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A new way to teach the gifted

by Nicole Hemphill

On Wednesday, September 27, Dr. Kaplan, a renowned leader in the field of gifted education, spoke on Differentiating Curriculum, a program she herself developed. She stated "we teach kids to be poor achievers by using a poor curriculum." She insists that every child has a right to an education that is equal to their ability and that gifted children should be allowed to practice their own unique abilities and develop them to the utmost. With this in mind she has developed a differentiating curriculum which allows these individual differences

to be "shown-off" and which parallels the children's learning curve. This curriculum is adjusted to the child's mental age as well as the chronological age.

Dr. Kaplan describes how to build such a curriculum and what components to use without over-burdening the teacher. Her emphasis is on establishing a relationship between all subject matter taught: an interdisciplinary approach. She states, for instance, to understand math you have to understand how it applies to art and music. Gifted children have a tremendous need to figure out the larger picture of things and from this "Big Ideas"

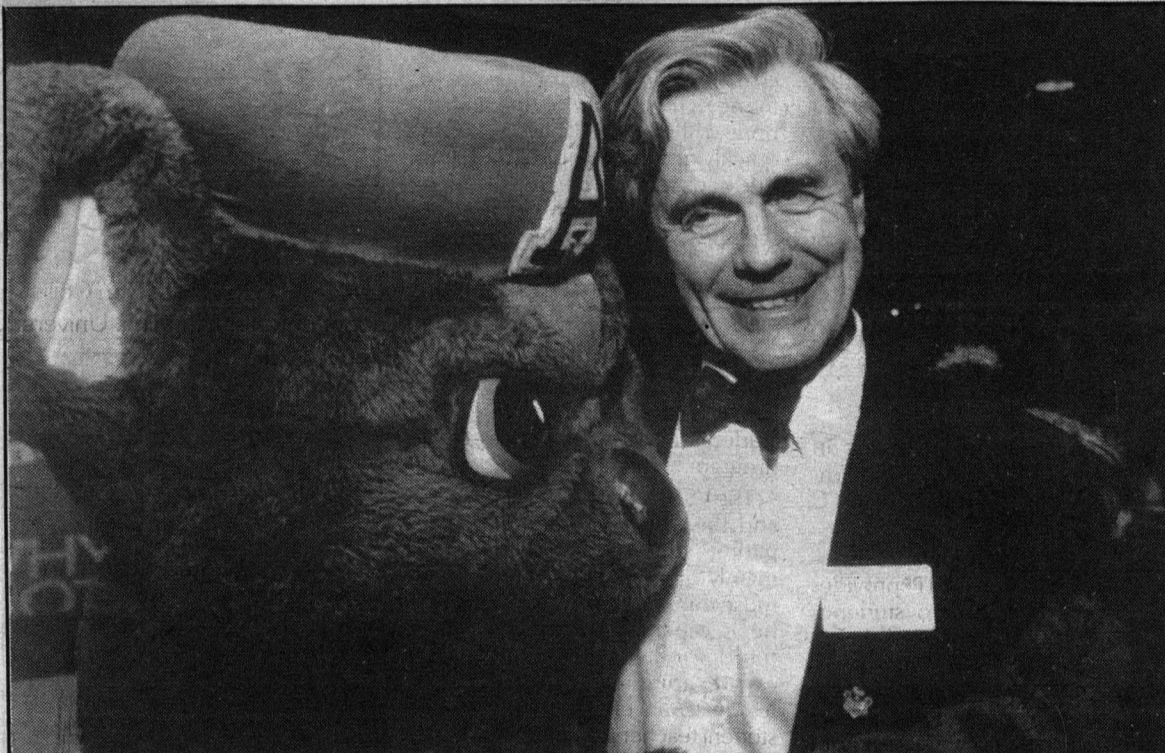
need to be developed. Information acquired must not be construed as static, fixed, complete, but as open, flux and most importantly, unanswered.

Dr. Kaplan's book *Systems and Models for Developing Programs for the Gifted and Talented* is recommended for further information on differentiating curriculum.

The Alberta Colloquium on Giftedness will present its next speaker Dr. David Henry Feldman, "Why Children Can't Be Creative," Wednesday October 11, 7 p.m., Ed. N-2-115. Registration required. Phone 492-1154. Dr. Carolyn Yewchuk for details.



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Gordon Wright, the MLA from Edmonton Strathcona, receives a hug from GUBA the bear at University Night last Wednesday.

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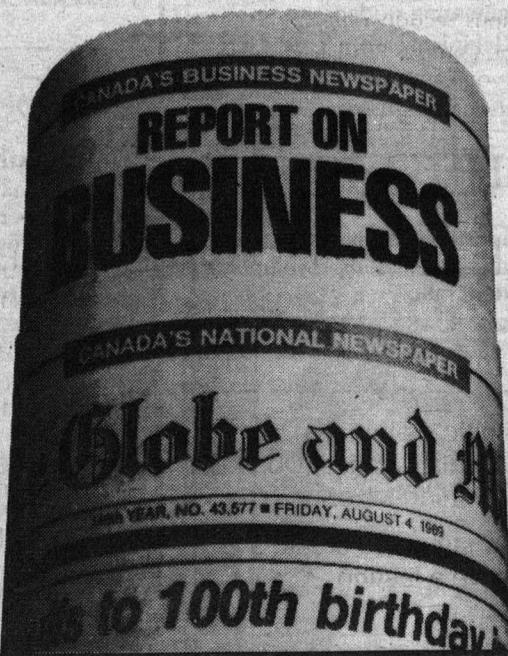
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Harvey inspires

by Martin Levenson

The Gospel according to Harvey was delivered unto 30 of the faithful at a meeting of the campus New Democrats Monday. Ross Harvey, Alberta's only New Democrat Member of Parliament, quoted from the Bible, recited poetry, and mused about the virtues of fairness and equality as he encouraged the youth to take advantage of their "privileged" situation. "And unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required," said Harvey, citing Luke 12:48, "And to whom they have committed much, of him they will demand the more."


Youth has the advantage of time, energy, and "a mind that is thus far wonderfully uncluttered... able to think in clear pressing absolutes", according to Harvey and these attributes should be used "... first to figure out why the world is such a fucked up place and secondly to attempt to do something about it."

Harvey suggested that there are

some things to be learned in the classrooms at the University, but "... unless things have changed mightily since I was a student, there is much more to be learned outside the classroom." He advocated finding colleagues with whom one could debate and learn from.

At this time in life, students do not have that much to lose, so they should be fearless, said Harvey. Paraphrasing the University motto, Harvey said "It's up to you to find out what is true, and having found that out, it is up to you to act upon it."

Following his speech, Harvey fielded questions from the group, most of which dealt with the GST, the likelihood of a guaranteed incomes program, and the New Democrat leadership race. Most of his responses endorsed questioning the structural barriers that he says prevent the "legitimately equitable distribution of wealth in our society."



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