

Kreisel returns to first love

by Brian Tucker

When Henry Kreisel became the U of A's vice-president academic four years ago, it meant separation from his first love - writing.

"I've been frustrated the last four years," says Kreisel, an author of two novels and several articles in literary magazines.

"I haven't been able to do any writing at all. In this job it was virtually impossible..."

So it was no surprise that Kreisel, 51 informed the board of governors last week he would resign when his term ends in July, 1975, and take a sabbatical leave, his first in 28 years.

"There comes a time when you have to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life," he says, and after 14 years in various administrative jobs he knew what he wanted.

Kreisel plans to launch his return to writing with a collection of personal experiences during his past 30 years in Canada.

Although he has made no definite outline, it may take the form of a semi-autobiographical work.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Kreisel fled the Nazis in 1938 only to be held in an immigrant camp in Canada for two years. While there he recorded what little he saw of his new country in a diary.

These were "important formative years of my life," during which he wrote a great deal.

He earned his bachelor's

and master's degrees at the University of Toronto, where he partook in fraternity life and picked up the habit of doing most of his writing at night.

After teaching English at the U of A for five years, he took his doctorate studies at the University of London in England.

Starting his administrative career as head of the English department in 1961, Kreisel became senior associate dean and dean of the faculty of graduate studies before being named vice president in 1970.

"I did it because I was interested in the university and it was part of my total involvement in university affairs," he says.

However, his commitment to writing was stronger and he declined several nominations for the presidency of the U of A and other institutions across Canada.

As vice-president, he is in charge of relations between the staff and the university, negotiating contracts, hearing staff complaints and chairing committees that select department chairmen.

The latter occurs with greater frequency, an indication of a general falling out with administrative positions. Others, seem to share Kreisel's opinion that the heavy workload doesn't leave much time for other activities.

"In general, people don't want these jobs. They are becoming more time consuming and in some cases, less satisfying."

Demands are increasing, as the university embarks on a new set of relationships with the provincial government.

With it go more social functions, meetings and briefs to be written.

One of his last acts will be a list of recommendations to trim some of the responsibilities of vice president, which include taking over when the president is absent, serving as chairman of six committees and a member of eight other bodies, and attend board of governors

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Mantor

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punish you for it."

He added that if the Students Council is going to elect an executive to carry on its day-to-day business it should be given the authority to do so.

Will the DIE Board's decision affect the upcoming elections?

"I think that the candidates are so poorly informed that they don't really know what's going on anyway," says Mantor.

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Chartrand

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U.S., Chartrand said, "An agreement to give money to Chile was torn up when the U.S. put pressure on Canada, during Allende."

"Canadian companies are branches of U.S. companies and this affects trade with countries like Cuba."

He said, "Your economic policies are drafted by the 'degenerate' Turner, who will be your next prime minister."

His attentions were brought back to the middle east when an audience member asked him, "Is it not true that the only way one can envisage a Palestinian state is one comprised of Palestinians, Jews, and Christians, a middle eastern commonwealth?"

He replied, "I think the Jews are too arrogant to allow this to happen."

When asked to comment on Canadian domination and the energy crises, he said, "Of course there was domination. In the past, you in Alberta were paying more for your own oil than we in Quebec were paying for oil which came from the middle east."

"But the western world thought the Arabs were stupid. They did not realize that one day the Arabs would ask a fair price for their oil."

The forum was co-sponsored by the Students' Union and the Arab Student Association. It was held in the lobby of the SUB theatre.

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