

Young Tories out to make friends and career moves

by Ann Grever

The baby Tories were out in full force during the leadership convention this weekend.

A baby Tory, similar to a baby Yuppie, is an aspiring conservative who will grow up to become a successful business man or politician, and will generally become a pillar of the community.

Baby Tories dress fashionably, although not trendy. They don't smoke and only drink the occasional social drink. Many are U of A students.

What else separated the baby Tory, or the youth delegate, from his or her middleaged counterpart?

Generally they were more energetic at the convention. The youth delegates provided much of the hoopla. Perhaps being surrounded by their fellow baby Tories enabled them to let loose.

The youth delegate also seemed to be the most committed to his candidate. James Heedan, was a Getty supporter out on the floor Sunday twisting a few. He said "the hardest group to convert were the youth." Heedan was supporting Getty because "Getty knows how to use the Heritage Trust fund... for things like scholarships, and Getty plans to review the loan program."

Nevertheless the youth delegates were the least bitter about a loss. Robert Splane, VP Finance, who was a Getty delegate at the convention said all the youth delegates were close and he had supporters of the other candidates crying on his shoulder after Getty's win on Sunday. "The toughest choice for Chitter supporters was whether to follow their leader or support Getty. A lot were torn."

Splane said he supported Getty because "he said he would be happy to look at the funding of the university and look at where the money is going." Getty is also a "family friend and a good guy."

Greg McLean, former VP Finance of the U of A (1983-84) was a Koziak supporter at the convention. McLean had met all three men and found in his experience, Kosiak to be very helpful.

"As VP Finance, working in the Students Union, we had to deal with Dick Johnson who was a tough son of a bitch. Someone suggested we approach Koziak who was the MLA of the area and within a week things were arranged."

McLean believes it is a good career move to support Getty but I made my decision on my own judgement. . . . Getty is the establishment candidate. He had alienated and hurt a lot of people during his campaign. . . . I think he chose the wrong people to run his campaign."

Frances Roche, the youth coordinator for the Koziak campaign said Koziak was a candidate who

appealed to both young and old. "A lot of the establishment youth who have worked with the P.C. Youth Association a long time went to Getty or Chitter. Koziak attracted the new supporters."

The Koziak youth "on the day of the convention did a lot of work on the floor converting" says Roche.

Barb Belzerowski, the president of the U of A students P.C. club was confident Getty would "insure the level of funding remains the same... a lot of strength came from the youth. For example, Doug and the Slugs who played on Saturday night was attended by over 2,000 people."

Belzerowski believes "there are no lasting rifts among youth". The convention for her was "kind of a social as well as a political event... the party is open. No matter who you supported, people are always willing to talk."

Mike Nickel, SU president, was there as a Getty supporter. He sup-

ported Getty because Getty was the only candidate to take time out to answer a SU questionnaire he and Gayle Morris, VP External, had sent out to all the candidates. Nickel once again stressed he was there as an individual not representing the Students Union.



Photo: Bill St. John

Some bouncy Koziak supporters.... think they'll ever get government jobs?

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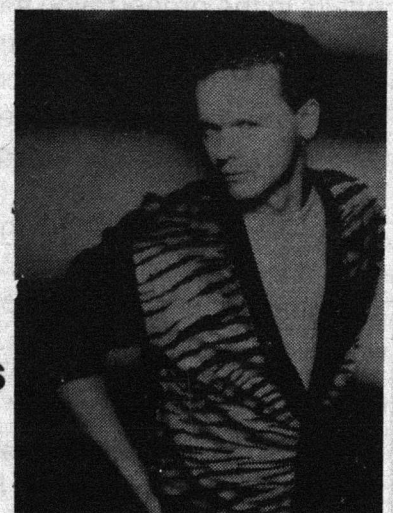
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Saturday October 26 8:00 p.m.