Wednesday and dealt with the psychological development of gifted youngsters. Speaker Nicholas Colangelo focused on the social and emotional needs and issues related to gifted children.

Colangelo, who admits that he did teach grade school for awhile, "but it was much too hard so I went to teach University," is Professor and Chair in the Division of Counsellor Education at the University of Iowa. He is very involved in the counselling of gifted children and their families.

The word 'gifted' tends to evoke images of getting something for nothing. A better description of giftedness is "the ability to work hard and persevere." Unless, however, these unique talents are developed through enrichment programs or accelerated learning, kids will

become bored and performance levels will actually decrease.

For these programs, funding is usually required and generally difficult to obtain. Colangelo fears that financial backing arrives only when those in charge (ie. the government) recognize the future potential of these tremendously precocious youngsters. "These are the kids who are going to solve our energy problems, so programs are provided as an investment toward later results," said Colangelo.

Looking at social and emotional issues, Colangelo says that most bright children seem to adequately handle problems in these respects. Ninety per cent of kids he interviewed said however, that "being gifted was a plus when it came to doing schoolwork, but a definite disadvantage socially."

Family plays a large part in how well these children deal with problems that arise. Parents often see that "my child is different" when

faced with the assessment of the gifted youngster, and siblings suddenly become non-gifted. The family as a whole faces a readjustment period, and how it is handled definitely leaves lasting impressions on the gifted child.

Gender also affects the different ways in which gifted kids manage difficulties which arise. Girls tend to get more negative reinforcement for "acting gifted" than boys do, and as a rule tend not to follow through as often on future aspirations and goals they set for themselves. Boys on the other hand face more pressure to succeed and see a higher incidence of under-achievement than the girls.

There is a certain prevailing ambivalence about providing for the advancement of gifted kids. The field is gradually opening up, but there is still a long way to go in understanding the needs and wants of bright children while guiding them toward productive adulthood.

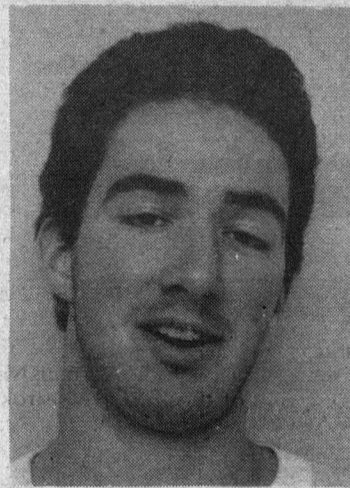


Lisa Hall

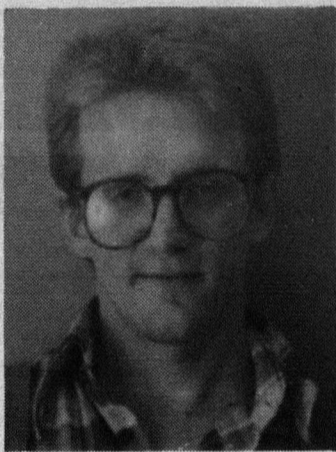
March for freedom

About 55 members of the Edmonton Jewish community joined a march organized by the U of A Jewish Students' Association, which took them from the Dove of Peace to the Alberta Legislature building. The march was held to bring awareness to the oppression of Jews in Syria.

Join the Party Animals



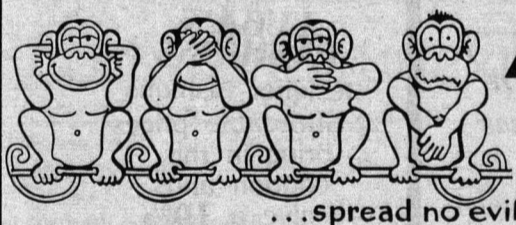
Come to *The Gateway* staff party and you can leave looking like this.



Today, 5:00 p.m. in the Power Plant's Back Room Bar. All *Gateway* staff must attend.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PEER HEALTH EDUCATORS AND THE STUDENTS' UNION

present



ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 20-24



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20:

SOBER WALK and JOIN THE CIRCLE RALLY at the Provincial Legislature. Meet by the "Peace Dove" in front of the Students' Union Building at **11 a.m.**, where we will walk across the High Level Bridge for presentations by Provincial, Civic, and University leaders and luncheon at the Legislature.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23:

DISPLAYS in CAB from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Come out and get information from PAID, AADAC, AL-ANON, ALCB, SPEAKEASY, EDMONTON CITY POLICE, ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS and the HEALTH PEER EDUCATORS.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23:

LABATT'S ROAD SCHOLARSHIP at 4:30 p.m. at Myer Horowitz Theatre in SUB. Former Canadian race car driver GARY MAGWOOD will give a free lecture on advanced defensive driving techniques. Participants may win a chance for a hands-on in-car lesson on Saturday and Sunday!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21:

COFFEE HOUSE at the Arts Court Lounge in HUB at 3:00 p.m. Join us for some entertainment and some specialty coffees and teas.

KNOW THE FACTS. MAKE THE CHOICE.