

# Election criticized

A unanimous decision by the Students' Union Discipline, Inter-pretation and Enforcement (DIE) board Feb. 24 rejected all moves to void the Feb. 11 SU general election.

The Board, appointed by this year's Students' Council to judge constitutional disputes within the SU, took note of a glaring irregularity in election procedures—the re-punching of ballots—but ruled such an irregularity was not serious enough to void the election.

A four-page memorandum outlining the decision of the DIE board included comments from

DIE Board chairman Gary Romanchuk which sharply reprimanded the actions of SU returning officer Michael Amerongen in allowing such "unhappy conduct" as the repunching of ballots to take place.

About half of the repunched ballots were originally crumpled and were turned upside down and repunched through another ballot by a deputy returning officer.

The other half were not crumpled but defective in some other way, such as where a voter

had punched out all five holes for one of the candidates, four holes for another, three for another, and so on. Amerongen repunched such ballots in a manner he described as "reasonable."

"The practise of repunching ballots," third-year Law student Romanchuk said, "is distasteful and contrary to my understanding of democratic processes."

Romanchuk said in his view the proper procedure would have been to declare all unclear ballots spoiled. "The repunching of the unclear ballots should not have been executed," he said.

Romanchuk added he thought the repunching of crumpled ballots is acceptable only "if it is conducted in such a manner where alterations to the crumpled ballot upon the replacement ballot is next to impossible."

However, he noted, even if all

the 102 repunched ballots had been taken away, the election results would have remained the same and therefore he could not recommend that the election be declared void.

Romanchuk recommended Students' Council amend by-law 300, the election by-law, clarifying section 20 and removing section 21.

Bruce Hudson, a Board member who wrote the judgement of the board for release, concluded the election showed the preference of the voters at U of A.

Romanchuk agreed with everything Hudson wrote, adding his criticisms of the repunching and noting that approval to Chinese translation of Spark slate posters in HUB had been granted by the returning officer over the telephone, and the allegation brought before DIE Board was false.

## GFC talks art and Can. Studies

by Randy Read

Discussion at the Feb. 28 meeting of General Faculties Council (GFC) ranged from Canadian studies to Rembrandt. A four-part recommendation on Canadian studies was passed by GFC. The University of Alberta Press will receive active public support in obtaining special funding for expansion in publication of Canadian materials. A non-credit program in Canadian studies, to be offered to the public, will be considered. A committee will be established to explore the establishment of normal courses and teaching and research programs in Native studies. Finally, the university will take a lead in increasing the exchange of students and faculty members in Canadian Studies

among universities in Canada.

Proposals from the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine were passed by GFC. As a result, the Diploma program in occupational therapy and physical therapy will be phased out. Students entering the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy program will first have to complete a pre-professional year in another faculty, with certain prerequisites for entry into the B.O.T. program.

When the subject of University Collections came up, Professor Munn of the Department of Music asked if it was true that they included a Rembrandt and, if so, how one can see it. The answer came that the Rembrandt does indeed exist and will be part of "University Collects III" to be shown next October. To which she replied, "Hot dog!"

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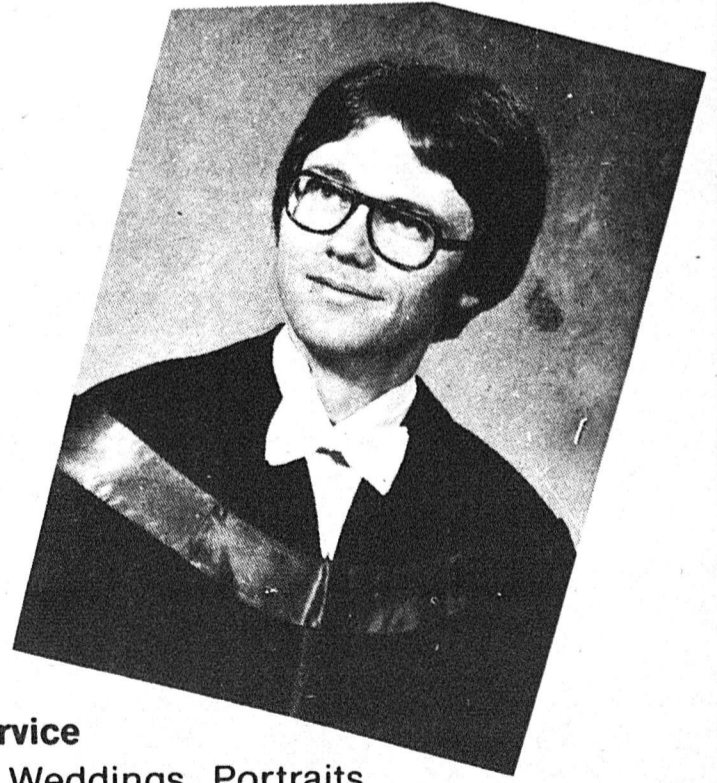
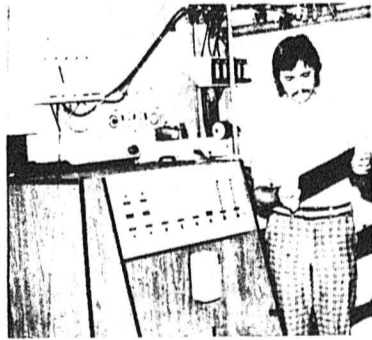
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