



March started, as usual, with a protest march. This time the festivities involved a number of irate women, armed with sound guns and sticks.

photo Rick Lawrence

by Karl Wilberg

The end of Reading Week wasn't the only bad news to come at the beginning of March. The Golden Bears hockey team lost two games to the University of Calgary Dinosaurs to blow a playoff chance at the end of regular season play. But a wild-card berth to the national finals was still available to the Bears.

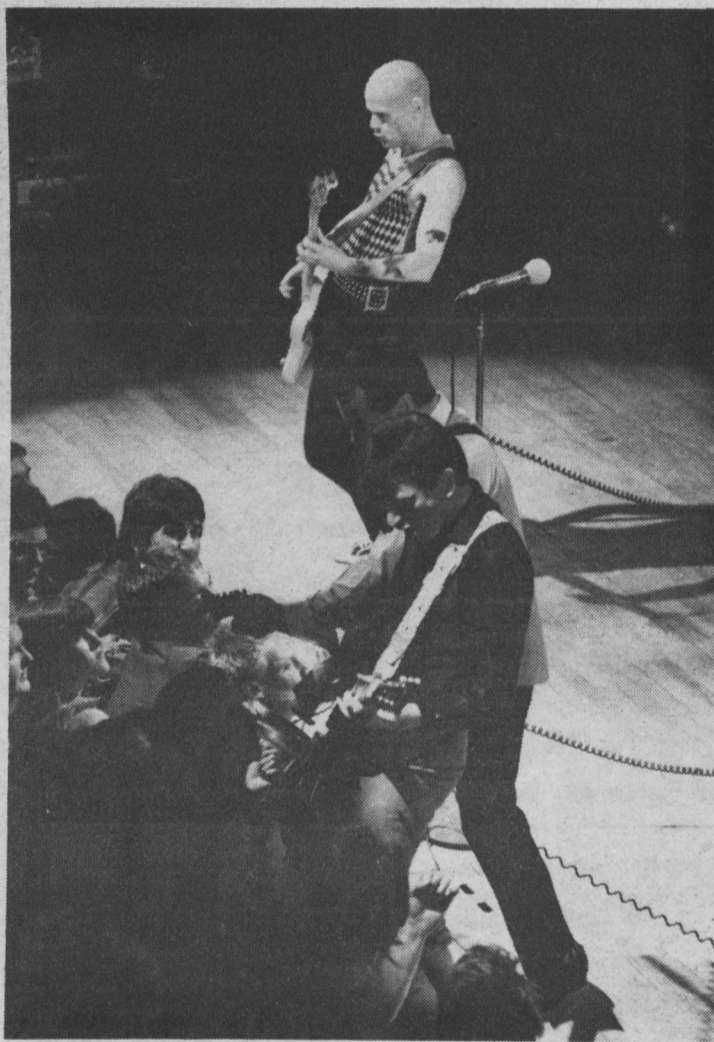
More important to students, though, the 10 per cent tuition increase "suggested" by Advanced Education and Manpower minister James Horsman was passed through the Board of Governors March 7 like shit through a chicken.

Still, the SU offered students a chance to protest the situation — or at least learn about it — in a noon-hour forum on the quality of university education. Speakers, including U of A president Myer Horowitz and Dr. Steve Hunka, made quick retreats when only SU officials and a lone *Gateway* reporter showed up.

On the other hand, there was hope of progress far from the U of A. Lutheran minister Dr. Paul Wee told students at a Chaplains' Association-sponsored forum that hope was slowly emerging in South Africa. Wee spoke optimistically of the free elections in Zimbabwe that placed Robert Mugabe in power.

March usually sees the return of protest marches to the Legislature. One of the first this year involved women protesting discrimination on International Women's Day. Women's Day speakers emphasized the need for affirmative action and the revamping of an industrial system that keeps women in boring, low-paying jobs.

Good news for students just didn't seem to be in the works in March. A *Gateway* leak revealed that rent increases of up to 30 per cent were being proposed for university housing units. At the same time, the university released a survey outlining students' complaints about housing, especially in Lister Hall. As part of the proposed increases, though, the Lister residents would be charged more for chow and be nailed with 10 per cent hikes in room rents. At

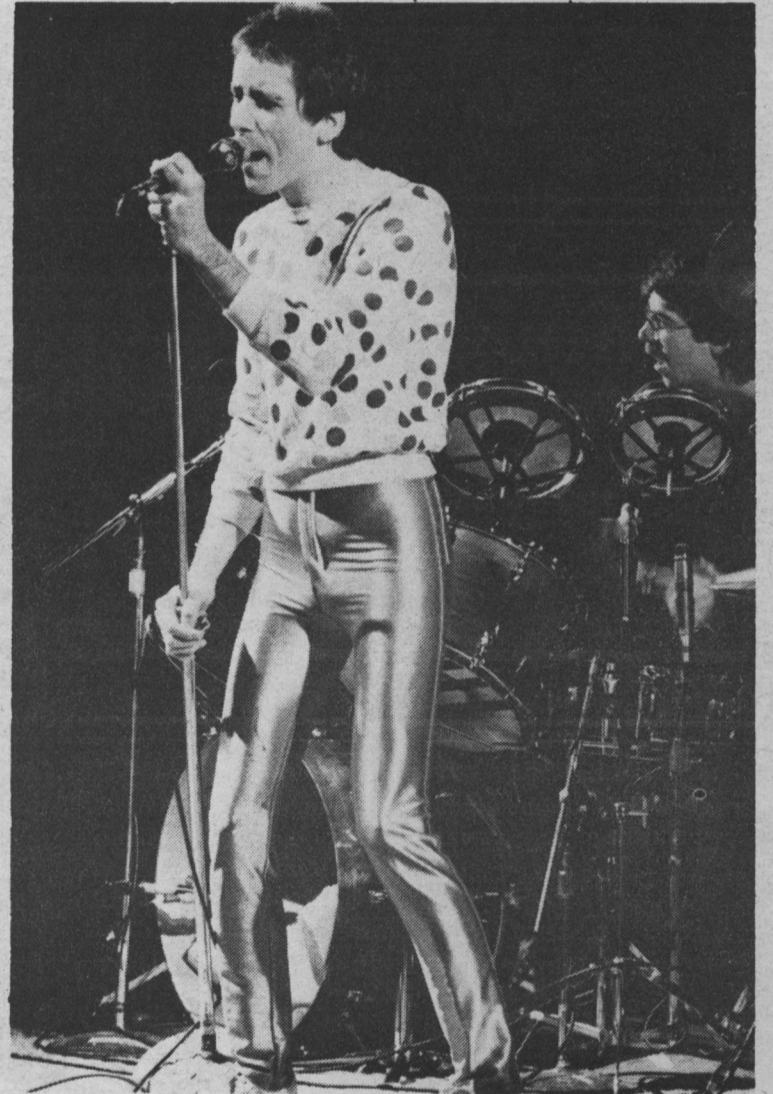


999 does their stuff.

photo Karl Wilberg

residence, you get away from Rocky, Spike, Slasher and the Screws, but the food was better at the Gulag.

On the other hand, the hockey Bears brightened up the month with an amazing comeback. A bizarre series of events placed the U of A in the national finals as a wild-card team. There, the Bears defeated all opposition and won the national title. More suprisingly, for some, the Bears reached the nationals without mastermind Clare Drake and



PJ never had a chance.

photo Brad Keith



Terry Jonestown, September 1979 — April 1980.

five key players who had defected to the Olympic squad.

More fun, but of a different kind, was found at the March 18 999 concert in SUB Theatre. That night fans "said it with missiles" to opening act PJ Burton and the Smarties. PJ was a live target for the punks' mock indignance, aroused by his sense of priorities, which seemed to lean towards financial success. In any case, the horrified SU executive responded with a ban on punk in SUB that lasted two weeks.

Not to be outdone, April started with one of the Tories' wise young men, Rollie Cook, calling the U of A "a fourth-rate institution with fourth-rate professors." New SU president Nolan Astley leapt into the fray, revealing the results of his meeting with Cook to *The Gateway*, and the rest is history. Advanced Education minister seems to have put Rollie back on the PC bottle — we just hope the formula doesn't give little Rollie gas.

Yet another financial attack on the

university was launched in April. This time, though, Phys Ed's Ed Zemrau and the Athletic Department executive decided to swing the axe. Women's and co-rec intramurals coordinator Wendy Carson, women's volleyball coach Pierre Baudin and perhaps inter-collegiate track and field, cross-country and field hockey will not return next fall. To make matters worse, the administration made the decision using what many termed unfair and irrelevant criteria. Others pointed out that the actions discriminated against intramurals and low-profile sports.

In total, the winter's slow pace speeded up during March and April. Dormant issues are alive and sick again, and university funding and the distribution of University Athletic Board money is under attack. As usual, the directions are clear. The U of A will receive less, and in athletics, the big sports will be funded at everything else's expense. The situation isn't new — but it's worse. Have a good summer.



Since when do bees have rent raised for the beehive?