

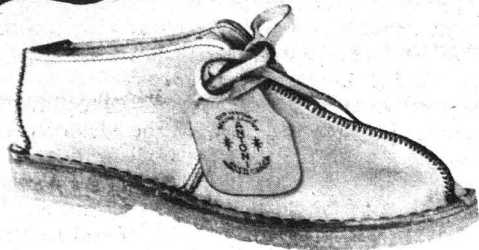
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U of A union slack

by Alison Thomson

The Non Academic Staff Association relies on luck in its contract negotiations, since it is not legally able to strike, Edmonton Trade unionist Reg Basken told a group of NASA reps, Thursday.

"You're telling the building trades unions to do your bargaining for you," he said.

NASA doesn't set its own standards, but relies on what other unions whose members do similar work get from their employers, Basken pointed out.

Basken, executive secretary with the Energy and Chemical Workers Union, vice-president of the Alberta Federation of Labour, and member of the University Senate, was speaking to the NASA reps about the labour movement in Alberta and its benefits to members.

"I spend every day seeing that the union exists," he said. "The government spends its time making it as difficult as possible to organize, and as easy as possible to get out of the union."

The organized workers have been responsible for better health and safety regulations, a high minimum wage, and better working hours, he said.

"When was the last time Imperial Oil went to the government to ask to get the minimum wage increased?" he asked. "It's just not in their interest to do it."

One of the most important things a union can do for its members is get higher wages, he said, since higher wages don't come from the generosity of the employer.

He added that this is not inflationary, since 1975 the stan-

dard of living of productive workers has fallen, so clearly wage increases are not the cause of inflation.

Unions also have a role to play in protecting democracy, he said.

"The western democracies are the only place where there is a strong trade union movement.

You don't find independent unions in right wing dictatorships, and you don't find them in the Soviet Union."

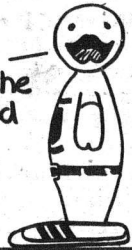
"Remove unions and you remove a strong segment of support for democracy," he said.

GROMPS

Looks like Jimmy will have to pick peanuts again



That leaves Ronald to 'pick' the rest of the world



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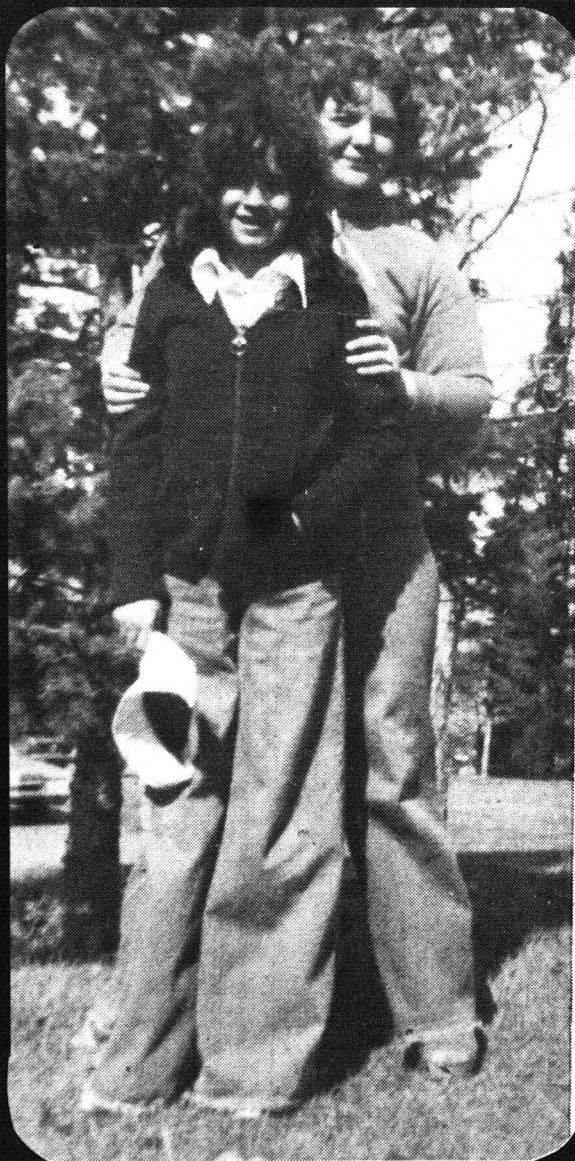
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Garneau

Continued from page 1

Brown said this decision must wait until the university makes a decision on preferred land use for North Garneau. That decision will be based on a report completed recently by consultant Jack Diamond.

Brown said she hoped to find out today what the preferred land use for North Garneau will be.

"I hope by Thursday we will be able to ease that uncertainty (felt by residents)," she said.

However, she said earlier Diamond's policy recommendations must be approved by the U of A Board of Governors before they can be implemented. The Board doesn't meet again until next month.

Brown also said it is unlikely that any students will be allowed to stay on in the dangerous rooms for more than the standard three months' notice period.

"The fact that the student says 'I'll take the risk' in no way reduces the university's liability (in the event of a fire)," she said.

On the suggestion that the university should subsidize students' moves Brown refused to comment until she had considered the Garneau-SU statement.

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