

# Foreign students at U of A

by Anthony F. Pizarro

The official U of A policy is to welcome foreign students. The policy of the General Faculties Council is to "promote international development, understanding, and good will, and to increase and enrich the value of a university education by a broadened international perspective," through the encouragement of foreign students.

As part of this policy, the University provides many services for international students, including help with visas, scholarships, housing, and counselling.

There are about 1560 foreign students at the U of A. The three most common nations of origin are Hong Kong (542), China (194), and Malaysia (78). The remainder are mostly from non-Asian countries.

Grouped by faculty, foreign students are most prevalent in graduate studies (792), followed by science (222), arts (158), Engineering (146), Business (88), Agriculture (36), Education (24), Phys Ed (23), Medicine and Home Economics (22 each).

However, foreign students are

required by the provincial government to pay an additional 50 per cent tuition fees.

"We have been opposed to differential fees ever since the possibility was even considered 12 years ago," said U of A president Myer Horowitz.

"The very word 'university' implies a responsibility to many communities," said Horowitz.

The provincial government, however, feels the extra tuition is justified. "There is a public perception that foreign students should pay a premium for education since they and their parents have not been part of the heritage and structure of our Alberta society, and have not contributed to it," said Tom McLaren executive assistant to the Minister of Advanced Education Dave Russell.

Horowitz disagrees with this argument, feeling that foreign students contribute to the University. In order for some staff members to carry out effective research their activities must be international in scope, he says. They could not expect international cooperation if the University did not allow stu-

dents from other countries, nor could Canadian or Albertan students expect to study abroad.

The government's view that foreign students may be taking the place of Canadians is also misguided, says Horowitz. "A minimum of 85 per cent of students are Albertans, another 9 or 10 per cent are (from other parts of Canada)."

Horowitz also feels it is part of the University's responsibility to Canadian students to expose them to the benefits of international contact.

Gerry Gibeault, New Democrat Advanced Education critic, is also opposed to differential fees and other ways of discouraging foreign students. "To think that foreign students necessarily exclude others from the University is incorrect. It is a mistake to pit one group against another," said Gibeault.

He feels that discouraging the presence of students from poorer countries hinders Canada from making a contribution to the development of third world nations that need the help of trained people most.

Gibeault also cites economic



Foreign students can fit in

Photo Keith Zukowski

reasons for having international students: foreign students who return to their native countries often "gain a position of authority in government or business. The affinity they may feel for Canada then helps to promote international co-operation." These students take home an understanding of Canada and give us an understanding of their countries — places where many of us will never be able to go.

Horowitz says he receives many

complaints about the number of foreign students but these complaints are made out of ignorance. "It often occurs that someone who a complainer believes to be a foreign student is actually the grandchild of someone who immigrated here towards the middle of the century. The accuser assumes that because someone has skin that is darker or more yellow than his own, that person is less of an Albertan or Canadian than he is. That is a wrong assumption."

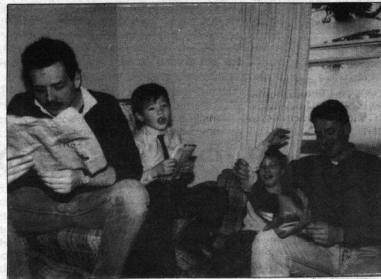
## Figis host kids for Xmas

by Gateway staff

The Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity played host to twenty-four kids for a Christmas party on December 20.

The boys, mostly eight and nine year olds, were a few of the 200 boys that remain on the waiting list for Big Brothers, a society that matches boys with adult role models.

With the supervision of Ann Grant, a caseworker with Big Brothers, the Figis helped the boys set up a Christmas tree, make decorations, and decorate cookies. A professional storyteller was on hand, and Santa Claus made an appearance with stockings and toys for the kids.



Fijis caroling with Big Brotherless boys

photo courtesy Phi Gamma Delta

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