

# Versatile VP

by Lindsay Brown

Students' Union executive vice-president Eileen Gillese practices what she preaches.

Gillese, vp finance and administration, believes that students should get more out of university than knowing the location of two buildings and one coffee machine. She thinks they should become involved, which is just what she has done rather thoroughly.

Gillese remembers one year at Archbishop Macdonald High School when she missed out: she was on everything except two sports teams. 'Everything' included, just to mention a few; students' council, yearbook, sports, singing, dancing and many more.

It is difficult to avoid sound-

ding like a Public Relations firm when describing this fourth year Commerce student's achievements. Starting from the top: outstanding commerce student award last year; Escheated Estates award this year (which was for last year's 8.7 average, and pays for this year's tuition); Dean's list; vp of AISEC, several public speaking awards, several academic excellence awards; students' council member from grade seven through to twelve.

Gillese has been involved in a number of 'first-ever's', one of which is that she's the first female vp finance this university has ever had. The U of A has had only one female SU president, and that was seven years ago.

The SU offices do not con-

tain a pack of slavering male chauvinists, but it hasn't been all Steinem and roses either. Gillese explained that for the first while, financial questions were not being directed to her office.

"That was until I handled the HUB transaction, then it changed," she said. It has been her experience that, on the SU exec. at least, a female has to work harder to get the respect that is normally automatically accorded to an executive position.

She says that a number of terms can be used to describe the reasons she ran for the position. A "volunteer complex", a love of efficiency, or a hatred of bureaucracy can all be applied.

"I hate bureaucracy, and I've really tried to cut down on it," she said. "People can come straight to me to request money or to discuss finances."

"But it's also that you can get so much out of this university," she added. "I guess it was a matter of wanting to give something back, and being a student representative is one way to do it."

Gillese has found that the job's rewards lie in its visible results. "You can see what you've done," she said, "and I find it motivating to be able to support worthwhile student efforts."

Conversely, the worst thing about the job has been that "there's so much to do and not enough time to do it."

Time is a problem for all students, but especially for those heavily involved in extra-curricular activities. "In the five years I've been here," said the vp, "I think the calibre of student has improved."

"They're not just here to get marks and find the slack courses," she added. She said she thought that while student enthusiasm and involvement had increased, some of the faculties have dropped their standards, and are no longer demanding of students what they should.

"If some of the profs would set their standards higher, I think the students would rise to meet them," she said.

Meeting a challenge is not a problem for Eileen Gillese, and she will doubtless continue to do so in the future. Plans include a Masters degree in Business Administration in one of the ivy-league schools. The first female president of *La Sorbonne* students' union, perhaps?



Photo Don Truckey

## Calgary illiterates

CALGARY (CUP) - The failure rate on an English comprehension test given to first year University of Calgary students was pre-determined by the number of teachers hired to teach Remedial English, a member of the Calgary School Board has charged.

Graham Trentham said the Effective Writing Test, which resulted in "unsatisfactory" results for 55 per cent of the almost 2,000 students who took it, was too sophisticated for the students and marked at a "post-graduate level."

A member of the board's Curriculum Services, Trentham said many of the topics needed prior knowledge and came from outside the student's experience.

The university has created its own problem he said. Tests given by high school teachers are better indicators of English ability.

The university can't blame high school teachers for students' problems according to Trentham because most of the teachers were trained by the university. He said that's where the teachers got "screwed up."

## Alumni invited

The University of Alberta Alumni Association is inviting all University of Alberta graduates back to campus for Homecoming '76, Oct. 15 and 16.

Special invitations are being extended to graduates of the classes of 1926 and 1951, this year's Gold and Silver Grads, respectively. Other special classes for this year's activities are those of 1916, 1936, 1956, 1966 and 1971.

Homecoming activities will begin with a wine and cheese party at the University of Alberta Faculty Club on Friday evening, October 15.

Saturday, October 16, events will include a short campus tour

contrasting the old with the new and the varsity football game (U of A Golden Bears vs. UBC Thunderbirds) with a half-time clash for the Alumni Cup between University Hospital nurses and Royal Alexandra Hospital nurses. Saturday evening there will be a banquet and ball.

Alex Markle, the Alumni Association executive secretary, explained that Homecoming has been held annually since the formation of the General Alumni Association in 1945.

Tickets or further information can be obtained from the Alumni Office, 602 Students' Union Building on campus.

## Ohio police lose 8 bales of grass

BLUE ASH (ENS-CUP) - Grass-loving thieves have pulled a reverse bust on the local constabulary by making off with eight bales of marijuana being held in the city police headquarters in the Ohio town.

The pot, valued at \$200,000 was being held as evidence for a local court trial.

According to police reports, the thieves gained access to the

marijuana by smashing a window in the middle of the night while the night-shift officer was away from his desk. Said Chief Ron Spurgill, "It was very embarrassing. Nothing like this has happened to us before." The Chief noted that the burglars obviously knew what they were doing. "If people want to get in," he told the *New York Times*, "they'll get in."

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