

# OCTOBER

by Greg Harris

October - the time of year when Mother Nature exchanges her colorful wardrobe for a drab, grey overcoat; a time when students realize that the deadlines for essays assigned at the beginning of the term went by unnoticed; a time for mid-terms and discovering the interesting personality-altering effects of stress, fatigue, and caffeine.

October 1980: was it truly a time for all to pause and give thanks?

For a moment it actually seemed that way.

The most surprising news of the month was Jim Horsman's announcement that the provincial government had established a \$100 million Heritage Scholarship Fund to award academic excellence with cold hard cash.

The idea that such a large sum had been set aside for educational purposes by a government with a long tradition of stinginess seemed to be cause in itself for the student-body to bubble with gratitude.

However, after the shock wore off, it became apparent that the fund would neither significantly increase accessibility to higher education nor improve the quality of that education. It was just another bitter placebo doled out of the bulging Heritage dispensary.

October also revealed that more than half the first-year students didn't know how to string words together into sentences. (Thanks for the Scholarship Fund, Mr. Horsman)

52 percent of the students who took the writing competence exam during registration week failed with flying colors.



October was halloween. We caught these Bridge staffwriters on their way home to get dressed up for an old-fashioned night of tricks and treats.



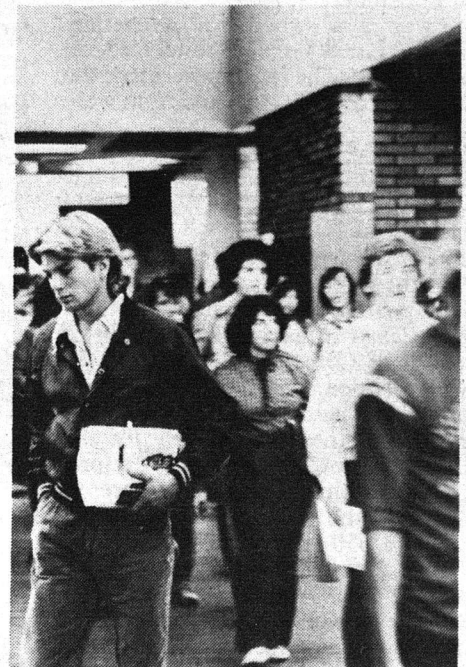
Bomb Scare? October was plagued by them.

HUB-Fine Arts overpass was delayed, but this was perhaps just as well. Fine Arts and Law students may have been deterred from venturing into HUB where they would have been nauseated at the unsanitary conditions, or else physically assaulted by falling four-by-fours and short-tempered workmen.

The editorial pages of the *Gateway* were, for the most part, filled with lively debate. Alexandra's epic poem of the "fruits of gaiety and dignity" led to a spirited discussion among readers as to whether or not God might prefer dieties of His own kind.

"Aspidistra" also drew an emotional response from readers. Students debated whether the proper solution to the long history of male persecution of women was simply a reversal of roles through militant feminism.

And there were other issues and other debates. Somewhere in the middle of it all was a mayoralty campaign that defies remembrance. There was also a beer strike, the remembrance of which is far too painful to consider. But the month at least ended on a happy note: Halloween and great parties. Perhaps that's reason enough to be thankful.



Nameless, faceless students wandered aimlessly through endless miles of hallway in this unsizable institution, searching for the meaning of higher education.

Remedial English courses were instituted to bring the students' skills to an acceptable university level.

The Arts Faculty Council decided that Arts students could work to phase out the three year imitation B.A. by the 1982-83 academic year.

Those currently enrolled in the three year program will still receive their certificates upon completion - they needn't worry about coming up with finances for an unplanned fourth year.

However, those of us who are returning for another year (planned or not) should be worried about finances. Jim Horsman's October announcement that the government was looking for a long-term tuition policy such as indexing sent shivers rippling down the spines of impoverished students everywhere.

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) charged that chaining tuition fees to the Consumer Price Index was both unrealistic, and given the state of the economy, a virtual guarantee of a spiralling escalation in already-inflated fees.

FAS also made itself heard in the area of student aid. Last fall's lengthy delays in loan processing combined with inequitable allocation policies prompted FAS to fight to regain its voice on the Students' Finance Board. It is hoped their input will benefit those the system was designed to serve.

There was another typically negative October news. The completion of the



We can't lie even though it's a strange feeling. The flasher is SU president Phil Soper, hard up for cheap thrills in anticipation of a long, hard campaign, and on the extreme left, strangely enough, is SU vp academic Liz Lunny.