

The only good snake...

The Gateway

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...is a dead snake

St. Patrick

not so bad for graduates

Prospects bad for students

by Ann Grever

There is some good news and some bad news when it comes to employment prospects for Arts students.

The bad news is the federal government's new approach to summer student employment. This summer, the government raised funding for student employment from last summer's two million dollars to five million dollars, but the government is substituting last year's job creation programs with wage subsidy programs leaving the private sector to provide the initiative.

In addition; the government has come up with a Student Entrepreneur program, in which the government provides \$5,000 loans to students to run their own businesses.

According to Barb Donaldson, National CFS chair-elect, "the quality of jobs will decrease...away from the career oriented, community enriching jobs previous programs have supplied." Donaldson was also concerned that students who are unable to pay back their \$5,000 loans, under the Student Entrepreneur program will not be eligible for student aid.

Donaldson also pointed out the failure of a similar entrepreneurial program in B.C. Few students took advantage of the loans because the chances for profit were so risky.

The other summer programs also seem destined for failure. According to Donaldson, Flora MacDonald, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, announced the programs very late. The forms for application came out only last week, with a March 12 deadline.

Consequently, no major corporation has yet made a commitment, which is perfectly understandable to Donaldson. "How can a business be expected to create jobs at such a short notice?"

Donaldson said she "would be surprised if the money is completely used." But despite this, "the government would probably claim savings at the end of the summer," the government would have to pay more for Student Aid in the fall.

Sixty per cent of all students in the faculty of Arts are on Student Loans," said Donaldson, "and its time the government realized the best Student Aid is a paying job."

Although the summer situation is not good for Arts students, the employment prospects after graduation is not that dismal, according to Terry White, the Dean of Arts.

"Given the uncertain and complex job situation, many employers prefer to hire generalists." The Arts faculty with its eighteen departments provides many different ways for the student to enter into the job market or profession.

White cited a comparison between an applicant with a Business and an Arts degree.

An applicant with a Business degree usually specializes in one aspect of business, accounting for example.

But with an Arts degree, an applicant may have a variety of

courses, such as psychology, sociology and economics, that qualify him in many aspects of an organization.

In addition, the Arts student, along with job related skills, also has important general skills such as the ability to communicate, to analyze and to think. Thus "many corporate leaders, for example, have general B.A. or B.Sc. degrees," said White, "...and jobs may be a little easier to come by for Arts students, simply by the breadth of their training.

Although there is a growing tendency for students to go into graduate schools of four year special and honors degrees, the majority of students, White estimates, are finding jobs with a B.A. general.

Generally anyone with a university degree will find a job easier than someone without. So while the job market is still tough for everyone, White finds hope in the "inverse relationship between employment rates and education," and believes "there is still room" for Arts students.

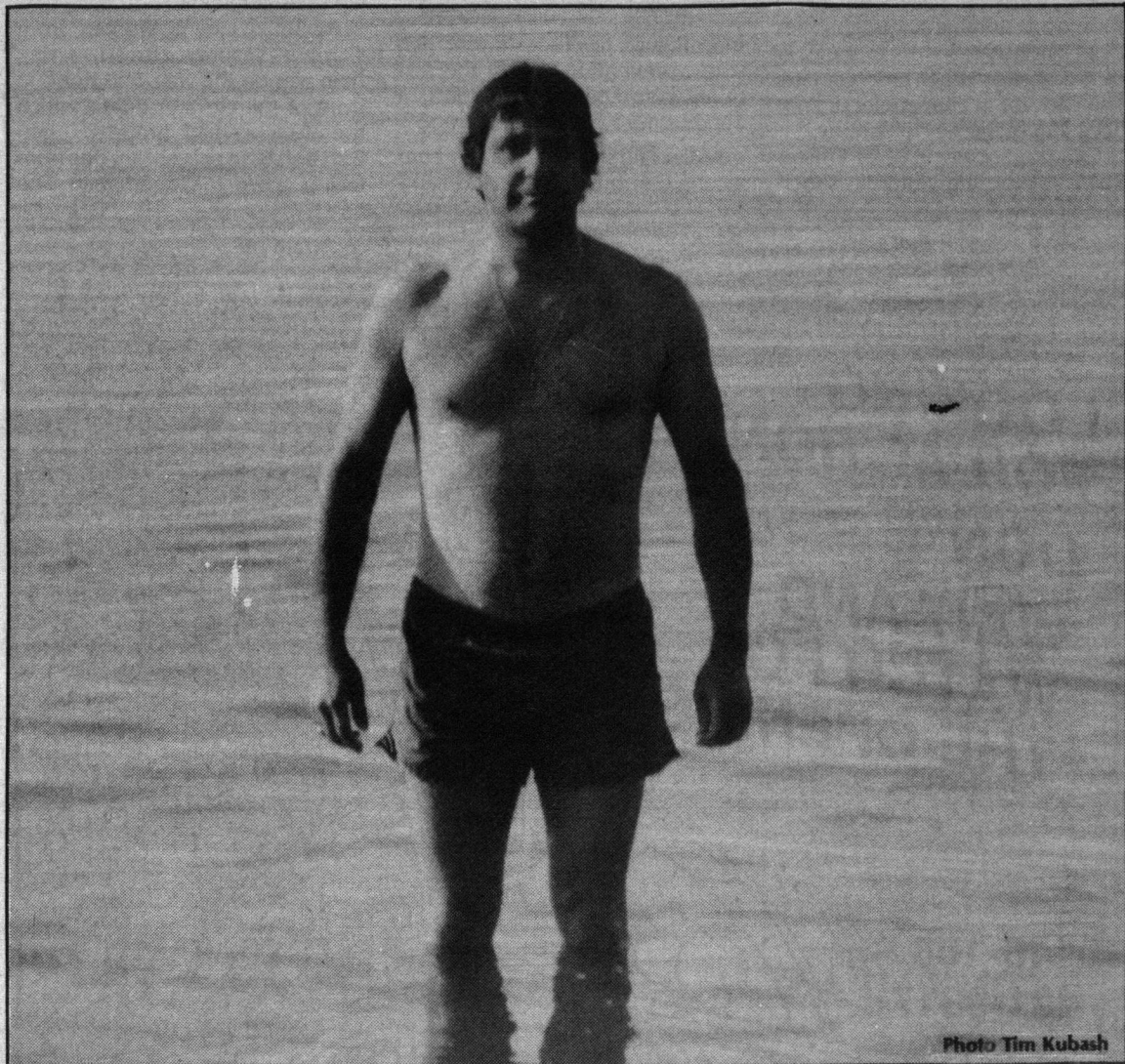


Photo: Tim Kubash

either this man is really cold or spring is on the way

Women's Club offering scholarships

by Suzette C. Chan

The University Women's Club of Edmonton is celebrating its 75th anniversary by offering three \$1,000 academic awards.

Mrs. Win Mellon, the current president of the club, says scholarships and bursaries are the main ways it helps encourage women in advanced education.

She says throughout the past 75 years, "the aims of the club have remained the same: to encourage

"Think positive"

Isley optimistic

by Pat Sytnick

Although our unemployment rate is near an all-time high, Ernie Isley, Alberta's manpower minister, says "we in Alberta have much to be positive about."

Isley was speaking to a crowd of about 150 Monday night at the "Canada, the World and the Future" conference at the U of A.

He said his personal experience has shown him that "positive thinking works." He told members of the crowd they would not get a true picture of Alberta's economy if they looked only at the unemployment figures.

According to Statistics Canada, the Alberta unemployment rate has almost doubled in the last three years, moving from 6.2 per cent in February 1982 to 12.3 per cent in February 1985.

Despite this change, Isley said the provincial economy is one of the strongest in Canada when you look at our inflation rate, construc-

(women) to utilize their education and professional training and to participate in the community."

"Right now, the University Women's club offers two scholarships to undergrads based on academic marks and need."

The anniversary scholarships are open to women in graduate studies since that is an area that is underfunded.

Although the aims of the club remain the same, its membership

has not.

"When the club was formed on Jan. 8, 1910, it wasn't made up of just university graduates," says Mellon. "There were U of A faculty and Senate members."

According to a booklet published on the 60th anniversary of the club, "Mrs. Bulyea, wife of the Official Visitor of the University (the Lt. Governor)" was the Honorary President while the Honorary VPs were Mrs. Tory and Mrs. Ruth Ford.

Now most of the 200 women in the University's Women's Club are working women and graduates of universities around the world. This is indicative of the increased participation of women in post-secondary institutions.

"Since I was a student there have been changes," says Mellon. "There were two women in all of engineering when I was on campus." Mellon says "women are far better represented in all the faculties," especially medicine, commerce and law.

Although the Edmonton University Women's club keeps close ties with campus organizations like WISEST (Women In Scholarship, Engineering Science and Technology), it is not a part of the university, nor has it lobbied for student loans in the past.

Women's Day celebrated

A handfull of women showed up at the International Women's Day events last Saturday.

The day began with a March from City Hall to King's College in Central Edmonton and ended with a Women's Fair featuring various arts and interest groups.

Groups represented at the fair

"We get no government money. The national group has just put out a circular saying we should lobby governments," says Mellon. "We raise money through our dues," Mellon says the club has not organized a major fund-raiser in the last two years.

Mellon says lately there is not a single issue on which the club has focussed, but says pornography is a much discussed topic at Canadian University Women national conferences.

Although she admits the club has been leaning to political issues (Senate reform has been discussed at a national level), Mellon says the club's "future directions are not clear."

"We like to feel that encouraging women in education is the main basis."

The \$1,000 Jubilee Prizes will be awarded in three categories: Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences or Engineering and the Fine Arts or Education.

Further information on the scholarships can be obtained from the Corresponding Secretary of the University Women's Club of Edmonton at 436-9323.

Deadline for applications is April 15, 1985. Awards will be announced no later than May 15.

included: Common Woman Books, the NDP Women's Caucus, Womospace and Celebration of Women in the Arts.

For full coverage of the fair and our (delayed) Women in the Arts supplement, see next Thursday's Gateway.