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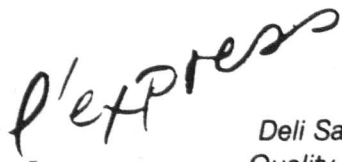
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STUDENTS' UNION
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Alternative forum

by Roberta Franchuk

While the PC's partied at the Agricom this weekend, about 250 people gathered at Churchill Square to attend another type of convention.

The first annual Convention of Alternative Voices was held to unite separate groups with concerns about the government into one, hopefully more powerful, forum.

In a bitter wind under beautifully sunny skies, more than a dozen speakers from various church, farm, women's, and labour organizations

spoke briefly about concerns that they feel are being overlooked or brushed off by the present provincial government.

Groups such as the Lubicon Lake Indian Band, the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee, and the Depressive Illnesses Society addressed subjects ranging from after-school daycare and the plight of the family farm to depression and the availability of generic drugs.

The concern foremost on many minds, though, was unemployment, with farmers, building tra-

desmen, and students cited as prime victims.

Caroline Nevin, VP Academic of the U of A Students Union, spoke "as a student, as a woman and as a future competitor in the job market," on the subject of government funding of education. Nevin advised the audience to "use the weapon the Tories think they own. VOTE!"

The outlook of the group was generally positive. Many attending wore dandelions, the symbol of the Association of Political Action Committees, with the slogan, "Dandelions Never Die".

Live performances of original songs, Woody Guthrie ballad, and an El Salvadoren solidarity song opened the proceedings. The speeches were followed by an opportunity to hear from the "grassroots". Microphones were placed in the crowd available to anyone who wanted to speak. The march to the Legislature followed.

The good humor of the gathering was occasionally tinged with frustration. When a blown fuse caused a five minute disruption of the microphones, a heckler from the back of the crowd yelled, "Pay your power bill."

Answered another man from the front, "I can't. I'm unemployed."

Bibliophile bagged

TORONTO (CUP) — A former University of Toronto student, who let his love of books get the better of him, has been sentenced to seven days in jail for not returning hundreds of library books.

George Elia, a former Continuing Studies student, was also placed under probation, ordered to do 300 hours of community work, and to pay \$3000.

Elia's case is believed to be the first time in Canada that anyone has been jailed for not returning overdue books.

Elia, 48, registered at U of T in 1981, and took out books from at least five of its libraries over the

next four years.

During their investigation, the police found 226 library books, mostly on archeology and Eastern religion, worth about \$13,000. Some of the books were also from York University.

Although Elia was blacklisted by librarians at U of T, a slight misspelling of his name when he re-registered in 1984, allowed him to get a new card.

U of T librarian Robert Brandeis equated Elia's actions with stealing cars or television sets. "It's plain theft. It's really important that the court has recognized the seriousness of this offence."

Industrial Design lives

by Dean Bennett

The U of A's Industrial Design program is alive and well. Rumors of the program being cancelled can be laid to rest, much to the relief of its students.

"It became irritating," said 4th year student Brian Jenkins, "I'd tell people I'm in Industrial Design and they'd say 'No way, it's dead.'"

The 1984-85 school year had been a difficult one for the Industrial Design program. A \$90,000 budget cut in the Faculty of Arts resulted in only five of the program's eight courses being offered.

In March of 1984, the Gateway ran a story under the headline "Design program and technicians cancelled" and thus started the

rumors that persist to this day.

This school year, though, has the Industrial Design department on the rebound.

"Enrollment is healthy and the students are enthusiastic," said Bruce Bentz, co-ordinator of the Industrial Design division. "Despite the annual affliction of reduced budgets, the program is still a viable educational entity."

Bentz's positive outlook is shared by Art and Design department Chairman Jorge Frascara.

The Art and Design department has a firm commitment to the Industrial Design program. At present, Frascara is actively studying improvements to the program which will take into account

design's role in new technologies.

The program has still not fully recovered from the original \$90,000 cut. Sessional professor Robert Lederer and Bentz are still required to teach two classes in the same time slot. Also, one senior level course has yet to be reinstated and the division still does not have a full time technician.

Industrial Design involves the design of products to be manufactured by industry for use as capital goods or consumer products.

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