

1976-77



The CRAP slate's Milfred Campbell looks on impassively as 1976-77 flashes before his eyes.

by Lucinda Chodan

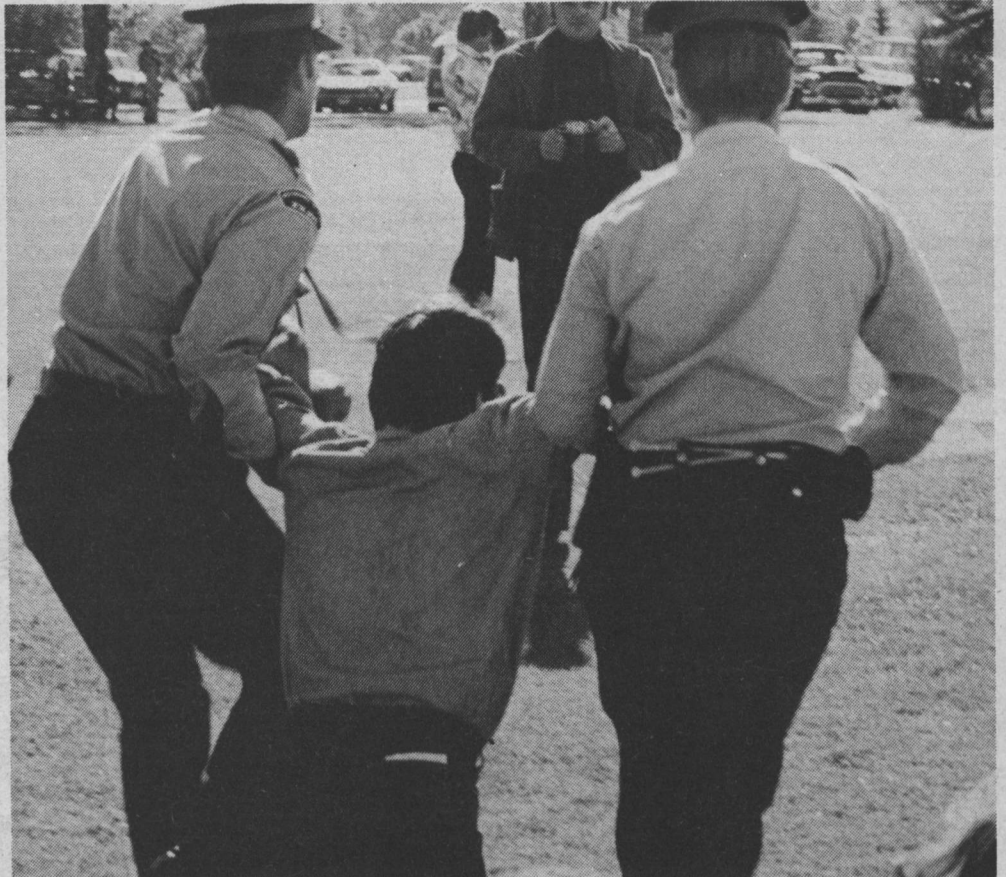
Bill Comrie's Furniture Warehouse on 101 Street has decided to take a major step in an effort to improve their image.

They feel that too many people look upon that **Big Brick Warehouse** as a second-rate low-budget furniture store appealing only to lower middle-class buyers.

So began one of the highlights of 1976-77 at the U of A, a witty, poison-laced column called *The Way I See It*, by a conspicuously blind columnist named Frank Mutton. The wicked pen of engineering student Peter Birnie dissected university, city and provincial affairs in one of the most popular features the paper has ever run, and students loved it.

Mutton/Birnie helped lighten a year that had bad news for students. In a year of all-time high enrolment (20,461 full-time class-takers), students learned that, despite their protests, non-Canadians would be saddled with higher fees for attending Alberta universities. The differential fee issue pitted university president Harry Gunning and the Board of Governors against Advanced Education Minister (and Lougheed flunky) Bert Hohol. And despite administration protests, a petition, and a march by about 100 students, the government hiked tuition \$300 extra per foreign student the next academic year.

Students also protested the apartheid policies of South Africa in 1976. The Free South Africa Committee (FSAC) mobilized a protest of



The boys in blue hauled away this "Edmonton 61" demonstrator as apartheid reared its ugly head in a cricket match.

apartheid at city hall, and in a violent aftermath, 61 protestors were arrested for trespass and obstruction of police officers at an England-Canada cricket match in Victoria Park. The "Edmonton 61" were protesting the British team's connections with South Africa, and despite pleas for support, the U of A's conservative Students' Council decided that "the issue of apartheid is not within the terms of reference of the Students' Council" and withheld aid.

While some students devoted their energies to politics, perverted sexuality was causing problems for others. Reports of sexual assaults and indecent exposures began to trickle in to Campus Security in the fall, and by January, the problem was so serious that evening "Night Watch" patrols of campus were instituted. But the patrols didn't stop a Caucasian male "wearing nothing except a nylon over his face and a condom on his penis" from harrasing a woman on the second floor of the Education building in March. Despite a few other reports of indecent exposure, the campus flasher was never caught.

Some questions were blowin' in the wind in November as 90 kph gusts lifted several two-ton concrete blocks up to six feet away from the face of the new Clinical Sciences building. As the area was cleared, workers anchored the 10' by 20' slabs to the building, and the university launched a \$50,000 investigation of the incident.

A suspected arson in HUB drew fire from the building's designer when it was discovered that most safety exits were locked or jammed. Although the two-man unit's four occupants escaped unharmed, safety precautions were tightened up in the building.

Some of the liveliest SU elections ever occurred in 1977 with the aid of the Conceptual Reality Alternative Party (CRAP) and candidates Art Deke, Roob Thleh, Milfred Campbell, Brent

Kostyniuk and Rene Le Larke. The joke was on students, though, when Le Larke (aka Manfred Lukat) was appointed to replace elected vp services Shirley Armstrong in the 1977-78 academic year.

Oh well, as Rene said in his campaign, "At this moment in time, an alternative reality is needed."

Cheers.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

- Only 10 per cent of students at the U of A and the University of Calgary turned out to vote in a referendum on Federation of Alberta Students membership. Although turnout was low, both universities joined the young organization.

- Turn off the water...the final figures were in, and the Students' Union had taken a \$1,247,695 bath on the Housing Union Building. After selling HUB to the university, the SU's net losses were \$1,247,694.

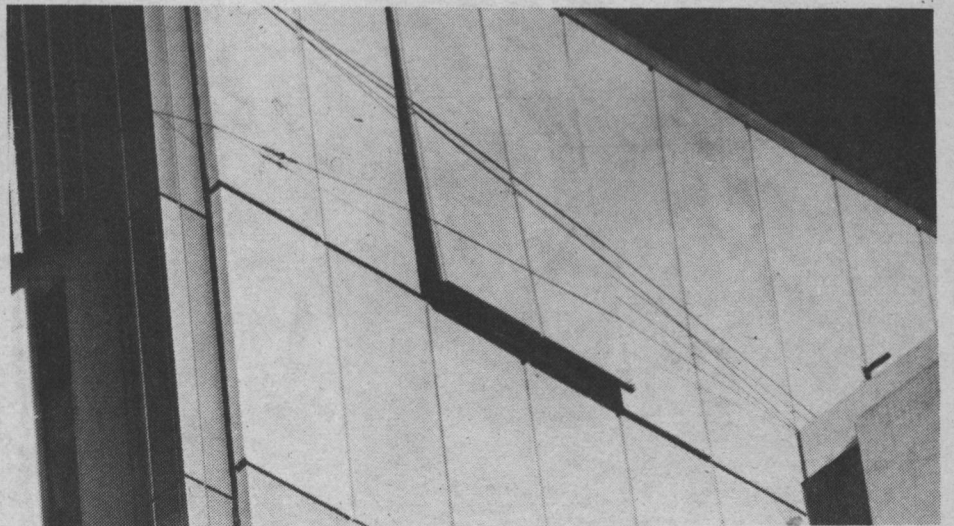
- Open wider, please...fourth-year dentistry students boycotted their Christmas exams because of what they charged was inadequate notice. The students were given a zero mark on the mid-term, and the incident died quietly.

- The engineers were in hot water — or hot soup — with Quebecois after a photo of one of their ice statues was printed in *Le Devoir*. The sculpture of Prime Minister in a tureen of "French P.E. Soup" with a fire-stoking Rene Levesque drew fire from the French-Canadian press. But it was all in fun, the Electrical engineers claimed — and their statue won first prize in the ice sculpture contest.

- And in an important move, washrooms in SUB became a blackboard jungle as the SU installed chalkboards, chalk and erasers for freshman graffitists. "Here I sit, broken-hearted...."



The HUB fire



These two-ton concrete slabs flapping gently in the wind created a panic in university officials' hearts in November.