

William Hurlburt

## Help for consumers

by Mina Wong

A \$50,000 federal group called the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, has been formed to assist consumer groups which currently have difficulty obtaining legal advice, says U of A professor William Hurlburt.

"The Centre will probably be selling its way for some time," commented Hurlburt, who is a member of the newly-founded Centre's Board of Directors.

"But right now we're active, giving assistance to recognized consumer groups, especially those who can't take care of themselves well enough in legal matters."

Full time staff of the Centre includes Gordon F. Henderson, senior partner in an Ottawa law firm; Gaylord Watkins, professor of law at the University of Ottawa and consultant to the Law Reform Commission of Canada; and Andrew J. Roman, Executive Director and General Counsel.

Nine other members of the Board were selected for their experience in public interest, to serve on a volunteer basis.

Hurlburt explained in a halfway interview that consumer groups obtain assistance and are selected according to the urgency of the case.

The Centre is still small, he

said, and thus cannot look after all the clients yet.

"Mainly, they want to know 'how to get there' although there are cases where groups are merely seeking information on rights, for instance," stated Hurlburt.

Even the federal minister of consumer and corporate affairs explained that "It can be pretty intimidating to appear before an official tribunal when you have never taken part in such proceedings before and can't afford a lawyer to assist you."

Hurlburt predicted the Centre will do more research and writing after the functions are better established.

Although the training program to teach advocacy skills had not yet come into existence, Hurlburt said he hoped that it would be functioning in a few months.

In the meantime, the Centre will make information manuals available to interested groups, he said.

"It does take a while for the Centre to develop, but we're new and can quite easily become too enthusiastic. In six months time we should be pretty sure of how it's going," concluded Hurlburt, adding: "and of course, the development depends on the funding - and we need it too."

# Take the money and run

NEW YORK - While the National Pollsters concentrated on the political elections, a recent survey of young people in the U.S. indicates that their primary personal concerns are jobs, money and higher education. When questioned on social issues, the same group expressed little of the concern that sparked young people to protest during the Viet Nam era.

The survey of 1,200 high school and college seniors and young working people — all between the ages of 17 to 30 — was conducted by students of sociology and marketing at Georgia Tech, Howard University, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, St. Louis University, Rice University, the City College of New York, and the University of Southern California.

Highlights of the survey showed — getting into the college of their choice was the primary concern of nearly 40 percent of the high school seniors;

— as expected, the key objective for 51 per cent of college seniors was to achieve high grades to enable them to

find jobs within the area of their specialization; and

— the under-30 work force put more money (30 percent) as their No. 1 target. Getting married, raising a family, friends and personal fulfillment followed in that order.

On social issues, the views of each group varied depending on age. While 43 per cent of the high school seniors said their primary concern was politics, the figures dropped to 28 per cent for college seniors and only 13 per cent for those in the business world, who put the economy issue as their top priority.

A similar trend was noted on the environment. The high school figure was 29 per cent citing the environment as their primary social concern, against 13 per cent for the college seniors and 10 per cent for those employed.

Foreign affairs, surprisingly, had little impact as far as the 17 to 30 age group was concerned. Less than 8 per cent of working people mentioned foreign affairs as a key worry. This dropped to 6 per cent for the college seniors and a few scattered votes among high school seniors.

Another major surprise of the survey was that the crime issue ranked fourth among the working people beyond the economy, politics and environment and received little support as a primary concern among high school and college seniors.

## U of A surgeon on TV

One of Canada's medical pioneers, Dr. John C. Callaghan, now working with the University of Alberta Hospital, is featured on ACCESS Alberta's half-hour program 'Come Alive' on Thursday, Dec. 16.

The film about Dr. Callaghan includes not only an interview with this renowned surgeon but also film of him at work both in the past, and in his present work. (Dr. Callaghan has, as a result of his extensive knowledge about open-heart surgery, lectured throughout the world to medical audiences of every nationality.

'Come Alive' is a half-hour magazine-type program seen daily, Monday through Friday at 9:00 a.m. in CITV Channel 13 Edmonton or CFRN Channel 3

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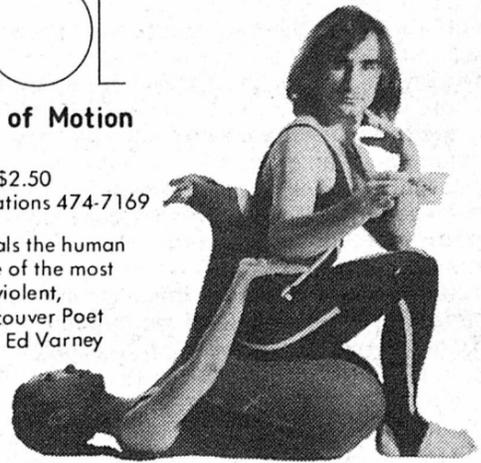
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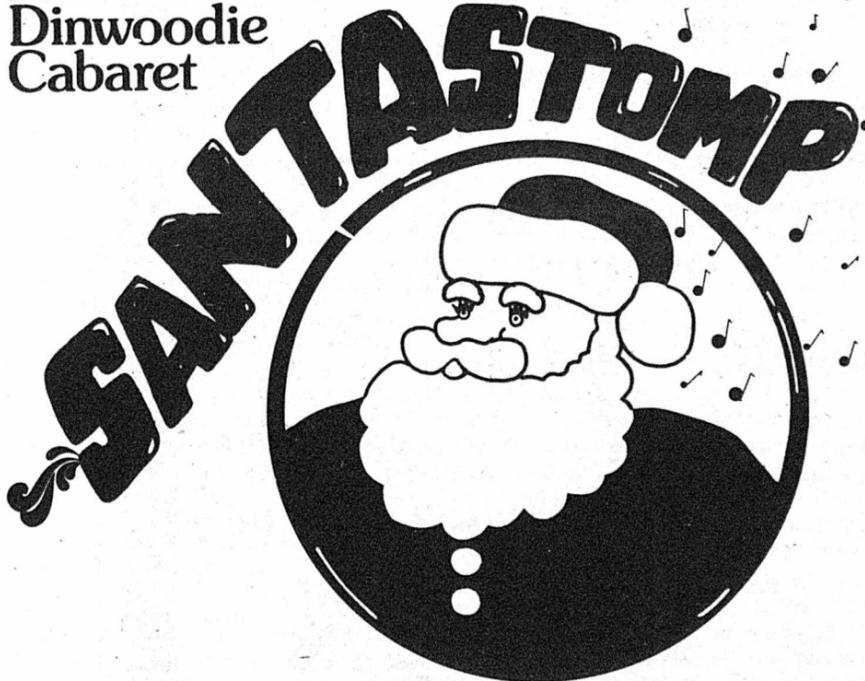
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