

# The dilemma of underchoice

by Jim McElgunn

Ronald Reagan will be the next president of the United States, but his administration may not be as different from Jimmy Carter's as most people expect.

Reagan's lead is too much for Carter to overcome said Professor Jack Masson at a Political Science Undergraduate Association forum Friday.

But despite fears of his right-wing extremism, Reagan is in fact "very very pragmatic — certainly he has a very narrow view of the world, but he is very pragmatic and disturbs people on the far right."

Political Science Chairman Roberta Mckown also spoke at the forum. She said the traditional Democratic coalition — blue collar workers, ethnic whites, blacks, Jews, non-Cuban Hispanics, civil servants, teachers, and university professors — still

exists but has been weakened. She said Jews and blue-collar workers are especially wavering in their support.

Reagan has also made a big appeal to the large number of conservative born-again Christians, even though all three major candidates claim to be born again, said Mckown.

Another advantage for Reagan is the success of the Republican fund-raising effort. Mckown said the Republicans have raised \$29 million above the federal election financing, but the Democrats have raised only \$3.5 million.

Mckown said the election was so close she would not want to pick a winner, though Reagan had an edge. Most of the eight largest states — California, New York, Texas, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Florida — are very close in the polls, so a last-

minute shift could swing the election either way.

Professor Masson pointed out some differences in Reagan's and Carter's policies.

Reagan believes the United States should vigorously contain Soviet expansion and adopt a hands-off policy towards the domestic policies of pro-Western countries. Carter has shown a more flexible policy towards the Soviet Union, and believes the United States should use its powers to force repressive regimes to ease up on human rights violations.

On China, Masson said Carter wants to broaden trade links and sell high-technology military hardware to China. Reagan remains suspicious of China, said Masson, and "he may want to recognize Taiwan."

"Both support much high military expenditures, but they differ on which bag of military hardware they prefer," said Masson.

On energy policy, Carter supports a reduction in oil use, and has shown some hesitancy in the use of nuclear power. Reagan said

there is not really an oil shortage in the U.S. He claims there is more oil in Alaska than has been consumed in the United States since the dawn of the oil era.

rights for women (which Carter supports and Reagan opposes), to end abortion and reestablish prayer in public schools (which Reagan supports and Carter opposes) are unimportant because neither man could do much about it if elected.

What is the most important issue then?

"The real issue is Bush (Reagan's running-mate George)," says Masson. "There's a good chance Reagan won't last out his term."

Masson said Bush would likely make an even more conservative president than Reagan.

In response to a question about why men like Carter and Reagan have risen to the top, Mckown said, "What turns up Reagan and Carter is the attempt to democratize the political process through the primaries. Carter turned up on *What's My Line* in 1974 (when he was Georgia governor) and won because no one could identify him. In 1976 he was the Democratic nominee."

"Personally, I'm in favor of the smoke-filled room."



Ronald Reagan

As for Reagan's proposed continental energy policy with Canada and Mexico, Masson said, "There's not a chance in hell of it."

Masson said the media have been focusing on three non-issues during the campaign. Candidates views on constitutional amendments to guarantee equal

## Book Bonanza

The U of A has stumbled onto a "once in 100 years" windfall and inherited the entire book collection of a secretive Montreal collector.

University president Myer Horowitz announced last week a retired Alberta investor has "chosen the U of A library as a worthy repository for his collection."

But the best part is that the U of A doesn't have to lay out a penny to get the collection.

Once its value is assessed, the mystery man will donate half of it, and the Alberta government will pay for the other half under a matching grant scheme.

The matching grant program, announced last spring, allows the government to match, dollar for dollar, private donations of money or valuables to Alberta universities. The half of the collection the mystery man is to donate will be taken as a grant to the university.

The government has approved a grant of up to \$1 million for its half of the purchase.

## Centre vies for volunteers

by Vanda Killeen

How does cuddling a newborn baby for an hour or so a week, minus the dirty-diaper routine sound? Too good to be true, right? Well, it is true and it is called the "Granny-Program", one of the many volunteer opportunities available through the Volunteer Action Centre (VAC).

Perhaps you are interested in something more business-like. Then don your three-piece suit and sit on a Board of Directors; for example, the Citizens' Advocacy Board.

Unfortunately for the VAC, few of their volunteers wear three-piece suits. That's because the male volunteer is indeed a rare bird: of the volunteers 75 per cent are female.

Male volunteers are needed in several areas, among them the Battered Women's Centre, which is in desperate need of positive male influence.

There are many motives for volunteering. Among students, the primary one is that volunteering is a golden opportunity to gain experience in a chosen career field. It is also a good way to make future employment contacts or add that

finishing touch to a good resume.

Fred Reynolds, Branch Coordinator for VAC says, "We are looking at optimizing return for the volunteer." Volunteers are interviewed and referred to the area which holds the greatest interest or opportunity for them.

Reynolds says the days of only stuffing envelopes are gone. But if school is draining your brain or life away, you may find the menial task of stuffing envelopes to be a delightful outlet for your frustrations. Who knows?

Becoming a volunteer is not something to be done on a whim. A minimum commitment of three months is required and an average output of two hours a week. This is understandable as volunteers are most often working on a one-to-one basis with people and need time to develop a good relationship.

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