

Forum looks at child problems

by Keith Krause

University students aren't interested in the International Year of the Child. At least, attendance at a forum on the subject seems to say so.

"Maybe we didn't reach people properly," said Dr. Audrey Griffiths, chairman of the Alberta committee for the International Year of the Child (IYC), at a forum, sponsored by the Political Science Undergraduate Association (PSUA). The forum was attended by eight people. Griffiths was not upset by this fact, though.

"If there will be any result from IYC, it will be as a result of individual action, not the actions of large groups," she said.

IYC was originally conceived by the United Nations as an effort by the member countries to examine their own societies' treatment of children. It coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Children, a document intended to act as a guide for member states.

"Very few governments, have written the declaration into their laws," said Griffiths. "It's difficult for a government to enact positive legislation without interfering with parents," she said.

Griffiths also pointed out that Canada is not even meeting some of the most elementary



needs of children.

"Between one-third and one-half of all toddlers are lacking in balanced nutrition,"

she said. "If it's not due to poverty, it is due to lack of knowledge?"

"The whole question of schooling has also got to be re-thought... The average child gets an average education, but what about those who are not average?" she asked.

But the changes in attitude required by a society are enormous.

"The needs of our children cut across so many parts of life it is impossible to categorize them," Griffiths said. "Each child should develop his own special potential."

"Our society sometimes treats children as objects, as disposable as a car or country cottage. If this is anywhere near true, it's easy to see why children are disaffected members of a society," she said.

"They are exploited not as producers of wealth, but as

consumers."

The magnitude of these problems leaves Griffiths only somewhat optimistic about the future. She advocates the establishment of a formal system for dealing with injustices, perhaps an ombudsman for children.

"Government reaction to the whole issue has been minimal," though, she said. The committee Griffiths chaired was established with no clear mandate, and was not to undertake any long-term projects, or to examine in detail the problems of children in society. It was only given \$100,000, an amount which allowed the committee to fund only 114 projects from 540 proposals.

"It's hard to do an adequate job in your spare time, as a member of the public," Griffiths said.

"We will only know how well this has worked out at a much later time."

DIE Board members picked

The Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board will soon be back in business.

Five regular DIE Board members and three alternates were chosen at Monday night's Students' Union (SU) Administration Board meeting. Students recommended for regular membership are Howard Hoggins, Keith Paynter, Roy Smith, Jay Spark and Larry Wilde. Recommended alternates

are Jan Damgaard, Mark Kowalsky and David McWhinnie. Students' Council is expected to ratify these applicants at its Tuesday night meeting.

DIE Board enforces discipline among members and interprets the SU constitution by-laws and motions. Fines, suspension of SU privileges, and, in election disputes, disqualification of candidates are used to enforce DIE Board decisions.

If its fines are ignored, the board may withhold grades and

transcripts until fines are paid.

The board must be chosen by June 1, according to the SU constitution. However, the 1978-79 SU executive recommended a delay in member selection because of a lack of applicants.

DIE Board meets only when complaints are brought to its attention. Complaints must be submitted in writing to the DIE Board chairman or to Students' Council speaker Michael Amerongen.

Gallinger, Savage safe

Charges dropped

A Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board action against a by-election candidate and the Students' Union (SU) returning officer has been dropped.

Vp finance and administration candidate Glen Gallinger and returning officer Sue Savage were threatened with DIE Board action prior to the October 19 by-election by candidate Willie Gruber and his campaign manager Scott Thorkelson.

However, Thorkelson announced Tuesday that the action against both parties would be halted.

"The election was carried out as well as it could have been under the circumstances... I don't want to rake mud any more than I have to," said Thorkelson.

Thorkelson and Gruber had planned to charge Gallinger and Savage with unfair election practices. They claimed Gallinger had mounted election posters in illegal locations. They also said Savage had neglected her duties as returning officer because she had allegedly neglected to distribute a schedule of election events to candidates, and had not informed candidates of the rules involving poster distribution and approval.

Temporary study space expansion

The shortage of library study space has been temporarily alleviated.

Part of the new bound

periodicals room, located on the second floor of Rutherford South, will be opened for unsupervised studying until

November 4.

The move is intended to accommodate the overflow of students from the crowded study hall on the main floor of Rutherford South, says Calvin Evans, Assistant-Librarian-Public Services.

The room, which seats 110 people, will be open Friday and Saturday until midnight and on Sunday from 9:00 am to 2:00 am. Previously, the room closed at 6:00 pm Friday, 5:00 pm Saturday, and was closed all day Sunday.

However, this space will be closed when a shipment of stacks arrives and the movement of bound periodicals to Rutherford South resumes. Bound

periodicals will be housed in stacks which will occupy the temporary study space on the second floor.

In the meantime, the search for a permanent solution to the shortage continues, says Evans. Plans to up-grade lighting in CAB cafeteria to make it suitable as a study area should be implemented by the end of this month. Further suggestions for a solution to the shortage of study space are to be compiled by the library staff by the end of October, says Evans.

Beginning December 3, campus libraries will extend their regular hours for the Christmas exam period.

CTV defends its program

OTTAWA (CUP) — Racist, seriously and deliberately distorted, and inaccurate: those are some of the reactions to a recent television report that claimed international students were keeping Canadian students out of Canadian universities.

But the producers of the report, CTV program W5, have refused to back down in the face of continuing, widespread criticism.

In a response broadcast Oct. 14, the program said it stood by the story and did not intend to retract it. According to W5 executive producer Lionel Lumb, "If anything we underestimated our figures. The figures are worse than we thought at first."

But that's not the view of many students, faculty and educational associations, who have questioned the accuracy of the program and the figures it presented.

John Helliwell of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) said the program interviewed him for half an hour, but only quoted him for ten seconds "out of context." He termed the report

"very seriously, and, I think, deliberately, distorted."

In a letter to W5, the association of universities and colleges of Canada (AUCC) said the program contained many "distortions and inaccuracies."

Much of the program was based on the case of a Canadian student at the University of Toronto, who implied she was refused admission to the U of T faculty of pharmacy because the space was taken by an international student. But the AUCC pointed out that the faculty had no international students.

W5 generalized the student's case into an implication that Canadian students were being denied spaces in science and professional programs in universities because of international students.

But in all Canadian universities, international students account for only 4.7 per cent of the total student population. In Ontario universities, only 561 of the more than 27,000 students in "health profession occupations" programs are international students.



photo Brad Keith

Temporary relief from crowded libraries is in sight with the re-opening of the Rutherford South study hall.

Sagaris to Cuba

The executive officer of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), Lake Sagaris, will be leaving Friday on a two-week fact-finding tour of Chile.

Sagaris says the tour, which is funded by the Chilean community, will enable her to investigate the situation Chilean students face under the present government.

"We've heard reports of professors and students being arrested for questioning the junta's policies," she says. "We've also heard that some professors have no qualifications other than supporting the junta."

While in Chile, Sagaris will interview students and talk to students associations and faculty members. She also says she expects to be an observer at the National Day of Youth Action to be held during her visit.

Sagaris is the first Canadian student representative to visit

Chile although ten student delegations have been sent there from other countries. Her trip has been endorsed by the National Union of Students (NUS) and she will report back to NUS, FAS and the Chilean community.



Lake Sagaris

GATEWAY GENERAL

STAFF MEETING

Friday, Oct. 26, 3:30 p.m.

All interested people welcome.

TOMORROW!